



June 2005

Dear RENEW Network Friend,

You will be pleased to know that *Offering Jesus*, the supplemental program book produced for RENEW by Bristol House publishing, is now off the press. We believe you will be pleased with this new program book, dedicated to the memory of our good friend and RENEW consultant, Diane Knippers. Diane was the president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), and, just prior to her death, was selected by *Time Magazine* as one of the twenty-five most influential evangelicals in America. Diane prepared an excellent program for *Offering Jesus* entitled "Christ's Kingdom in the Realm of Politics."

This new resource includes eight programs and an introduction that can be used as a devotional. Opening with the program "The Supremacy of Christ," there is also a powerful program on the plight of children in war-torn situations, another on the gift of discernment and a fun-filled, ol' time radio-style production entitled "Prod E. Gal of the Plains."

The program book is rounded out with three exceptional "tea" programs. The first, "John Wesley Memorial Tea," focuses on the John Wesley teapot, made for Wesley by Josiah Wedgwood in 1761. This program is an adaptation of a program by the same name recommended by the New England Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in 1938. (You may send for a packet which includes the original program, a 1908 article by Mrs. Anna Onstott, who arranged for the first reproduction of the original teapot, as well as a copy of a 1911 article from *The Ladies Home Journal*.)

The second "tea" program is "A Special Tea Party, a Gracious Celebration." This program uses a tea event for evangelistic outreach. The final tea program, "A Traveling Tea Party," was shared by a UMW group in Michigan and is a wonderful program for ministry to discouraged, sick or shut-in women who are a part of your church or community.

Use the enclosed order card to request your copy of *Offering Jesus*. The resource will be sent to you from Bristol House, Ltd., our partner in this project. They will include a catalog of other excellent resources offered through Bristol. Bristol publishes books, Sunday School curriculum, confirmation material and program resources for United Methodists in the Wesleyan tradition.

Annual Conferences are upon us. Some of you may have already had your conferences, but, if you have not, we would like to offer you another resource you can download from our web site at www.renewnetwork.org.

A North Carolina Conference church, Edenton Street UMC in Raleigh, North Carolina, shared a guide for praying for annual conference which they have used for several years. They enlist various churches to pray continuously throughout their annual conference meeting. This guide is posted to our web site and can be easily downloaded. It is a wonderful guide for individuals, churches or entire conferences to use. You may want to share it with your district superintendent, your conference lay leader or your bishop as a potential resource for use across the district or conference.

Finally, we are offering our Spring 2005 report and analysis of the Women's Division Board of Directors meeting. Katy Kiser and Sharon Lodovic, our press reporters to this April meeting, did an excellent job both reporting and researching the various topics addressed at this board meeting. It is important for you to be aware of the broad scope of issues the Women's Division considers, and the perspective from which they are presented. RENEW appreciates the time our reporters put into attending these meetings and the energy they expend to research items they think deserve more information for our network members. Use the enclosed order form to request this report.

Let me give you an update on the planned Christian conversation between the RENEW Network and the Women's Division. RENEW has submitted its recommended guidelines for this meeting and we are waiting to hear back from the Women's Division with their recommendations. Keep this planned conversation in your prayers. The setting, the format, the participants and the content of this discussion are all very important. A detraction to open conversation was the communication piece sent out under Kelly Martini, communications director for the Women's Division. Be sure to check our web site for our response to this inaccurate, misrepresenting document.

As the summer months approach we need you to stand with us in prayer and through financial support. Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more will help finance our part in the upcoming conversation with the Women's Division, and move us forward in our plans to hold "Inspiring Models" events. Contact us to host an event in your area.

Sincerely in Christ,

L. Faye Short
President