



The OHM Regional Strategy – How It Impacts You!

By Mark Bonham, OHM Executive Director

OHM began 21 years ago with a group of women focused on facing the damage from abuse they had experienced. In that humble beginning there was no grand vision to become an organization or to impact any beyond those already present. But God had other plans. OHM began offering leader training in 1993 with the idea that if you could come to us, we would share with you what we have learned about leading groups. Then, if you were brave enough, you could go back and try doing what we were doing. If you were struggling, you could call our office for help.

Since then we had over 2,500 leaders attend our training. At any given time over 1,500 people are attending Grace Groups. Where leaders have developed a strong, supportive community, groups flourish. But getting started has been a daunting task and staying with it can be a challenge for the strongest group leader. As we surveyed the Grace Group landscape, we found it littered with the remains of groups and leaders that had gone to battle and not returned.

One year ago we began considering a significant shift in our calling. Rather than simply being a training organization that you come to for training and then launch out on your own, we began to envision a well networked community of leaders who were connected to area and regional

coordinators who had successfully planted Grace Groups and had help and encouragement to offer others. We have such people scattered around the country, usually focused on their own ministry, but who also have strength to offer others. By linking these people with those leading and coordinating local groups we could provide on-going development, shepherding and valuable networking that would greatly increase the likelihood of success over the long haul. This, in turn, could greatly increase the number of groups being offered.

But this would require that we become much more involved with what is happening in the grassroots ministry, provide more supervision and training, and have a structure that would facilitate the flow of communication between Grace Groups and OHM. Our task in 2009 is to implement this structure in as many places as we can so that those ready for

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church again, and know again the joy of walking with the wounded.

The biggest surprise and gift were so many who prayed. I find prayer hard work. I rested in your prayers as I was so weary. I marveled at God's grace to provide others to carry the stretcher. Thank you Lord. Thank you friends. I am cancer free and passionate about the time I have left.

Grace Group leadership will find the help they need to launch and sustain a healthy ministry.

Do not be surprised, if you have been to SALTS, should someone contact you to see if you are interested in being connected with others who are

leading groups. We envision regional retreats, regular communications, connection and more development for those who desire it. If you are not contacted over the next month or two, but want to be in the loop, make that request known by emailing us at: office@ohmin.org

Meet Our Office Staff

Deanna Sturgeon, Leslie Juhnke and Heather Erbe

If you take advantage of any of our office services you are likely to be helped by one of the following:

Deanna Sturgeon is our Office Administrator. She makes sure that there are materials available, that our customer service is responsive, that SALTS details are all covered and that bills, invoices and staff get paid. Deanna has been with OHM since 2003. You will see her managing the office at SALTS – usually near a computer!



L to R: Deanna Sturgeon, Leslie Juhnke and Heather Erbe

donor mailings, mailing lists and data base, materials orders and shipping. Leslie will usually be the one you hear from when you plan to come to one of our training events, reminding you what forms are needed.

Heather Erbe is our part time Administrative Assistant and she started

working with us in January. Call in the mornings and Heather's is the voice you are likely to hear.

Heather assists Deanna and Leslie in preparing for our events, assembling and shipping materials, handling mail, tracking inventory and supplies and keeping our web site up to date.