

# THE JOURNAL

A Shepherdess International Resource for Ministry Spouses

VOL. 28 – FIRST QUARTER 2011

## Revival and REFORMATION



REVIVAL AND REFORMATION  
QUIET TIME IN A CRAZY WORLD  
A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY WATTS

# THE JOURNAL

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## MINISTRY TO CLERGY SPOUSES DIVISION COORDINATORS:

**East-Central Africa:** To be appointed  
**Euro-Africa:** Maria Brito  
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**Southern Asia:** Hepzibah Kore  
**Southern Asia-Pacific:** Helen Gulfan  
**Trans-European:** Clair Sanchez  
**West-Central Africa:** Josephine Wari

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## EDITORIAL OFFICE:

12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600  
Phone: 301-680-6513  
Fax: 301-680-6502  
Email: [lowes@gc.adventist.org](mailto:lowes@gc.adventist.org)

Coordinator & Editor: Janet Page  
Editorial Assistant: Shelly Lowe  
Special Feature Consultant: Gina Wahlen  
Layout & Design: Erika Miike  
Printed in the U.S.A.  
[www.ministerialassociation.com/shepherdess](http://www.ministerialassociation.com/shepherdess)

## SPECIAL PROMISES

“Many are sad and discouraged, weak in faith and trust. Let them do something to help someone more needy than themselves, and they will grow strong in God's strength.”

*Christian Service, p. 151*

“Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence.”

*The Desire of Ages, p. 331*

“When the mind is free and happy from a sense of duty well done and the satisfaction of giving happiness to others, the cheering, uplifting influence brings new life to the whole being.”

*The Ministry of Healing, p. 257*



## SHARING THE JOURNEY

“I will never marry a pastor! Who wants that kind of life?” As a young girl, I said those words more times than I can count. I was born into a pastor’s family, and then I married a pastor who died within the first two years of pastoring (I will share this story with you in the future).

Would you believe I turned around and married a pastor again! Several years after I married Jerry, he was asked to be a conference president. I did not want that to happen. I prayed the whole day the conference Executive Committee met, begging God not to let it happen. God’s answer was No.

Several weeks after Jerry became president, the annual 10-day conference camp meeting took place. People congratulated me and asked how it felt to be the new first lady of



THE LORD YOUR GOD IN YOUR  
MIDST, THE MIGHTY ONE,  
WILL SAVE; HE WILL REJOICE  
OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,  
HE WILL QUIET YOU WITH HIS  
LOVE, HE WILL REJOICE OVER  
YOU WITH SINGING.

Zephaniah 3:17 NKJV



the conference. I didn’t like those words. I told them, “I wash his clothes the same way I always have. Please don’t call me ‘first lady.’”

By the last weekend, people started saying something different to me. “We attended a seminar on the Holy Spirit, and we learned it

is very important that we pray every day for the fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit in our lives and on our families and our pastors. So we have committed ourselves to praying for you and Jerry every day.” I would smile and say thank you, but I was thinking, “Great, so they are praying. What good does that do?”

No one knew how messed up my life was. I thought I was lost, that my sins were so great that God could never save me. I was depressed, miserable, and hopeless.

As a pastor’s wife, you don’t share these kinds of thoughts with anyone, right? You keep them inside and live life just going through the motions. I won’t bore you with the details, but I will tell you that my life was changed through the faithful prayers of those church members!

### Result of united prayer

Two years after that camp meeting—two years of people faithfully praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in my life—I was a new woman, excited about spending time with Jesus and sure of my salvation.

Praise God for praying people! God turned my life around, and I never want to go back to the way it was.

The more time I spent with Jesus, the more I wanted. The Bible became His living word, just as if He was speaking personally to me. Bible



GOD TURNED MY LIFE AROUND AND I NEVER  
EVER WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS.



texts that used to discourage me, especially the ones about righteousness, I read with new eyes as the Holy Spirit helped me understand. Because of the blood of Jesus Christ my Savior, I am covered with His righteousness.

Then God began showing me the importance of praying with others. Amazing things happened in people's lives as we prayed for them.

You may have heard people say, "Well, we can't just pray, we have to work." Prayer is work!

Since I first committed to pray *for* people and to pray *with* one or more other people, I have witnessed the impossible, miraculous, powerful things God has done.

