

## **How to Start a S.W.I.M. Regional Prayer Group**

1. Inform the *S.W.I.M.* Board of Directors of your desire to gather a Regional Group together. Meet with a *S.W.I.M.* representative in person or by other means, and let them share with you suggestions and guidelines for a successful start-up. The *S.W.I.M.* Board members will cover your efforts with prayer.
2. Identify a Facilitator for the group and a Hostess with the Board's approval. Each leader agrees to fulfill the obligations of their roles as identified in the group role descriptions.
3. Choose name for the *S.W.I.M.* Regional Group (such as, "*S.W.I.M.* West Texas"), and a location, day and time for regular meetings.
4. Choose a start date. Inform the Board of this date so they can specifically pray for the Group participants and first meeting.
5. After prayer and discussion with interested persons, personally invite women who would be blessed by their participation. Clearly explain to them the purpose of the group.
6. Hostess sends email reminders to all those invited with date, time and directions to meeting location. Personal reminders are also very effective. Offering someone a ride to location is always appreciated and effective in making a person feel truly welcome and wanted.
7. First meeting: (See detailed **S.W.I.M. Regional Group Guidelines** on another document)
  - a. Facilitator welcomes all present and introduces themselves, the Hostess and allows everyone to introduce themselves
  - b. Opening prayer by one person, especially inviting the Holy Spirit to be present
  - c. Introduction of *S.W.I.M. Int'l* to group and give any *S.W.I.M.* brochures to each person
  - d. Explanation of the Regional Group format for the day
  - e. Follow format as described
  - f. Choose next meeting date and place if this has not already been determined
  - g. Ask all participants for contact information: Name, Address, Phone Numbers, Email
  - h. Relate any news from *S.W.I.M. Int'l* including upcoming Retreats, Seminars and Gatherings
  - i. Meeting closes with a blessing and/or "sending forth" prayer
8. After each Regional Group meeting, the Hostess reports to the assigned Board member the number of persons attending and any new attendee's contact information or change of any contact information of regular participants. The Facilitator may share any concerns with Board members about which she may desire assistance or prayer.