

A Note From Mary Heathman



Dear Friend of WGA,

It is always a joy to look back over the past year and remember all that the Lord has done through the ministry of Where Grace Abounds (WGA). As we report the activities and accomplishments of this past year, we hope to encourage our supporters with the results of all the investment in time, energy, prayer and financial gifts.

Our newspapers and television continue to be full of stories regarding broken sexuality. Special interest groups on both sides of the liberal/conservative political scene have made homosexuality a key issue in this election year. Tragic stories of sexual abuse surface on a regular basis. Family members experience pain and confusion when a loved one's addiction to pornography comes out into the light. Pastors and Christian leaders scramble for resources that can help them address these needs in their youth programs and Christian Education programs.

WGA is positioned right at the confluence of all this turmoil. For the past eighteen years, our board, staff and leadership team, who have themselves experienced God's healing touch in their own lives, have been committed to being part of the solution in the lives of men and women the Lord brings to WGA for help.

As people experience pain and confusion, we can relate; we've been there. But it doesn't overwhelm us any more because we see past it – the Lord has given us vision for how He wants to work in this area. We have experienced it ourselves and we have gained experience in helping others work through the issues involved.

We want to continue making a place available to men and women to experience God's grace and truth in the area of the broken sexuality. With the help of our supporters we have done it for eighteen years. With their help we will keep on doing it as long as the need is there.

Thank you for your interest in WGA. Thank you for your prayers and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Heathman".

Mary Heathman
Executive Director

Thank You from a WGA Board Member

"On behalf of the Where Grace Abounds Board of Directors, I want to say thank you to all of those who support the ministry, whether through financial donations, prayer, volunteering of time, or advocacy of our mission. Without your efforts on behalf of WGA, we could not sustain the work God has called us to do in the areas of sexual and relational brokenness. We ask that you consider continuing your support, through whatever means you feel led. Please know that *we are praying for you* and that God will sustain you through 2005 and beyond!"

Roger Jones
Board Member

WGA Services Are Free? Why?

By Mary Heathman

When my heart first recognized the call of God into ministry, I was literally shaking with excitement and fear. I was thrilled to have my purpose in life so clearly spelled out for me, and looked forward to how the Lord might work it out in me. But I was also petrified—I was called into full-time ministry; how would I make my living?

Right after a church service where I had shared my call to ministry, I was driving home, doubts niggling at the back of my mind. “How will the ministry be supported? What if no one wants to partner with me? Maybe I should start working on a fee structure. After all, wouldn’t that be responsible stewardship?”

Mentally, I started to sketch out a plan for charging for counseling and support group attendance. Immediately, my chest tightened: my heart felt constricted. I recognized the signs of spiritual disease, a profound resistance to the course I was mapping out for the ministry. Then I did what I always do under such stress—I cried! And in the midst of the tears, I heard the song on the radio as if it had been turned up louder all of a sudden:

*Freely, freely, you have received;ⁱ
Freely, freely, give.ⁱⁱ
Go in my name, and because you
believe,
Others will know that I live.*

I had my answer and was relieved, and grateful. I also felt that it would be good

to get confirmation before I charged on ahead. I needed to know what the Bible said and to pray for a reasonable rationale behind WGA’s decision to offer its services to group members without charge.

In a search of the Scriptures, I found good reasons for charging for ministry services. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul makes assumptions like: a soldier is to be paid, an orchard worker should receive some of its fruit to eat, and the shepherd who feeds the flock should also drink of the milk of the flock. The same passage refers to the law of Moses, “Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treads out the corn.” Paul goes on to infer that he and Barnabas, by virtue of their work among the people have a right to receive provision from them.ⁱⁱⁱ

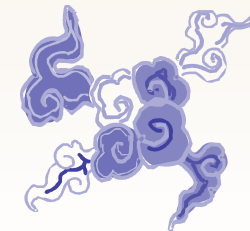
These passages gave me pause—it seemed scripture endorsed a servant earning a wage from those he served. But I read a bit further, and found the passages that matched my heart’s response to the song on the radio:

1Corinthians 9:12,15 ...If others have this right of support from you, shouldn’t we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