He's just waiting for His children to come together, first with Him and then with others, in united prayer. Through us—you and me—He wants to change the world!

### **The Journal**

This issue of the *Journal* announces the call for revival and reformation in each of our lives. Through the Revival and Reformation Committee, our world church president, Ted N. C. Wilson, is leading us to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit every day. Only then will we, God's people, be empowered to share Jesus with the world!

I hope you can take the time to read this issue, and don't forget to look at the back cover! Join us in the 777 Initiative, a call for Seventh-day Adventists to join together—seven days a week at 7:00 (a.m. or p.m.)—to pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us, our families, our leaders, and our churches.

Imagine, believers uniting together around the world in every time zone and praying for the outpouring of the latter rain!

I believe that when God's people get serious about seeking His face and praying together for the Holy Spirit, a power like we have never seen will be unleashed to bring revival and get this work done so Jesus can return!

The *Shepherdess Journal* is dedicated to serving you, and we want to provide encouragement and support for you in your role as pastors' wives and mothers. We need your input and your ideas. What articles and resources do you want? What help do you need?

I would love to hear about your journey with God. If you have a rich, growing relationship with Jesus, please share your experiences so we may encourage others. If you are struggling and don't know where to turn, please write to me so I will know how to pray for you. My e-mail is [pagejanet@gc.adventist.org](mailto:pagejanet@gc.adventist.org).

Please pray for me, too, that I will have wisdom, overcome my feelings of inadequacy, keep a balanced schedule, and maintain my health. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in my travels. And remember...

It's all about Jesus! If that sounds boring, dull, or depressing to you, I encourage you to get on your knees with an open Bible and say, "Jesus, please show me through your Word how much you love me. Teach me to love you." If you will do this every day, I promise that you will begin an exciting journey with God! 



**JANET PAGE** is the newly-elected Shepherdess International Coordinator for the world church. She has served as coordinator of prayer ministries, women's ministries, and Shepherdess for the Pennsylvania and Central California Conferences in North America. Often a speaker for weekend retreats, she loves sharing her favorite subjects—Jesus and spending time with Him. She also travels with her husband, Jerry, and speaks at leadership events around the world. She has two sons, two daughters-in-law, and two grandsons.

# INITIATIVES AS VOTED BY THE ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OCTOBER 11, 2010

*In addition to the document “God’s Promised Gift: An Urgent Appeal for Revival, Reformation, Discipleship, and Evangelism,” the Annual Council approved a number of specific initiatives of general interest to our readers. We share these with you.*

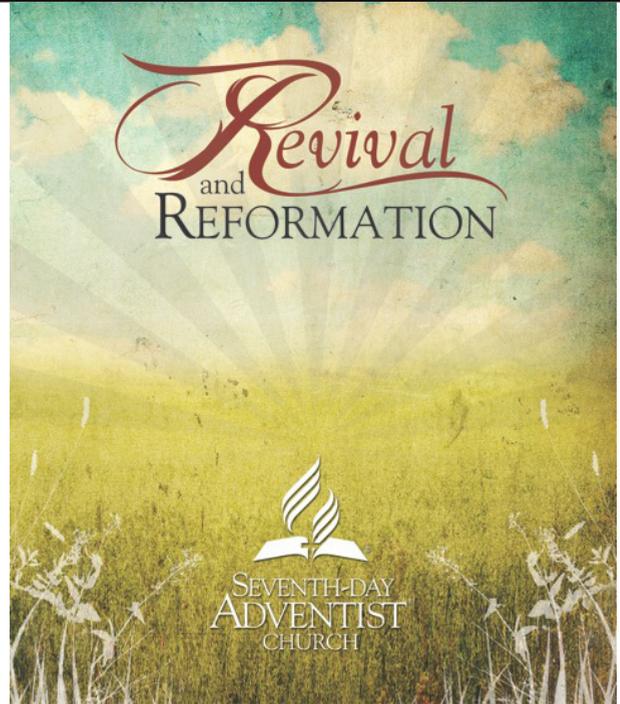
- “777” Worldwide Holy Spirit Prayer Fellowship—Seventh-day Adventists praying seven days a week at 7:00 (a.m. or p.m.) for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit’s power and presence. Praying any hour on the hour, a person will join with thousands of others in another time zone around the world, bringing unity. *“A chain of earnest praying believers should encircle the world . . . to pray for the Holy Spirit.”* Review and Herald, January 3, 1907.
- New Year’s Eve/Day Worldwide Day of Prayer culminates a week-long series of television programs on Hope Channel that allows every church member around the world to participate in seeking God for a revival experience in 2011.
- Worldwide Days for Prayer and Fasting—First Sabbath of each quarter designated as days of prayer and fasting for the world church. Encourage families and individuals to establish the first day of each month and one day a week as normal or partial fast days.
- Operation Global Rain, a ten-day worldwide prayer/spiritual emphasis January 5-15, 2011, as follow-up to January 1 day of prayer.
- Plans are being developed to increase study of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings.
- Encourage all members to read and study *The Great Controversy* for revival in 2011 in preparation for major distribution of *The Great Controversy* around the world in 2012.
- *True Revival, The Church’s Greatest Need* book reprinted by the White Estate. For availability, visit [www.rhpa.org](http://www.rhpa.org).
- Mark Finley’s book, *Revive Us Again*. For availability, visit [www.pacificpress.com](http://www.pacificpress.com).

