



# Tips from Tammy

Winter 2009

Greetings ladies of the IPHC! I am honored and humbled to be greeting you in this first correspondence from the new Women's Ministries Board. I have gotten to know many of you over the last seven years that we have been part of the IPHC and I look forward with anticipation to getting to know those whom I have yet to meet. Let me begin by introducing myself.

My name is **Tammy Fountain**. I am the wife of **Bishop Rick Fountain** and we have two children, **Scott**, 26, who is married to **Megan**; and **Chrissy**, 24, who is married to **Alvin Tolentino**. We also have a brand new grandson named **Aaron Joseph**, and for those who know me best, you knew I would find a way to work that in!

I was born in Pensacola Florida and attended a small full gospel Pentecostal church where I came to know the Lord. I met and fell in love with Rick when I was almost eighteen and we celebrated twenty-seven years of marriage this past August. Not long after we were married, we answered a call to full time ministry and spent much of our first two decades of marriage ministering in various capacities. We moved to New York City in 2001 to serve at Metro Ministries International as pastors and then moved to Oklahoma City where Rick has been serving as assistant director of EVUSA and director of church planting and development.

For much of my married life, I taught at Christian schools and then went back to college and got my bachelor's degree in theology. I currently attend graduate school at Southwestern Christian University and am an ordained minister with the IPHC. I have been heavily involved with Women's Ministries over the years and am so grateful for this new opportunity to serve. Rick has been appointed to form a new conference in the North East and we are excited about this new season of ministry in our lives.

I would like to thank **Sister Jewelle Stewart** and the women on the previous board for their godly leadership. I am looking forward to serving with **Tamè Lambert, Michelle, Brenda, Patsy and Irvina**. From our first organizational meeting, I could sense Tamè's heart for the women of the IPHC, and I do not take it lightly to be asked to serve on this board alongside these wonderful women of God.



TammyNYC511@aol.com  
Portfolio: Benevolence & Outreach

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During our first official board meeting I was given the portfolio of benevolence and outreach. I felt this was divinely orchestrated by God, as these things are especially close to my heart. I believe that caring and giving flow freely from the heart of women that love God, and as we have traveled across this great denomination we have seen examples of this everywhere. As I walk this new road, I would love to hear from you! If you have ideas pertaining to benevolence or outreach, and would like to share them with everyone, please send me an email with the details. It's easiest to find me on Facebook.

### Christmas Outreach

When I asked what ministries we would be focusing on for the Christmas season, I was told that over the last few years, WM has focused on the stocking project for Metro Ministries International. Rick recently spoke with [Pastor Bill Wilson](#), and he said that Metro could really use some extra help with the stocking project this year.

I would like to say a word of thanks to everyone who has been involved in this project in the past, and encourage as many that can, to become a part. Because of our years at Metro, we have seen first hand how effective this outreach is. We would sometimes see a little collection of aging homemade stockings on the walls of the children that they had collected over the years. It goes to show that these beautiful Christmas tokens mean so much more than one might think. For a child in the inner city, it means that someone cared enough to show them that they are special and that Jesus loves them enough to move on the hearts of people to show them His love.

This Christmas when we are spending time preparing for our special plays and events that have become such a wonderful part of the Christmas season, please consider this outreach. It works wonderfully to use it as a project for WM because everyone can get involved. It's an equally wonderful thing to get the teens and children involved. When children get busy doing something for less fortunate children, it's amazing how it can awaken in them the desire for giving, and a greater appreciation for the blessings of God in their own family.

If you would be interested in helping with this outreach, please go to our WM website, at <http://women.iphc.org/> and you will find the simple stocking pattern and instructions for how to go about taking part in this special project. Also available on the website is a video clip from Metro. It can be played to encourage the congregation in this endeavor.

I know that time is short for this year's project. The stocking giveaways are slated for the first week of December, so they need to be in New York by December 1. This gives new participants only a month, but we can do it! For those who are already busy making and stuffing the stockings and have planned ahead, please keep Metro's original November 15th deadline and this will be a great help to them. Thanks so much to everyone, keep up the good work, and get ready to be blessed for your act of sharing the love of Christ this Christmas season!

PS. Conference WM and GM leaders; please pass this information on to your local churches via your websites, Facebook, etc so we can get the word out quickly. Thanks so much!

In closing, I would just like to give you a word of encouragement. Each of you are uniquely special and called by God to accomplish the things He has set before you. In Isaiah 46:10 the Word says that God knows the end from the beginning. This scripture is such a comfort because it tells us that God always begins with the end in mind and that He is busy working towards that end. In light of that, it is an amazing thought that God trusts you and I in His plans. God is so good!

Please keep the entire board in your prayers and may you enjoy an especially blessed Christmas season. I look forward to getting to know each one of you and hearing of all the wonderful things that He is doing in your lives as we work to expand the kingdom of God together!

May God bless you richly,

*Tammy*