

# **Responsible Sister workers excluded from overseer meeting**

## **Doug and Ardi Craven posted on the Connected and Concerned Friends site**

Just thought we'd share an email we sent this morning to all the overseers in the US... sure hoping our MN/IA sister workers will be welcome to attend...

We are writing this morning as something has come to our attention that we can't even begin to comprehend... and we wonder can this even be true? we certainly hope we have misunderstood... So can you please clarify whether or not the whole group, that has graciously stepped up to take care of things in MN/IA, have all been invited to the overseers meeting happening soon? The "rumor" that we have heard is that Ron, Dean & John are going, but that Shari S and Shari C and Marla have not been invited... We have absolutely no idea what an overseers meeting is about... what the structure is, what is discussed etc... but we can't imagine that there is any part of that meeting that would not allow for sister workers to be in attendance??? So if this is true, it is absolutely baffling to us as to why these sister workers would not be welcome there? This group has demonstrated a wonderful example of true spirit led shepherding... not esteeming oneself higher than another and functioning as one body in Christ, therefore, how can part of this body (the sister workers) be left behind when the brothers go to attend this meeting?

Again, we hope there has been a terrible misunderstanding on our part for which we apologize in advance if so... but if this is true please don't tear the body of Christ apart and leave them behind...

Matthew 28 is our Bible study for this week. It was the two Mary's that went to Jesus' tomb and were the first to come with the message "he is risen". And going back to the very beginning of time... God told Adam he would "make a help meet" (NKJV-a helper comparable to him)... can you imagine how changed the Bible would be if every helpful woman's story had been left out?

So we beg you, please use this as an opportunity to make the necessary changes, it is the hope for the future of God's kingdom. We acknowledge change is often uncomfortable, but it is necessary as the traditional structure has led us to where we are today. Please note that silence speaks loudly...

We trust we are united with you in the desire of our hearts being to know our place and by the grace of God fill our place.

Sincerely,

Doug & Ardi Craven