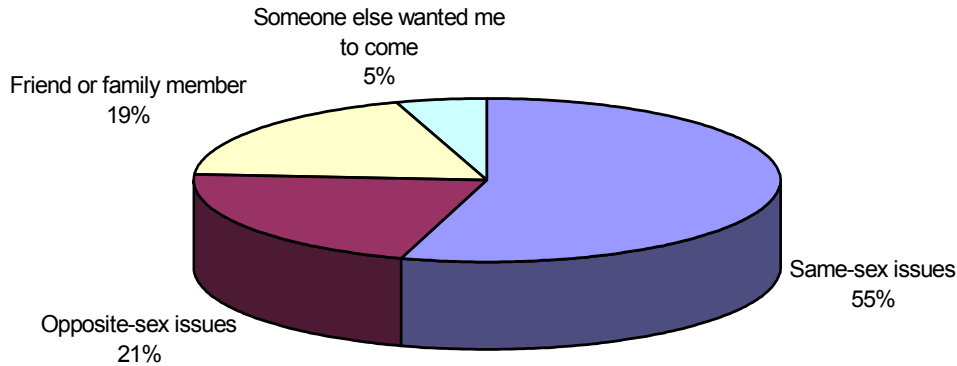
WGA offers its services free of charge because we want the good news of God’s provision to come without the distraction that payment for services

2003 Donating Churches and Organizations

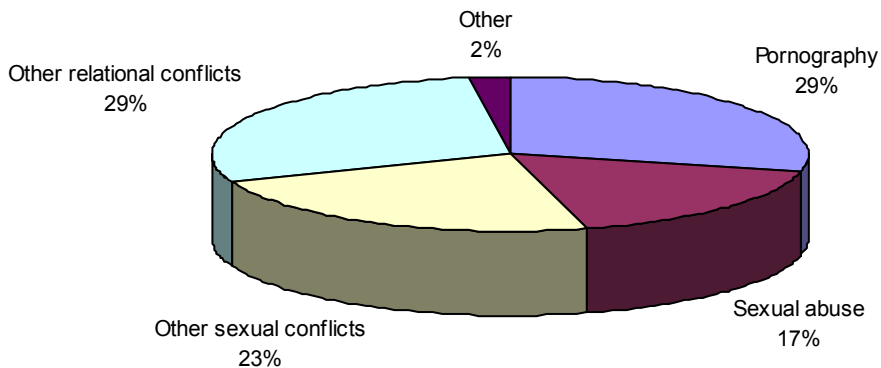
Arvada Covenant Church
Bear Creek Evangelical Presbyterian
Calvary Church
Celebration Community Church
Cherry Creek Presbyterian
Colorado Community Church
Corona Presbyterian Church
Corona Presbyterian Women
Family Harvest Church
First Christian Reformed Church
First Denver Friends
First Friends Church
Galilee Baptist
Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends
Leptas Foundation
Mile High United Way
Northwest Friends Church
Paonia Friends Church
Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
The Third Christian Reformed Church
Trinity Presbyterian



Why Group Members Initially Came to WGA



Other Issues Group Members Have Experienced



might bring. We do not want the message of God’s grace and truth to be hindered—people might think they are purchasing a service rather than receiving the Lord’s provision as a gift!

1 Corinthians 9:18 **What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.**

WGA offers its services free of charge because we consider it a personal blessing to us, although we know that we have the right to do so.

2 Corinthians 7:2; 12:17 **Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one; we have corrupted no one; we have exploited no one. Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you?**

WGA offers its services free of charge so that people whose hearts have been long closed, exploited by many—even in the Lord’s camp—may know that WGA is a safe place, we want only to give, expecting nothing in return.

2 Corinthians 11:9; 12:14 **And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. . . . I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.**

WGA provides its services without charge because we don’t want to add

burdens on the backs of those who already carry heavy loads of despair, grief, fear, and doubt. We are as surrogate parents in their lives, caring for them with no requirement that they should pay us back.

