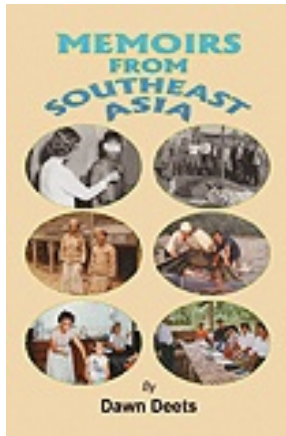


# Alliance Women Ministries

## Midwest District

November 2010

### Off the Press!!



**Dawn Deets**, a retired Midwest District Alliance international worker, has written **Memoirs from Southeast Asia**, a book of her adventures in Vietnam, Indonesia, Dalat School and the Philippines. You can contact Dawn at [dawn.deets@comcast.net](mailto:dawn.deets@comcast.net) (\$15.00 + \$2.41 for postage) or order from Xlibris.com for \$20 plus shipping.

### Mark your Calendars!

**April 30, 2011**

*One-Day Women's Conference*  
at Eagle Church, Whitestown,  
Indiana

Featured Speaker:  
Jane Rubietta, author and  
international speaker

Look for more info at the  
beginning of the year!

### Developing Leadership Disciplines: A Good Listener

By Susan Bernard



"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak." James 1:19

"Who is your favorite speaker?" This is a trick question, because people love to hear themselves talk, and they love the idea that others like to hear them talk! Although we are concentrating on developing spiritual disciplines this year, it would benefit us if we would develop leadership disciplines as well. A key ingredient in helping our ministry grow is building relationships with others. This requires us to become good listeners. Notice in Acts 8:26-39, that Philip entered the carriage of the Ethiopian Eunuch and was able to minister well to him because he was a willing listener. How can we improve in this leadership skill?

#### 1. Actively Engage Yourself in Listening

It is frustrating when you are trying to talk to someone and you feel they would rather be somewhere else. For this reason, it is important to make eye contact and keep ourselves from becoming distracted by things going on around us or by thoughts about what we will do next week. Focusing on what they are saying takes intentional energy and discipline.

#### 2. Listen Attentively

How do we convey we are hearing what is being said? We do this by using body language which shows we are listening well. Slumping back in our chair, glancing at our watch, or looking past the person to see what others are doing will convey that we are not all that interested in what she is saying. This may take some practice, but we can develop good listening skills.

#### 3. No Interruptions

Have you ever been in the middle of saying something when the other person begins talking about something else? This is bothersome and will cause the person to become quiet and not open up. Take care to genuinely listen without interjecting ideas of your own unless they are carefully placed to enhance your conversation.

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#### 4. Ask Appropriate Questions

Good listening does not mean that you must keep absolutely quiet. Be attentive enough to be aware of a natural break in the conversation to ask about what is being said. These are not to be intimidating or put down questions, rather they should be spirit-driven. Then the other person will realize you are truly interested in them.

#### 5. It's Not About You, It's About the Other Person

Jesus reminded us to think of others more highly than ourselves. Listening carefully is one way we can do this. Don't try to be "one up" on the other person. Perhaps she is telling a story about a vacation she has taken. Suddenly you interrupt and tell a bigger and better story. Now you have stolen her conversation and become the talker and not the listener. Rather than stealing her story, it would be more appropriate to make meaningful comments about what she is saying to show that you understand what she is trying to communicate.

#### 6. The Benefits of Discipling Yourself to be a Good Listener

Although training ourselves to listen seems like a big chore, it does have benefits. If we listen well, the other person will learn to respect us and be more willing to follow our leadership. Amazingly, we can learn a lot from listening to others. Our lives will be enriched. Sometimes what we are hearing will generate a new idea that can be useful for future living. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we strive to build meaningful relationship with others.

Resource: "How to Listen Well" on OpTempo.com

#### LEADERSHIP

##### TIP:

"If you show people how much you care and ask questions in a non-threatening way, you'll be amazed by how much they'll tell you."

John C. Maxwell  
Relationship 101.

Thomas Nelson,  
Inc. p. 49.



**WELCOME** to our newest Third Culture Kid (TCK), Luke Zanayed born June 21st. He joins Joe and Andrea and big brother, Timothy in Israel.

