

Associational Officers Installation

A Sample Service



Installation of Associational WMU Officers

Theme: Serve with a Heart of Love

The heart of any missions leader must listen to the language of God's heart. Being a missions leader by any title automatically means one must take on certain qualities. In the Christian leadership role the expectations are higher because we serve a leader who is so much greater than ourselves. That leader is Jesus Christ Himself. As His followers we are to take on His character, His love, and we are to imitate His actions. We are to obey Him in all things.

A slate of officers has been elected to serve through Woman's Missionary Union® of the _____ Baptist Association. Will you who have been asked to serve for 2010–2011 please make your way to the front? Please face me.

(Say to the officers): As a leader you have not been shaped in isolation. You are part of a community of like-minded Christian individuals who believe that missions is important. Members of this association have shaped your opinions, your directions, and your work. The process has helped to shape and form you into what God would have you to be in His kingdom.

You are not a self-made leader. God shapes your heart. He does that by placing you in a community of missions-loving people like those who are in this sanctuary.

I will give you several challenges. I will make a few statements then ask you to respond with, "We will."

In Psalm 27:1 we find these words, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (KJV). Jesus, the ultimate leader, grew patiently as He waited for the right time to step forward. He listened to His Father's voice. His move into the spotlight, so to speak, did not come lightly. He listened and waited and learned. As an officer leading women, girls, and preschoolers in missions, are you willing to gather strength from God as Jesus did? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

Jesus listened to the instructions from His Father before moving ahead. He must have known the words of Psalm 130:5, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope" (NIV).

Jesus knew what His mission was, yet He did not rush the process. As an officer you will be asked to make decisions. When you do, you must consider the good of all, not just one piece. Your choices will affect other officers, members of WMU® organizations in the churches, and the people of this association.

Every decision must answer the question, How will my decision today affect the hearing and understanding of the gospel? Will you wait patiently for Jesus' instructions? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

Our WMU past is full of stories of individuals who loved God and who wanted women to be involved in God's plan for the world. As Hebrews 13:7 reminds us, you are to be imitators of the faith of those who went before you. You have a high standard to fulfill.

You are not to stay in the past, but you are to be initiators of the future. Will you use what you have learned from the past as a stepping-stone into the future to start new missions education groups and to strengthen and build up existing ones? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

As an officer you will need to know when to say yes and when to say no. You may be asked to spend your energy on things that do not have eternal value. Sometimes you will need to do the asking.

Paul said of his life, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14 KJV). You will need to learn the difference between human need and divine assignment. Are you willing to live a life that reflects the higher good, the higher calling in the mission of God? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

Serving God is accomplished through serving others. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul reminded the church at Ephesus that they must lead a life worthy of the calling to which they had been called. He also said that humility, gentleness, patience, bearing one another's burdens in love, and maintaining the unity of the Holy Spirit would bring peace. Are you willing, with the Spirit's help, to lead this kind of life? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

The Apostle Paul reminded the young Timothy to rekindle the gift of God that was in him, for God did not give him a spirit of cowardice but a spirit of power, and of love, and of self-discipline. Are you willing to rely on God's strength for the task ahead? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

Knowing that your ultimate purpose as an individual is to fulfill your part in obeying the Christ who gave His Great Commission in Mark and again in Matthew 28, are you willing to lead others to discover their part in the church, the association, and the world? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

As incoming officers you represent the women, girls, preschoolers, boys, and men in this association. But more than that you represent our Lord who was the greatest leader of all. You must rely on the Lord for everything. Trust His guidance. Serve Him with a heart of love.

Please turn and face the audience. I will call out the job title and the name of the person who is being asked to serve in that position. As I call your name, please step out and then back.

(Call out names and respective positions.)

Now, I have a challenge to the audience. Will you promise to follow these officers as they seek God's leadership? Will you help them to rekindle the gift of God that is in them so that they may serve with a heart of love? If so, say, "We will."

(RESPONSE: We will.)

May our Lord be with you as you lead WMU of _____ Baptist Association.

(Pray.)

Scriptures:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1 (KJV)

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope."

Psalm 130:5 (NIV)

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14 (KJV)

"Who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time."

2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost . . . and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Matthew 28:18–20 (KJV)

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)

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