



Fall 2011 Vol 3, Issue 1

## COF Ministries

- Simulcasts
- Retreats
- Servant Evangelism projects
- Assist with local women's ministries
- Bible Studies
- Women's Resources
- Counseling

Contact us for  
more information  
[lisa@circleoffriends.fm](mailto:lisa@circleoffriends.fm)

## Coming Events

[Oct 06](#) – *Circle of Prayer* – New Grounds Café

[Oct 20](#) – *Macchiato Moments*

*Coffee Hour* – New Grounds Café

[Oct 22](#) – *Women's Retreat* at Gray Ridge Community Church, Mlsbg

[Oct 29](#) – *Bein' R.E.A.L.* Ministry of Christian L.I.F.E. Church, Mentor, OH. COF worship team and

speaker Jocelyn Hamsher

[No 16](#) – *DV Luncheon, Plain City*

## Carol Kent and COF At Malone University

September 10, 2011 the Circle of Friends gathered with author and speaker Carol Kent for a day filled with encouraging worship and teaching at Malone University. At the conclusion of the day, one woman while dabbing her eyes said, "I think I've cried all my mascara off! But they were good tears!"



From the welcome, to the worship, to the dramas, to each teaching session with Carol, it was evident that God was present, and that He desired to meet us in the middle of whatever mess we found ourselves in.



Carol urged us to press into the Rock, which is Jesus Christ, in the midst of our tight spots in life. As she shared the journey she and her husband Gene have been on with

their son Jason who is serving a life sentence in a Florida penitentiary, Carol reminded us that in the middle of our hard places, when it seems God is absent, He is the most present.



Dayna Schrock shared a moving drama regarding the leper from Matthew 8 who approached Jesus to ask for healing. Carol followed the drama with a teaching on compassion, sharing how through the devastating situations in her life, others have shared amazing acts of kindness with her family. She encouraged us to think of creative ways to share compassion and mercy with those who are in the midst of difficult situations, reminding us that Jesus reached out and touched the leper.



Lisa Troyer and Dawn Yoder shared a mini-concert filled with new worship music inspired by the 60's "groovy" sound. As one woman commented, "Their music was filled with so much truth and depth." We felt God's presence as we lifted our hands and hearts together in one voice singing our songs of praise no matter what our circumstances were.



Carol closed the day with a session reminding us from James 1:2 that trials are inevitable and diverse, yet they serve a purpose in our lives to conform us to the image of Christ. She stated that our life will be polka-dotted with trials, and that if we aren't in a trial now, don't be surprised when one does come, because we aren't home yet! She exhorted us from 1 Peter 1 to choose joy, because Jesus will be at the end of all the stuff we're going through. She taught us to begin with a song of praise in the dark hour (Job 8:21), to go to scripture and outline the reasons for the hope we have in Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:7, John 14, Matthew 25, 2 Timothy 2), and to remember our inheritance in Christ – an incorruptible, undefiled, unfading future with God.



If you weren't able to join us, we hope you can make it next year as we gather again for a day of refreshing encouragement, worship and fellowship! Amelia Rhodes



Has God gifted you with writing ability? We are looking for devotional submissions for our website. Email [missy@circleoffriends.fm](mailto:missy@circleoffriends.fm) for writers' guidelines.

## Speak Up Conference

Do you have an interest in speaking or perhaps just want more confidence in telling your story? Carol Kent hosts a Speak Up With Confidence seminar each summer in Grand Rapids, MI. For more information, please checkout Carol's website [www.carolkent.org](http://www.carolkent.org).

Check out our website [www.circleoffriends.fm](http://www.circleoffriends.fm) or call our office 330-852-0000 for more information.

## Circle of Prayer

Prayer and connection have been a vital part of Circle of Friends since its beginnings, but in the past few months those called to extra prayer have been gathering in a 'Circle of Prayer' around the many purposes of Circle of Friends.

Twice a month, a prayer newsletter gathers the concerns of the COF board and ministry directors, upcoming events and the heartfelt needs of those who have contacted the prayer email on the web site. The newsletters are emailed out and also a group has formed to

meet to pray at New Grounds Café on the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM, (for the fall that will be on September 1<sup>st</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, and November 3<sup>rd</sup>)

If you have a heart to pray you are invited to join us by sending a email to [darcy@circleoffriends.fm](mailto:darcy@circleoffriends.fm) and/or coming to meet with us on these great nights.

Please encourage those you know to find our web site for blogs, devotionals and to connect with prayer requests at [www.circleoffriends.fm](http://www.circleoffriends.fm)  
Darcy Miller, Prayer Coordinator

## You're Invited! Circle of Friends Luncheons



Circle of Friends (COF) and Dutchman Hospitality are partnering together to provide refreshment for community women. Because Circle of Friends believes in encouraging women to follow Christ and providing every woman a place to belong, a time of coming together for lunch, fellowship and encouragement only makes sense.

We have enjoyed several luncheons this year with speakers JoEllen Hummel, Cheryl Schlabach, Liz Ward, Crystal Stull, Tanya Glanzman, Missy Horsfall, Caroline Mason, Carrie Weekly, and Emily Smith.



Lisa Troyer will be sharing from her newly released book, “A Place to Belong” at the last luncheon of the year—November 16<sup>th</sup> at Der Dutchman of Plain City.

For more information please call the Circle of Friends office at 330-852-0000, or send your \$10.00 check payable to Circle of Friends (memo: luncheon with appropriate date) to P.O. Box 308, Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681. Invite your friends and family out to lunch—come hungry and leave FILLED! Jocelyn Hamsher

## Update from Water Wells Ministry

This is a portion of a letter written by Kevin Kate...

