



What is Hope to You?

Have you ever thought how wonderful it would be to share the message of Jesus to women in need of hope? Join Virginia Disciple Women as we all work together to create “Journals of Hope” for women throughout our communities and abroad. The project originated as an idea from a SPA planning meeting in which the book the

Book of *Revelation* was discussed, this year’s Disciple Women Bible Study, and how to help Virginia Disciple Women translate the message of hope rather than the widely seen version of destruction and despair. In addition the project helps to raise funds for Disciple Women’s area of focus this year; human trafficking.

The project of hope is two-fold. Some of the journals are to be distributed locally and the other journals will be collected at the Virginia Regional Assembly in June. The journals collected at the Regional Assembly will then make their way to the 2010 Quadrennial for Virginia to sell the journals at the Quadrennial’s Bazaar. The money raised will go to support organizations committed to eradicating human trafficking.

One way to make a hope journal is to take two pieces of chip board (can be found and cut at your area lumbar supply store such as Lowe’s or Home Depot) or use another medium, Michaels is a good resource, for the cover. Our prototype measured 7 1/2 inches wide by 6 1/2 inches long, rings or ribbon (rings work best on the chip board and paper punch the holes in the paper. Dividers are optional. On the first one to two pages, write messages of hope or anything that represents hope to you for the women receiving your journal. If you can’t write well, you can consider typing your message and glue the message to the front page. For the journals going to Quadrennial, we hope to be able to sell each journal for \$5.00 to \$7.00 a piece. After you write on the first one to two pages, leave the other pages blank for the woman receiving the journal. On the back of the journal, we will affix a specially designed sticker at the Regional Assembly indicating the journal was made from a Virginia Disciple of Christ woman. We suggest acrylic pens, markers, stickers, or anything you want to use to personalize the journal. On the front of the journal, please identify this is a Journal of Hope.

The General Office for Disciple Women has recommended the following organizations for us to support.

Children of the Night is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1979 and is dedicated to assisting children between the ages of 11 and 17 who are forced into prostitution in order to eat and have a place to sleep. They rescue hundreds of children each year. They partner with detectives, FBI agents and prosecutors. They assist other agencies across the country and around the world to develop similar programs. They are headquartered in Southern California.

The Polaris Project is one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in the United States and Japan with programs operating at International, national and local levels. They have offices in Washington, D.C.; Newark, NJ, Denver, CO; and Tokyo, Japan. Their program includes conducting direct outreach and victim identification, providing social services and transitional housing for victims. They have received numerous awards for their achievements.

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking or CAST is a multi-ethnic human rights organization who assists persons trafficked for the purpose of forced labor. They help victims recover from years of abuse and trauma so they may become self-sufficient. They opened the first shelter for trafficked women in the United States. Their focus is on justice, dignity and empowerment of trafficked persons. CAST partners with law enforcement and government agencies to ensure criminal prosecution of traffickers.

If you have questions, please contact Donna Webster, Director of Women's Ministries at 540-639-1031 or donnabirdct@aol.com.

The "Hope Journal" has been a project at our 2010 SPA Days, and all the women registered to attend our next and last SPA Day for the year in Roanoke at Loudon Avenue Christian Church on Saturday, May 22, 2010 will receive plenty of help and materials to start a "Journal of Hope". Not registered for Roanoke, call Sue Gordon at 540- 454-5433 for registration information. For the women that started making a Journal during SPA Days in Beaverdam, Hopewell or Wytheville, we encourage you to share your ideas on our Facebook page. You can find us at CWF-Christian Church in Virginia, Disciples of Christ.

Journals will be collected at Regional Assembly. If you cannot attend this year's assembly, please ask someone to take your journal to the assembly. The goal is to have 10 journals or more from each church.