In conclusion, I just want to say that WGA is, (as best we could follow Him all these years,) a work that is ordered, guided and directed, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. As such, our decision to offer services to group members without charge, and to petition the Body of Christ for support of our efforts, is in response to our sense of how God has directed us.

We also know that God leads other ministry leaders, sometimes taking them on different paths. Oswald Chambers used to say that we ought not to make a program out of what God has done in our lives, but “allow God to be as creative in other people’s lives as He has been in our own.” This is a great freedom when we practice it.

In WGA’s case, offering services without charge or suggested donation, it is my prayer that our rationale will be God-inspired, our motivations will be God-purged, and we will always enjoy the creativity of the Holy Spirit in ourselves and each other. This is how I hope you will pray for us all!

i *Freely, Freely*, Carol Owens, © 1972, Bud John Songs, Inc.
 ii Matthew 10:8
 iii 1Corin 9:6-10

Meet the WGA Staff

Mary Heathman Executive Director

Mary is one of the founders of Where Grace Abounds and has served as Executive Director since its inception in July, 1986. She also has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Exodus International, is a member of the Exodus Speakers' Bureau, and speaks and teaches at churches and conferences across the country. Mary's favorite ministry roles are discipleship counseling, group facilitation, and leadership development.



Mary often characterizes herself as "a seeker of truth" and has a long-standing fascination with human behavior and motivation. Her education consists of lay and discipleship counseling, independent study regarding the integration of psychology and theology, counseling, and human sexuality. She also holds a BS degree in Human Services from Regis University.

Scott Kingry Program Director



A staff member since June of 1992, Scott is a key player in the WGA discipleship ministry. He plans, organizes, and implements every aspect of the Thursday night support group. In addition to counseling group participants and training leaders, Scott maintains personal contact with many group members and is thereby often a catalyst for healing. It is to Scott's credit that many group members feel personally welcomed and cared for, and loved.

He has served as an elder of the Corona Presbyterian Church and serves as an advisory board member and speaker for One By One, a Presbyterian denominational outreach regarding sexual issues.

Although he holds a degree in graphic arts, he attributes his ministry qualifications to the "school of hard knocks." Its curriculum included five years in the homosexual lifestyle, which he left in 1987. God's abundant grace continues to be the instrument of change in his life, and he desires to be firmly grounded in the forgiveness and freedom of relationship with Jesus Christ.

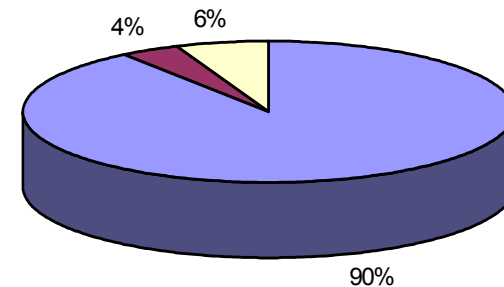
procured through our building's equity and through a generous gift), which brings the project total to \$133,000.

Currently, due to increased costs for steel and other building materials, we are under negotiations to reduce the scope of work for the project so that the project can be completed reasonably close to budgeted projections.

Current Projects: On May 6-7th of 2005, we will host our fifth Sexuality and the Church seminar which is intended to educate pastors and ministry leaders in areas of sexuality and relationship. Again this year, we will be combining Sexuality and the Church with Redeemed Sexuality, a seminar open to the public as well. This seminar will be Friday night the 6th and all day on Saturday the 7th. Our keynote speaker will be Joe Dallas, an internationally known speaker in the area of sexuality and relationship.



Where Group Members Live



- Denver Metro Area
- Boulder/Longmont/Ft. Collins
- Colorado Springs/Pueblo
- Outside of Colorado (none)

Departmental Updates

Program: Attendance at our various groups and activities averages around 55-60 men and women weekly. Add to this number several contacts our staff makes with group members by phone and/or email and we easily affect 75-80 people weekly. These numbers primarily represent men and women who want help addressing unwanted sexual feelings and/or behavior, difficulty yet desire to establish and sustain long-term intimacy in relationship with God, self and others.

We also have a core group of a dozen or so family members of people dealing with sexual and relational difficulties. Six group members attended the "Going Deeper With God" group for eight weeks, studying Karen Wood's booklets on mental, emotional, volitional and spiritual honesty.