“I just returned from my fourth trip to Haiti on March 6, 2011. These journeys, though different, are very much the same. The island is always the same, as are the sounds and the smells and the heat. Unfortunately, the devastating poverty doesn’t seem to change. Once again I am at the edge of the world. In Haiti, although the comforts and safety of the western world are so far away, God is always close by my side.

It was heartbreaking to know people were drinking that filthy water, and to know that no matter

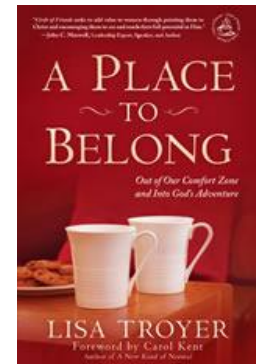
what we did while we were there, many of them would still die from a preventable disease. God blessed our work and we were able, with His help, to provide five good wells that will be used by at least 20,000 people... We moved closer to Port Au Prince and drilled wells at churches, a school and in missionary compounds. All told, we were able to drill 15 wells in just 13 days. Most Haitians I meet ... You can see the need and hunger in their eyes but they rarely ask you for anything. When we give them food or bottles of our water, they are grateful and usually quick to share it with others. Haiti has its share of selfish and dishonest people like every other place, but most of her people just wait every day for some hope. Their search for hope is what binds me to the Haitians even though I can’t speak their language and I haven’t struggled as they have. Their human spirits are not much different than mine. They love their children and want to be good fathers and mothers. The men want to work and provide for their families; they don’t want us to do it for them. They just want a fighting chance.

Considering what we have been given in this country, we are the rescued. As far as I am concerned, this requires us to become the rescuers wherever we can. I continue to be so grateful for all the donations and prayers you provide for the wells we drill with God’s help. You are as much a part of this work as if you were there drilling with us. You too, have become the rescuers and the givers of hope.” Kevin Kate

In July, Kevin returned to Haiti with his wife Linda and had the opportunity to continue to drill water wells. Your support of this ministry meets not just desperate physical needs, but more importantly, the spiritual heart

needs of people known and loved by God.

## New Book Release!



“You’ve found a place to belong” is not just a tag line for the Circle of Friends radio program. Lisa Troyer’s new book, “A Place to Belong; Out of Our Comfort Zone and Into God’s Adventure”, explains how each of us can find that place within the circle of God’s love and plan for our lives.

Lisa describes her journey of faith and the birth of Circle of Friends – a community of women who have fostered spiritual growth and relationships built on acceptance, authenticity, affirmation and accountability and spurring one another on to action. Discover how to encourage other women by embracing who God has made you to be! This book explores the ministry dynamics of women who are committed to Jesus Christ, obediently seeking God’s will, and fulfilling their life mission as Christ-followers.

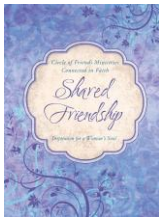
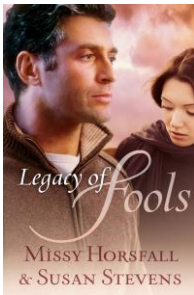
Now available at your local bookstore, or online at [www.barbourbooks.com](http://www.barbourbooks.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## New Look for COF Website

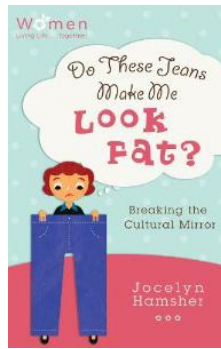
Have you checked out the COF website at [www.circleoffriends.fm](http://www.circleoffriends.fm)? We have a whole new look! Along with daily blogs and devotionals we now have a 'community' page where you can connect online with other women with forums and activity pages to share what's on your heart.

There is also a link to 'Share Your Story'. We would love to hear from you and have the opportunity to get to know you better!

## New COF Products



[www.barbourbooks.com](http://www.barbourbooks.com)  
[www.circleoffriends.fm](http://www.circleoffriends.fm)



### COF Devotional by our web authors

### A Thank You to our Supporters!

As we reflect on what has already happened this year and look ahead to the months to come we are reminded of and thankful for those whose support allows us to continue this ministry of encouragement.

Our conference in February was a great example of the support we receive from our community. **The Hummel Group** partnered with Circle of Friends in bringing Jan Silvius to Wooster, Ohio. Their financial support along with the words of encouragement they are so great at giving enabled us to minister to the 600 women who attended the mid-winter event.

**Berlin Village Gift Barn** added an element of surprise and delight to

the day when they handed out beautiful scarves to the women at the end of the conference.

September 10, 2011, **Malone University** and Circle of Friends came together in ministry to give women the opportunity to hear the life-changing testimony of Carol Kent, along with songs of worship from Lisa Troyer, founder and president of Circle of Friends.

**New Grounds Café** is a great example of ministry coming alongside ministry as they open their doors to Circle of Friends Bible Studies, GIRLFriends events, prayer groups, and small group gatherings.

The firm foundation of support we receive from regular monthly supporters is the reason we can continue the radio ministry, the reason we can continue to share office space with New Beginnings Counseling in Sugarcreek, the reason we can continue to offer encouragement to young women as they begin to navigate the Jr. High and High School years. Gifts of all sizes are poured directly into the ministry. Circle of Friends Ministries has no paid staff other than our sweet Sharon who runs the office with mercy, grace, and efficiency that is remarkable.

Those who give specifically to the Water Well Ministry, Pastoral Ministries, Bible Ministry, allow the fervent work that is being done in those areas to continue on.

And the result continues to be that people are encouraged and lives are changed as the Living Water is being shared with a thirsty generation. Thank you for your support! Beth Beechy

**Listen to Lisa Troyer**  
**7am Sunday mornings on**  
**95.5 the Fish!**  
[www.955thefish.com](http://www.955thefish.com)