

## **The Small Stamp with a Huge Impact by Terri Groh, NED Great Commission Women's Director**

In this day and age of technology, letter writing seems to be a lost art. We pay our bills online, we send emails and we do many things online. Yet, there probably are still things that you do via the United States Postal Service.

Do you know there is something small on that correspondence you send and receive that is valuable? That is the postage stamp.

Fifty years ago, Bob and Marge Searing began a stamp ministry that has impacted so many people. I've never thought too much about this ministry and I had no idea how big of an impact it had until recently.

This summer will mark the fifty-year anniversary of this ministry and if the stamp ministry receives \$25,000 this year, it will have raised 1 million dollars over the span of those 50 years.

One million dollars! Who would have thought that a tiny postage stamp would have so much power? All it takes is people cutting out their stamps and mailing them to Shell Pointe Village in Florida.

The income from their sale goes to support preparation, publishing, and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools. More than 50 lesson series have been published and are being used in churches in 40 different denominations in 19 different Spanish-speaking countries in South America, Central America, and even in the USA.

I want to provide an opportunity for you to contribute since they are so close to achieving their goals. Start saving your stamps (and yes, metered postage now counts) and bring them to Spring Refresh with you. We have a woman willing to take care of the mailing of the stamps and I will make sure she gets them.

Attached are guidelines on what to do with them and let's work together as a district to meet the \$1,000,000 mark for this ministry.

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## Great Commission Women Stamp Ministry Guidelines

Thank you for your help in following these guidelines:

1. Carefully trim the stamps. When possible, leave a border around the stamp of 1/4 to 1/3 inch. Please do not remove any stamps from paper, BUT, if stamps are already off of the paper, we do have a buyer for them.
2. Sort the stamps and place in plastic bags. Do not use paper clips, rubber bands, or plastic wrap around the stamps.
3. Unless specified, the categories below refer to United States stamps and should be sorted as follows:
  - Small common together, ½ cent through current rate including Hanukkah, Kwanza, EID, and Purple Heart
  - Christmas
  - High Value - anything over current postal rate
  - Presorted, pre-cancelled and bulk rate – all sorted together
  - Large Commemoratives
  - Express Stamps \$2.90, \$8.75, \$9.95, \$10.95 and up
  - Priority Stamps \$2.40, \$2.90 and up
  - Love Stamps
  - Large and Small Foreign Stamps including Canadian Stamps
  - Un-cancelled Stamps
  - Computer Generated Postage (with an illustration or a photograph)
  - Stamps that are preprinted on envelopes
  - Damaged Stamps
  - Metered Postage is now accepted

A few special for recent stamps:

- Preprinted magazine postage is not accepted in the Pre-sorted category. It must a stamp affixed to an envelope.
- The series of 4 Rudolph stamps including a purple monster named Bumble are considered Christmas stamps, not common stamps.
- The series of 4 Winter Fun stamps including ice skaters, snowman, and a cardinal are considered Christmas stamps, not common stamps.

Important: Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your name and address inside the top of the packages so we can acknowledge receipt of the stamps. An email address or phone number will enable us to contact you if the need arises.

Questions: Call Treva Crump at 239-466-9792 (evenings)  
Alliance Stamp Ministry, 15000 Shell Point Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33908

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