



The Creative Box Page

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Back to School!

As I entered a local store I could not help but notice all the school supplies available for students to help them be prepared for school. I remember when my parents would buy me pens, pencils, notepads, etc., and how excited I would be with all my "new" stuff! This reminds me that no matter how long you have been involved in women's ministries, it is important to remember two things:

1. You are a student in God's school so be prepared to learn each day valuable lessons on character building.
2. School supplies eventually run out or wear off and need to be replaced. Keep your spiritually life "new" by spending time with God each day in reading and reflecting on His Word with seasons of prayer throughout the day.

Here are some other "supplies" I discovered for all of us to keep on hand:

1. **Box of Crayons.**
Always be aware that your women's ministry is made up of all types of ladies. They come in every color, every age, and are all at different stages and crossroads in their lives so make activities and things to try to target their needs.

2. **Pens and Pencils.**

Write lists and planning information out. Make a calendar of activities out for the year. Write out monthly and yearly goals for your women's ministry.

3. **Paper/Notebook.**

Always carry a small notebook or have a pad of paper handy to write down ideas that may come to you at the least expected moment. You never know when a great idea to enhance your women's ministry will pop up.

4. **Books.**

Remember to revolve everything in your women's ministry around the Bible (the best Book). Use God's Word as the Guide.

5. **Glue.**

Plan activities that will encourage fellowship between the ladies in your group. This will be the glue that binds your ladies together.

6. **Scissors.**

Work on cutting out all unnecessary things in your women's ministry such as bad attitudes and gossip.

7. **Ruler.**

Make sure you measure or evaluate the progress of your women's ministry from time to time. Has attendance to activities grown? Do your ladies fellowship more than before? Do the ladies in your group seem to be growing spiritually?

8. **Stapler.**

Keep placing the staple of prayer into your women's ministry. It will keep things from falling apart.

Let It Go!

To have an effective women's ministries it is necessary to let go of the negative and hold on to the positive. This is illustrated in a short devotion shared with me by an encouraging friend titled "Let It Go". (You can view the devotion at: dianajaworski.wordpress.com) This devotion describes our need of letting go of the "stone" we are holding on to so that we can move forward successfully in life. As women's ministry leaders, it is important to daily search ourselves to see what "stone" we are holding on to and ask God to help us to let it go so that we can be able to encourage those around us by teaching them how to let go of their own "stone". The following are a few presentation ideas that you can do at your next women's meeting in regards to letting go of the "stone" many are holding on to which impedes from serving God and others:

- Share the following parable and ask what lessons can be learned about the effects of not letting go: *There is a tale about how certain hunters in Africa catch monkeys. A small jar is placed at the base of a tree with a peanut inside. The opening of the jar allows the monkey to place his hand in, but when he tries to withdraw it, he is unable to do so without letting go of the contents of the jar. Some monkeys will stay there with their hand in the jar until the hunter comes back to trap them. They are trapped because they are unwilling to let go of something they are doing which is working against them. And, it ultimately will lead to their demise.*
- Pass out a small stone and have the participants hold on to their stone in one hand tightly. Let this stone represent something negative that is hard to let go of such as envy, anger, etc. Place a piece of candy on a table representing something positive that Jesus offers us such as peace, love, forgiveness, etc. The participants have the choice to let go of their stone in order to free their hand and thus be able to pick up the candy. Learn to realize that we do have a choice on what we desire to hold on to and know that God will give us the courage to make the correct choice.
- What Bible stories can you find that illustrates how holding on to something negative will have negative effects. (Example, Achan's Sin, Joshua 7) Share the lessons from these stories and how you can apply them to your own life.
- What Bible promises can you find that give you encouragement about God giving you the strength to make the correct choices.

If you need creative ideas for an event, please do not hesitate to contact me. I recently shared some creative ideas with Tammy Begley, Women's Ministry Director for the Indiana Conference. The following is her report:

Hi Diana,

The retreat was a success. The ladies really enjoyed the garden theme and the information on potential and growth. We did a power point presentation with the verses and highlights of the talent points. My friend Sheila put together her own display and told about different areas where interests might be. In the afternoon on Friday we had 3 stations set up for the Moms to try their talent at decorating sugar cookies (my friend from Georgia brought dozens of cookies and they made icing and colored it and then she helped to show them decorating techniques), paint a clay pot and plant a flower (they really enjoyed this one that went with the theme), create a greeting card and gift basket from scratch which I love to do at home and we had 2 tables of supplies to pick from. We also put together folders and put in the sheets of information that they could go home and look at. We just did not have enough time to do everything. The camp staff had them paint travel mugs in greenware and they fired them over the weekend and gave them to them on Sunday morning and also a gentleman donated his time and talent and took glamour shots at the gazebo and they received a print. Sabbath morning we did women of the Bible ask Why? And we had different ones dress as women of the Bible and ask them questions about their experiences and if they ever wondered Why? Things happened the way they did. It was really good and I could send you that if you would like to read it. My friend from Georgia wrote it and put together the outfits. Anyway, we were so blessed by the weekend and the help that you gave us in preparing for the weekend. Thank you again so much. I will attach a photo of the table center pieces. We did the game with the seeds in a jar and a game to get to know each other.

I have shared with others about your website. You are doing a wonderful work helping others.

Thank you for sharing your talent,

Tammy

**Accepting speaking engagements for 2014. Please contact me for more information.
Email: creativebox.dj@gmail.com or cell # [\(315\) 982-4747](tel:3159824747)
(References available from Conferences and Union level.)**

The following is a comment from Carmen Griffith, Southwest Union, from my speaking engagement at their August 3rd, 2013, women's ministry retreat in Texas:

"Diana - I cannot thank The Lord enough for you. You were such a blessing to my ladies. They are still talking about how you blessed them. Continue

***in your ministry for The Lord. What a blessing to have known you -
hermanita. Mucho amor, besos, y abrazos! Keep in touch. Love ya -
Carmen"***

**For some quick creative and encouraging ideas for your next event, please download my
booklet from the North American Division of SDA Women's Ministries Department website:
www.nadwm.org. (Available in English and Spanish)**

**To help ensure that you receive all email messages consistently in your inbox with images
displayed, please add this address to your address book or contact list:
diana@creativebox.org**

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