

*Make me know your ways, O Lord;
Teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me... Psalm 25:4-5*

January 1, 2012

Dear Friend,

December flew by again this year—how about for you? For me it wasn't only because of Christmas-related activities. I also spent two very full three-day weekends in a house with six women working through an Entrust course called *Discovery Bible Study*. It's part of the women's training curriculum and I'm now qualified to teach this course. Most of the content of DBS is familiar to me, but this training had three distinctive benefits:



- 1) We were taught in a relational learning setting, sharing the wisdom and experience of all the women in the group, not just that of the two facilitators. Did you know that laughter lubricates the learning receptors?
- 2) We took our study of the biblical texts all the way from the study disciplines of observation, interpretation and application to the next step. What's that? We practiced passing on to others what we learned, through facilitating a discussion on the passage and delivering a short message on it.
- 3) After all the practice assignments, we then got valuable feedback from the facilitators and our peers, both praise and helpful hints on areas where we could improve.

Meanwhile there are two more women's ministry trainings to complete; I'll prepare for and take part in those over the next six months. Then I'll be available to help facilitate Entrust trainings during periods when I'm not as busy with the accounting.



On the home front, I got to spend a week over Christmas in Florida with my delightful family. No, I didn't get to hold my new great niece yet, but by the time I go again she and her mom and dad will be living there, so I am waiting patiently. Mom gave me a book to read while I was there: Debbie Macomber's *One Simple Act*. I recommend it for your health! The subject is generosity, and the book makes a case for the stress-reducing effect of kind and generous thoughts, words and actions. They can pretty much take the place of worry and leave you with a sense of well-being from the knowledge that you made someone's life a little bit better. Enjoy!

For me the year 2012 should be a year of preparation. Besides the training sessions, I'll be preparing to activate the new accounting program we bought last year. It's not a "plug and play" program, so it will take awhile. I'm thinking also of ways to prepare Entrust's administrative systems to take on and send several more staff members to go into the areas of the world where churches are multiplying faster than pastors are being trained to lead them.

Thanks for your gifts, prayers and kind words in 2011. Let me know when there is something particular I can pray along with you. May the Lord lead you and bless you in 2012!

Love,
Lynn

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