Welcome our New Pastors' Wives to the Midwest District:

Alexandra Brown, Springwater,  
Huntington, IN

Andrea Denner, First Congregational,  
Dover, IL

### THANK YOU!!

*From Karen Fitch:* "Thank you and the Alliance Women of the Midwest District for being a part of God's provision. Thank you for your commitment to reaching people around the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. I did also go to the missionary closet and was able to find some very helpful items. Please thank those who have given so we could have these things. Thanks again! God bless you and continue to use you mightily."

*From Karen and Todd Dinius:* "We are so thankful for each of you, your prayers, and your support for us! It is such a blessing to know that we are not alone in reaching out to thousands in need of the Lord here in Bosnia. Thank you for your faithful intercession and for your financial support towards our outfit fund again. We are blessed by you!"

## Past National Projects THIRST QUENCHERS

*Cote d'Ivoire from Laura Livingston:* My deep appreciation to Alliance Women Ministries for funds given for our project House of Hope. Here is the translation from the national woman who is heading up this project. "Greetings Laura, Thank you for the good news concerning the NGO Women: Light and Life. You know that I am so concerned that we not use unwisely the Lord's money. Therefore we want you to be implicated in the management of this sum. We would like to put the money into an account that requires three signatures. That way no one person can access the money for her own purposes. The project concerns eighty women who will learn to read, write and follow classes in hygiene, nutrition, and the health of mother and infant. There are nine class locations at the present time where literacy is being taught. This project

began in January 2010. For the moment, we are renting classrooms, but now we will be going to hunt for property to build our own center called the "House of Hope."

*Argentina from Sue Stern on behalf of Plan ISHA:* As usual, God's timing is perfect. That is how the team here in Argentina felt when we received the \$5,000 gift for our outreach to single moms, widows, divorced, and others with health and emotional needs. Some have depression, others have had abortions, and still others are the result of domestic violence. This gift will help us to minister to the needs of these women through books, media, teach sessions, and counseling. We look upon the donation from Alliance Women Ministries as seed money to spread and bless and multiply for the harvest like mustard seeds. \$5,000!. Lots of seeds!!!"



**On the Move AW National Project** - raising funds for women's ministries, community centers, handicraft/business training, street children, ESL and art/music centers in Creative Access Countries. The dvd that you received earlier in the year has a promotional piece for this project on it.

One way to raise funds for this project is to hold a Walk-a-thon - Walk for the World. Please note, that April 30 is the designated date nationwide but we have a district women's conference scheduled for that day. If you would like to do a walk-a-thon, a different date can be selected. The national AW website offers help for setting up your own walk-a-thon. Check out [www.alliancewomen.org](http://www.alliancewomen.org) and click on the Walk for the World button.

### Midwest District Goal: \$10,000

Help us make our goal by encouraging your women to give and then sending in your monies to our district treasurer, Jean Bauer. Set a giving goal for your church. You could designate a special giving month or months, ask your pastor about inviting the whole congregation to give, participate in a walk-a-thon or perhaps think up another creative way to raise funds. The possibilities are endless.

## Check Out These Resources!!

**eLinks** - a regular email that links women's ministry leaders together. To subscribe send an email to: [elinks@alliancewomen.org](mailto:elinks@alliancewomen.org) in the subject line: subscribe to eLinks and ask to be added to the eLinks database in order to receive future issues of eLinks. Please give name, email address.

**National Alliance Women website** - a wealth of resources to help you in your ministry to the women of your church.  
[www.alliancewomen.org](http://www.alliancewomen.org).

**Facebook** - Search Alliance Women Ministries and become a fan!

**District Alliance Women website**  
- [www.mwalliancewomen.com](http://www.mwalliancewomen.com)  
Password - 3thirst16

**Women's Leadership Studies (WLS)** - Check this link [www.alliancewomen.org/wls/wlsschedule.html](http://www.alliancewomen.org/wls/wlsschedule.html) for information on the various training sites.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about Third Culture Kid (TCK) Adoption: Gina Mueller 630-254-5852, [gmmdem31@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmmdem31@sbcglobal.net).

Questions about Financial Stuff: Jean Bauer 217-418-4229, [cxljb@juno.com](mailto:cxljb@juno.com).

Questions about Alliance Women or Women's Ministry: Lisa Brown 312-925-5262, [lisab@alliancewomen.org](mailto:lisab@alliancewomen.org)

Changes in your contact information or your church director: Vicki DuFault 260-572-6018, [dufault6@gmail.com](mailto:dufault6@gmail.com)