

Encouraging Women in Lay Ministry

1. Intro

2. Let's start with a definition of ministry.

...but there's a problem today

...NT picture - 1Peter 2:9 (a 'people')

1Cor 12 - one body

Romans 12:4-8

Why clergy/laity distinction?

With half the world's population outside the reach of indigenous evangelism; with countless other lost people in those societies that have heard the gospel; with the stresses and miseries of sickness, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, ignorance, aging, addiction, crime, incarceration, neuroses and loneliness, no man or woman who feels a passion from God to make his grace known in word or deed need ever live without a fulfilling ministry for the glory of Christ and the good of this fallen world. Danvers Statement

3. What will this ministry look like?

The Trellis and the Vine (Col Marshall and Tony Payne)

Vine Work

Who does it? Matthew 28:18-20

4. Word work

Acts 4: 29

Eph 4:11-15

Eph 5:18

Eph 6:4

Col 3:16

Hebrews 3:12-13

The NT envisages that all Christian disciples will be prayerful speakers of Gods word - but the contexts of that are multitude.

	Home	Congregation	Community
One to One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bible reading and prayer with children •Bible reading and prayer with spouse •Writing letters to extended family •Bringing the Bible to bear in daily conversations •After school afternoon tea conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Following up a new Christian •Reading the Bible and praying one-to-one with someone •Following up newcomers and visitors to church •Encouraging each other before and after church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Inviting people to evangelistic events •Giving away books, tracts and MP3 talks •Walk-up evangelism •Friendship evangelism •Sharing your story •Water-cooler conversations (answering common questions)
Small group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Family Bible reading and prayer •Reading Bible storybooks to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meeting with small group for prayer and Bible reading •Teaching Sunday School and youth group •Men's and women's groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Small-group based evangelism (courses, dinners, etc) •Teaching Scripture and Bible classes in schools
Large group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bringing Christian content into birthday and family gatherings (eg sharing a Bible verse and praying) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Occasional preaching •Giving a testimony and/or encouragement •Leading singing •Reading the Bible •Praying in church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Giving an evangelistic talk or testimony (eg at a women's brunch)

5. With that in mind may mean some ministry mind shifts

From running programmes / filling gaps to building people

From running events to training people

From using people to growing people

6. Lets get practical

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7. A sample questionnaire and interview schedule

Lesley Ramsay, 2012