Education: At our annual Pastors/Christian Leaders seminar, Sexuality and the Church, held last April 2nd, 69 pastors attended workshops and listened to special guest speaker Sy Rogers regarding sexual issues.

In addition to Sexuality and the Church, we hosted a seminar on April 2-3rd titled Redeemed Sexuality: Understanding God's Plan for the Church in a Sexually Compulsive Culture. Sy Rogers was also the guest speaker at this event. It was attended by 103 people.

Operations: In August 2003, we received notification that a grant proposal we submitted had been accepted and that we would be receiving a grant for \$99,700 for repairs to the WGA office building. We are responsible for \$33,300 in matching funds (which we have



Roger Jones Operations Director

Roger joined WGA as the Assistant Office Manager in October, 1996. Over time, his administrative responsibilities grew, and he became the Operations Director in December, 1999. As the Operations Director, Roger has responsibilities which include responding to new inquiries, publishing *A Measure of Grace* (the monthly newsletter of WGA), and supervising an administrative assistant. He also recruits and trains the WGA volunteers. Roger attends The Next Level Church.



His struggle with homosexuality led Roger to begin looking for answers. While he pursued a degree in music business, his search led him to Denver. In 1995, he moved from Texas to participate in WGA, where he found hope for change and a community that accepted him.

Sheila Knudtsen Development Director (part time)



Sheila joined Where Grace Abounds in March of 2003 to help foster WGA's existing relationships with churches and other organizations and to build new relationships with those who aren't as familiar with WGA's ministry.

Sheila came to WGA as a group member in 1997 and has appreciated the ongoing healing and deeper relationship with God that resulted from her involvement at WGA. In her role as development director, Sheila brings the experience she gained from her career in marketing and from her undergraduate degree in business management.

Pat Bott Assistant Program Director

As part of the Program Department, Pat's responsibilities include group facilitation, discipleship counseling, and other activities surrounding the various aspects of the services WGA offers.

Pat first learned about WGA in 1992, at which time she signed up on the newsletter list. Over time, her heart grew closer to the ministry and she felt led to participate in WGA's groups. God began to develop a vision within her to join the staff, and at the end of 2003, circumstances made it apparent that it was time. Pat joined the staff of Where Grace Abounds in February of 2004.



Dear WGA,

Let me say again just how impressed we all were with your presentation. You all went above and beyond for us and we really appreciate it.

On the car ride down, I heard guys making nervous jokes about homosexuality, and I was concerned that they would not be completely open to the message. But by the end of the presentation, they were asking some really terrific questions and wondering what role they might play in helping friends and family who struggle with issues of sexuality. I cannot say enough about the way you readily dealt with the tension in the room and set everyone at ease. Our guys came away not only understanding the ministry, but truly admiring each of you for your commitment and courage. I realize your goal was not to impress us, but you are doing God's work, and it is very impressive nonetheless!

I should say that I am especially touched by the application of God's grace that is a hallmark of your ministry. As a minister, as a men's group, and as a church I think we were all challenged by the beauty and simplicity of it. If we Christians could all learn to apply 100% grace alongside 100% truth, the world would truly be a different place, and sinners of every variety would be touched by the very love that Christ tried to teach us. That's a vision of the Christian faith worthy of much more attention.

Thank you all, for your honesty and transparency. Thank you for your conviction and your love for the lost and hurting. Thank you for coming in on a Sunday afternoon to meet with us. Thank you for your courage.

God Bless You All,
[A Pastor from Evergreen, CO]



Maxine Ordelheide has volunteered at the WGA offices in various roles for over ten years. She originally learned about WGA through one of her sons when he came to the ministry for help. She was intrigued to see the effect on her son's life. She says that his "outlook had changed" by coming to WGA, and she wanted to come alongside "those who were helping people who were discouraged with their lives".

