

December 3, 2011

I just feel very lucky to be in a church like FBC that encourages not only foreign but at home mission work. I was very fortunate to have been asked four years ago to serve with the Women's Ministry of FBC in their first annual Emporium. A group of lay women at FBC had gotten together and come up with the idea to have a weekend fund raiser each year benefiting a charity for women. The first year over \$12,000 was raised for the women served by Rahab's Rope in India. Since that first year we've steadily increased our contributions to various local charities that support the women and children of our community. I'm proud of our commitment to serving others locally, but what I'm always impressed by even more is how talented and hardworking the women of FBC are. Over 100 women work in various capacities during the three days of the event and hundreds more serve by baking items for our super successful bakery, buying tickets, and yes, even by shopping our event. The women of our church do everything from selling tickets, putting out signs, and driving golf carts to graciously welcoming visitors and vendors to the event and to our church facility. I am reminded of first Peter 4:10 "Each of us has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others, so use your gift well." Everyone cannot travel outside Gainesville to serve others, but we don't have to at FBC, the opportunity to serve awaits us in our own backyard. So no matter what your talent, consider getting involved in next year's Emporium. There is a job for you.

I ask for continued prayers for the families served by Gateway, this year's benefactor, and for the women's ministry and mission leadership in FBC

Janice Johnson

