



Showers of Blessings

Helping mothers who have lost a child

Spring 2015

Umbrella Ministries

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Mark Your Calendars!

Day Retreat for Moms,

in Simpsonville, SC

April 11, 8:45 - 3

First Baptist Church

Contact Jan James

jan@pdtm.us

(864-963-3543)

or Alice Ann Holman,

aadholman@gmail.com

West Coast Conference

May 1-3, 2015

Desert Princess

Palm Springs Resort

Contact Michele Paul

mpaulindio@yahoo.com

or Joyce Godier

jmgodier@yahoo.com

East Coast Conferece

October 2-4, 2015

Port-O-Call, Ocean City, NJ

Contact Ann Bennett

610-613-8117

AnnRBen@comcast.net

Each season of the year beholds its own beauty. Summer has the beautiful sunny days and the warm breezes that welcome us out into the evening. Autumn arrives showing us all the radiant golden colors of leaves that soon will leave the trees bare and sparse. Slowly, they are introducing the coldness of the winter. The pristine snow that covers the landscape calls out to us for a time of stillness and solitude. One of my favorite seasons is springtime. It is a time of renewal, a time of hope that the budding of the flowers tease us with the beauty that is just around the corner.

The change of season comes year after year. In grief we too experience changes throughout our loss. Those changes will continue throughout our lives. In his book "When Mourning Dawns" James E. Miller describes the seasons of grief. He describes autumn as a sob of parting, the cry of losing, something that has ended. Winter is blustery and cold, dreary and dark, and often lasts longer than you want it to. Spring is a time of sprouting and the promise of renewed life. In Psalm 118:17 the author writes "I will not die but live and will proclaim what the Lord has done." That is the season of spring, a glimpse of hope that we might have found the courage to live on. When we finally come into summer we see new forms of growth that began in spring. They now stand firm and grow in wisdom and appreciation for the life you had and have.

Do you see yourself in anyone of these seasons? Are you feeling one leading you on to another? We each have found ourselves somewhere along this journey. Umbrella Ministries is a shelter from the effects of the seasons of grief. We hold the umbrella as you battle the bare and cold seasons. We offer compassion and hope as you catch a glimmer of spring. Summer offers you a chance to hold the umbrella for someone who is just trying to find their footing after the storm. In summer we can comfort others as we have been comforted.

Our theme for this year's conference is hope. What better season to hold the West Coast conference than in the springtime. Spring is the season of renewal and a hope for brighter days ahead. Even though for some of us the autumn and winter feel like they will last forever. Whatever season you find yourself in, come join us on May 1-3 at the Desert Princess Golf Resort in Cathedral City. Let us love on you, encourage you and comfort you. Let us offer you hope. The hope we find in *Isaiah 40:31 ...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Michele and the
Board of Umbrella Ministries