Maxine helps by folding and mailing the newsletter and other mailings, addressing envelopes, assembling information packets, and many, many other administrative duties at the WGA office. The staff is grateful not only for her administrative support but also for the personal encouragement she provides. She gives of herself in so many ways – administratively, personally, and financially -- with a quiet strength and a quick sense of humor. We are tremendously grateful for her loving heart and for her desire to support "those who are on the front line". Many, many thanks to Maxine for her years of dedication!

Upcoming Events in 2005

Family and Friends Retreat

When: April 29-May 1, 2005

Who should attend: This retreat is a time of support, education, and fellowship for the loved ones of those struggling with sexual and relational issues.

Sexuality and the Church

When: The morning of May 6, 2005

Guest Speaker: Joe Dallas

Who should attend: This seminar is intended for those desiring to learn how to minister to the sexually and relationally broken.

Redeemed Sexuality

When: May 6-7, 2005.

Seminar Info: Guest speaker Joe Dallas will be the keynote speaker. This seminar is intended for those who wish to learn more about sexuality and relationships, whether for personal reasons or to learn how to minister.

2004 Year-to-Date Financial Position

As our financial statement on the previous page indicates, WGA's income was higher than expenses in 2003. While monthly expenses for 2004 have averaged \$2,000-\$3,000 more than general fund income, several large donations given throughout the year have covered this monthly deficit.

Historically, our general fund income increases in the last quarter of the year; thus, it is our prayer that this year will find us ending the year with our general fund budget fully funded.

Currently, the WGA staff is receiving about 75 percent of their salaries set in place by the WGA Board of Directors. Please pray with us for God's provision for ministry salaries.

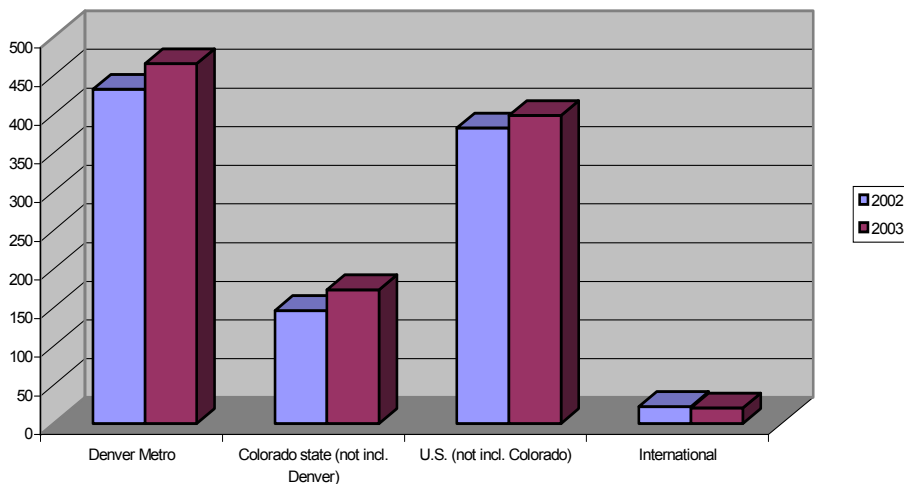
A Testimony From a Group Member...

Thank you...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for supporting Where Grace Abounds. I don't know where I would be right now if it weren't for WGA. Well, maybe I do. I would have ripped my family apart (my husband and two children) and moved in with my "lover"/my "friend" who was also married with children. Before I was referred to WGA -- and thank God that I was -- I was ready to give up everything just to be with her forever. It took all I had to even get up the courage to call and visit with the WGA staff. But, thankfully, by the grace of God, I did. And I'm so very thankful that they were there when I needed them most.

When I called and shamefully discussed my situation with one of the staff, they handled me with such dignity, grace and compassion. I was told what my options were and how I could just come and check them out at the next orientation meeting, which just happened to be scheduled for that next week. When I went, I was so graciously and warmly accepted by the orientation leaders. I opened my heart and shared my story and felt this was truly where I needed to be. My healing has been a long hard journey, but one that I am glad I could take with the staff and leadership of WGA right there beside me every step of the way! Thank you so much for supporting such a great and much needed ministry.

