



## December At a Glance

December 2nd: Intercessory Prayer

December 26th: WGA Activity—Lord of the Rings marathon

December 30th: WGA Open Meeting

## January And Beyond

January 6th: Commitment Group begins

January 7th: Intercessory Prayer

January 7th: Survivors of Abuse Group begins

January 14th: Growth Group begins

March 31st—April 2nd 2006: WGA Family and Friends Retreat

April 27th-29th: Restoring the Glory Conference

May 12th-13th: WGA Seminars—stay tuned for more information

June 27th—July 2nd: Exodus International Conference, Indiana Wesleyan University

### Thursday Night Group

December 1st: 47 people  
December 8th : NO Group  
December 15th: 36 people  
December 22nd: 46 people  
December 29th: 38 people

Orientation meeting - 7 new people

### WGA Staff

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*A Measure of Grace*  
is edited by  
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*Where Grace Abounds*  
exists to guide and support  
men and women who seek to  
understand sexuality and  
relationship, and to inspire  
all people to know and  
personally appropriate  
God's plan for their  
sexuality and relationships.

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# A Measure of Grace

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## Finding Not Just a Name by Mary Heathman

WGA will be twenty years old in July of 2006! We will be commemorating this milestone in several ways this year – watch for periodic announcements about special events throughout 2006.

A walk down the WGA memory lane will be one theme for our newsletters throughout the year. Articles will recount memories and impressions from the early days, and maybe some lessons learned during the birth and growth of the ministry.

Much could be said about the years leading up to the beginning—the pre-WGA days—before July of 1986, but the stories of those years must be told another time. For our purposes in this first article of 2006, I will begin at the

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**wga**  
where grace abounds

1986-2006  
**20**  
YEARS  
**WHERE  
GRACE  
ABOUNDS**

(Not Just a Name *continued from page 1*)

beginning of a yet-to-be-named ministry.

In July of 1986, five people gathered in the basement of a beauty shop in south Denver. Three men and two women wrestled with the foundational logistics of their mission—to start a new ministry.

The purpose was already agreed upon, to provide a weekly meeting where people wrestling against unwanted homosexual feelings and behavior could gather and pray for one another, and receive support in their pursuit of God's provision for healing. With this mission statement in mind, the little group set themselves to the task of coming up with a name.

"Pathfinders" was suggested and rejected because it sounded "too much like a scout troop." Other names were batted about without much enthusiasm, and it was decided to leave the naming of the ministry on the back burner and turn our attention to other agenda items. We worked well together as we made decisions like who we

could ask to help us with our by-laws and articles of incorporation, what program elements to include in our weekly meetings, and what our group guidelines should be.

After a short break, we gathered back to tackle the naming of the ministry. There was immediate tension. The proponent of "Pathfinders" still thought it was the best choice—but the resistance to that name deepened. I suggested brainstorming

to see if we could come up with other possibilities that all of us might like. We came up with several, but none garnered the support of even the majority, let alone the 100% consensus we were seeking.

It was decided to spend some time in silence, each of us

searching our hearts and minds, looking for God's name for the ministry. After several minutes, I asked if anyone had any thoughts or impressions.

One of the women was filled with wonderment as she told us that the Lord had directed her to Romans 5:20, "Where sin abounded, grace

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(Not Just a Name *continued from page 6*)

These concepts have been the basis for all WGA decision-making over these past two decades. As a result, all aspects of ministry, from our first weekly support group in 1986, to the many-faceted discipleship ministry we have now, have all sprung from the disciplines of corporate prayer and transparent relationship within the WGA community. It gratifies me to see how WGA staff and leaders have been trained up and developed as we have made prayerful application of scriptural mandates to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds and strength, and to love

one another as ourselves, speaking the truth to one another in love.

These basic principles have also permeated the processes of board development, fund-raising and financial accountability, leadership development, and relationships with the Church and other ministries. As we celebrate this year, it is good to look back and see what the Lord has done, and look forward to even more that He will do with WGA in the years to come in our little corner of the Body of Christ. ★

**Romans 5:20**

**Where sin  
abounded, grace did  
much more abound**

did much more abound.” She said she knew that the name of the ministry was to be “Abundant Grace.”

