

## The Flying Grandmas

(video transcript)

By Karen Spiegelberg

I don't know if you've ever taken the time to completely read the mission statement on the website for *A WORD for Women*, but it says that we exist to encourage and inspire women through the help of the Holy Spirit; to grow in their faith, to connect with their life roles, and to be beacons of Jesus' light to all around them.



I'm Karen Spiegelberg with guest Judy Eisenmann today who along with a couple other women that are grandmas like her have taken this statement and God's command to *go and make disciples of all nations* seriously, no matter their age or place in life!

Welcome to this episode of *A WORD for Women*—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life.

[KS] Welcome Judy and thanks for being with us today.

[JE] My pleasure, thank you!

[KS] You have told us that you and two other women, Janet Kieselhorst from Wisconsin and Shirley Metiva from Ohio. All three of you being grandmas decided to go out and serve the Lord in a very unique way. But before we get to that you have to tell us the very interesting name that you've given your group.

[JE] Well our group has become "The Flying Grandma's". Jan and I have been friends for a long time. As a matter of fact we share mutual grandchildren and many trips back and forth visiting our grandchildren. Shirley is a younger grandmother. Shortly after our husbands went to heaven, and Shirley wanted to be a team, we decided we can do this, and so we're all grandmas and we usually fly to our sites. So hence, The Flying Grandmas were born.

[KS] I love that. Have you ever heard of the group, "The Dancing Granny's"?

[JE] I have, yes.

[KS] Okay these women who dance at parades? I've threatened my kids that as I get older I'm going to be part of the "Dancing Granny's".

[JE] Good for you!

[KS] But now I'm going to tell them that I want to be part of the "Flying Grandma's" as well.

[JE] Oh and we'd love to have you join us any time.

[KS] Now tell us a little about your mission opportunity and how this all materialized.

[JE] Well, *WELS Kingdom Workers* had an opportunity to send a team to each vacation Bible school in Virginia, and Jan and I said we can do that. Shirley joined us and we went off to teach vacation Bible school. Jan is a music teacher, Shirley taught pre-school, and I had the 6 year-olds. And so it was just a wonderful opportunity.

[KS] What would you say was the most memorable of your trip?

[JE] Oh, without a doubt. Without a doubt it's Quinn. Quinn was one of my students. My class was all boys to begin with. That was a fun challenge for a grandma! There were all boys and Quinn had kind of been the most active all along. None of them had been to church, Sunday school, or any of those other kinds of things. So this was a real mission opportunity. We tried to be very simple in our approach; so you know who Jesus is, and that perhaps you could say a prayer or lead a prayer at home when the week was over. Well Thursday afternoon after most of the prayers that we had done where consisted of maybe one or two sentences that I would say and they would repeat after me.

Thursday morning Quinn raised his hand and went, "Mrs. E.! Mrs. E.! Mrs. E.! Can I lead the prayer?" And I said, "Thank you Holy Spirit for working through me to bring this little boy to say it."

And then as a grandma I went, "Oh my goodness, what's he going to say?"

Well his prayer—he stood in front of his class, folded his hands and said, "Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us to vacation Bible camp. Please help us learn our lessons. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."

I still get teary-eyed when I tell this story, and of course as a grandma that day it was all I could do to keep from crying. So, to God be the glory! It was just a wonderful, wonderful experience!

[KS] Isn't it amazing to see how the Holy Spirit can work in a little one's heart?

[JE] It is, it is. And work through just plain ole' people like me.

[KS] Absolutely!

[JE] Just a grandma who loves her Savior.

[KS] Absolutely! And have you had any feedback from the pastor from this congregation since you left?

[JE] As a matter of fact he emailed me shortly afterwards and said, “Oh Judy I have to tell you this. I had the privilege of baptizing Quinn and his entire family on Easter Sunday.”

So we don’t always get that kind of feedback, but what a blessing!

[KS] So I would have to believe that you taking the command of God of going to make disciples of all nations—not only taking that seriously, but that maybe there’s some other inspiration or Bible passage or something that encouraged you women as well.

[JE] I have always been personally by Philemon 6. It’s a letter to Philemon. Philemon 6 says, “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”

That’s really what it amounts to. Jan’s and my husbands have gone to heaven, doors had closed, and God opened new windows for us, and an opportunity to share our faith—to move onward.

[KS] That’s awesome!

[JE] Thank you.

[KS] Thank you so much for being with us.

[JE] My pleasure, thank you.

[KS] Judy and these women are committed to continue to do the Lord’s work in this way. The “Flying Grandma’s” is definitely a story of inspiration and encouragement to all women that God has great opportunities for us to serve; no matter our age, place, or circumstances in life.

Thank you for joining us on *A WORD for Women*. If you would like more information on ways that you can serve as a layperson, consider going to our website at [www.awordforwomen.com](http://www.awordforwomen.com).

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