Geographic Reach of the WGA Newsletter



The Where Grace Abounds Board of Directors

President:

Roderick Knoll - Real Estate Analyst

Vice President:

Roger Posthumus - High School Teacher

Secretary:

Beth Posthumus—Insurance Agent

Treasurer:

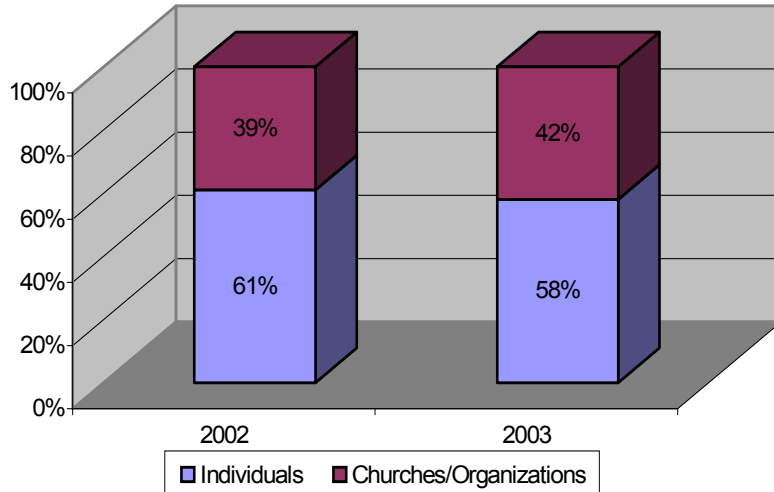
Roger Jones - WGA Staff Member

Other Board Members:

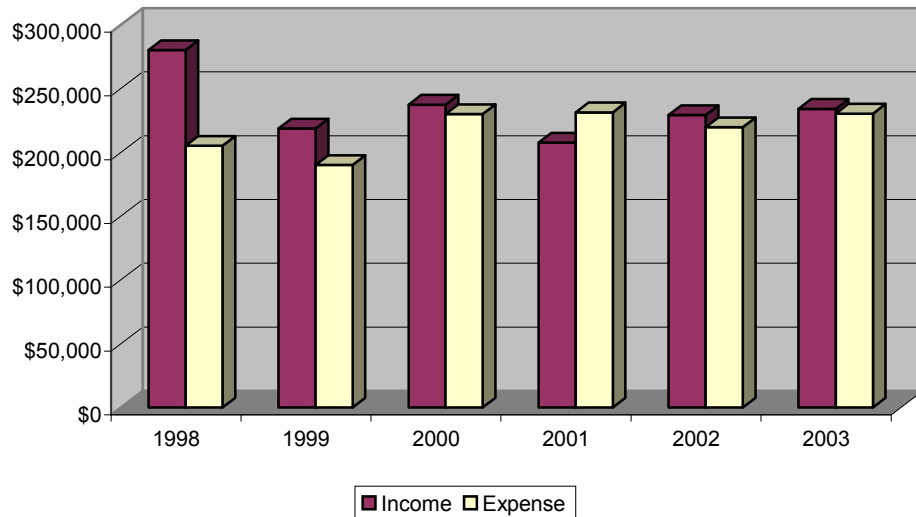
Jack Rickard - Business Executive

Mary Heathman—WGA Staff Member

Source of Income



Year-to-Year Income/Expense Comparison



	Jan. – Dec. '03
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions Income	
Staff Support	52,965
Stock Gift	4,056
Facilities	25,000
Undesignated	<u>146,965</u>
Total Contributions Income	228,986
Other Income	3,536
Reimbursed Expenses	<u>1,869</u>
Total Income	234,391
Expense	
Program	
Payroll & Benefits	56,207
Facilities	24,680
Program Expenses	<u>31,402</u>
Total Program Expenses	112,289
Education	
Payroll & Benefits	34,117
Facilities	8,359
Education Expenses	<u>10,542</u>
Total Education Expenses	53,018
Operations	
Payroll & Benefits	45,096
Facilities	6,767
General Operating Expenses	<u>13,381</u>
Total Operations Expenses	<u>65,244</u>
Total Expense	<u>230,551</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>3,840</u>
Net Income	<u><u>3,840</u></u>