Although the concept of abounding grace resonated with all five of us, the name “Abundant Grace” didn’t sit as well. Among other criticisms, several thought that there were too many churches with that name and we didn’t want to give the impression we were a church.

The woman was stricken. From her perspective, she had heard from the Lord and the rest of us were resisting God himself. The others on the team felt that if God had given the name, He would have told every-

one, not just her. The mood darkened as words were exchanged and she left the room in tears.

After a bit of a time out, the woman returned to the table. We sat together in glum silence. Then one of the men said, “What if we changed the words a little bit; maybe it would work.”

All heads lifted, thoughts turned to the possibilities. We worked with

the words of the scripture, putting them in different order, changing the tenses around, adding and eliminating various clarifying words to see what we could make out of them that might be a good name for the ministry.

I remember the exhilarating moment when we all recognized it. “Where Grace Abounds,” said someone. And the rest of us audibly sighed with relief, “Yes, that’s it!”

***“Where Grace Abounds,” said someone. And the rest of us audibly sighed with relief. “Yes, that’s it!”***

Of course, we had found more than a name. Though we had indeed discovered God’s name for the ministry, we also had set the precedent for a few concepts that would become the bedrock of WGA

decision-making:

- o Start, end, and return often to prayer.
- o WGA decision-making is a team effort.
- o Engage in careful, thorough and honest discussion.
- o When it is hard or painful, persevere; don’t give up.
- o Stay with the process until consensus is reached, don’t settle for less.

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## Reflections: Thoughts From a WGA Leader

*By Nancy Hicks*

Resolutions of a weary soul

They will walk and not become weary.”

Is. 40:30,31

**Mark 1:35** “And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He (Jesus) arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.”

Richard Halverson said, “The disciples asked Jesus how to pray because they knew everything else about Him was due to His prayer life: His personal magnetism, His eloquence, His mastery of every situation, His power and strength. Prayer was one of the most characteristic things about Him. He rose early—a great while before day . . . He lingered in the late hours—after others had retired—to pray.”

**Luke 5:16** “but He Himself (Jesus) would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”

“He gives strength to the weary,  
And to him who lacks might He increases power.  
Though youths grow weary and tired,  
and vigorous young men stumble badly,  
Yet those who wait for the Lord  
Will gain new strength;  
They will mount up with wings like eagles.  
They will run and not get tired,

**Matt 14:23** “And after He (Jesus) had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.”

I’m challenged to depart to lonely places.

I’m challenged to slip away often this year.

I’m challenged to send the multitudes away and be alone.

When I live in my own strength, with my own agenda, attempting my own wisdom—trying to sort what is good from what is best—I am weary.

I’m ready for a new plan. I want to believe that waiting on the Lord will renew my strength.

I want to believe that waiting on the Lord is the antidote for my weariness.

I want to believe it so much that I do it.

I’ll let you know how it goes. ★



## Where Were You In 1986?

*The WGA Staff*

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*Mary*



In 1986, I lived in Northwest Denver, with my husband and twenty year old son (who worked together as roofers.) We had a large home and it was often filled on weekend nights with family and friends, my son's buddies, and WGA group members. First Denver Friends was our church home (and it still is!)

*Scott*

As a recent graduate of Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, I was utilizing my graphic art degree by working in a prominent position with the display department of JC Penney's in Cinderella City (note sarcasm). I had moved out and "come out" and was very involved in the gay community in Denver. My first boyfriend was conflicted about his homosexuality and at that time, I didn't understand what his problem was!



# 1986

*Pat*

In 1986 I was beginning my second year as a single parent. I was on welfare and food-stamps and preparing to go thru Colorado Women's Employment and Education, an organization that helps single moms break the cycle of welfare and find full time employment. In June 1986 I was placed as a receptionist in the residential mortgage department of Bank Western and that began an 18 year long career in residential mortgages.



*Roger*



In 1986, I was living in Seminole, TX, and I was in the 7th Grade. This was a fun-filled (note sarcasm) time for me, as my hormones raged and I began to realize I had same-sex attractions. About this time, I also discovered that I had a talent for singing. Also, I had my first introduction to Algebra this year.