**A resource website for these initiatives, [www.revivalandreformation.org](http://www.revivalandreformation.org), will be available starting January 1, 2011.**

## WORLD-WIDE BROADCASTS AVAILABLE

Starting December 25, 2010, Hope Channel and the General Conference will broadcast a weeklong series of inspirational sermons and a World Day of Prayer. Speakers include Mark Finley, Doug Batchelor, Jose Rojas, C.D. Brooks, Dwight Nelson, and Derek Morris. One of the broadcasts will be a special message on January 1, 2011 from Ted N.C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists live from the GYC conference in Baltimore. To get the broadcast schedule for your area, visit [www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org). If you are unable to view a scheduled program, you will be able to watch it online at [www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org).

\* We realize that some of these dates have already passed, but we wanted to share with you the initiatives that were voted during Annual Council 2010.



# GOD'S PROMISED GIFT

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR  
REVIVAL, REFORMATION,  
DISCIPLESHIP, AND EVANGELISM

**God** has uniquely called the Seventh-day Adventist Church both to live and to proclaim His last-day message of love and truth to the world (Revelation 14:6-12). The challenge of reaching the more than 6 billion people on planet Earth with His end-time message seems impossible. The task is overwhelming. From a human perspective, the rapid fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission anytime soon appears unlikely (Matthew 28:19, 20).

The Church's growth rate is simply not keeping pace with the world's burgeoning population. An honest evaluation of our current evangelistic impact on the world leads to the conclusion that unless there is a dramatic change, we will not complete Heaven's assignment in this generation. In spite of our best efforts, all our plans, strategies, and resources are incapable of finishing God's mission for His glory on earth.

## **CHRIST'S PROMISE TO HIS NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

The challenge of taking the gospel to the world is not new. The disciples faced this challenge in the first century. We face it in the twenty-first century. The New Testament Church was seemingly confronted with an impossible task. But empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Church exploded in growth (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31). These early Christians shared their faith everywhere (Acts 5:42).

The grace of God overflowed from their hearts to their families, friends, and working associates. Just a few decades after the Crucifixion, the apostle Paul

could report that the gospel is "preached to every creature under heaven" (Colossians 1:23).<sup>\*</sup> How was it possible for an obscure group of relatively insignificant believers to impact the world in such a short amount of time? How could so few Christians be used of God to change the world forever?

Christ's Great Commission was accompanied by His great promise. The Savior commanded His disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). The Savior promised, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The love of Christ controlled every aspect of the lives of the disciples and moved them to a passionate commitment to His service. They sought God for the promised power of the Holy Spirit and knelt before Him in heartfelt confession and earnest repentance. They placed priority on seeking Heaven's blessing. They set aside times for prayer and searching the Scriptures. Their petty differences were swallowed up in their all-consuming desire to share Christ's love with everyone they met. They were absorbed in reaching the world with the gospel. Nothing was more important. They recognized that they were powerless to accomplish the mission without the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Describing the experience of the disciples, Ellen G. White wrote, "Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian

fellowship. . . . Sadness filled their hearts as they thought of how many times they had grieved Him by their slowness of comprehension, their failure to understand the lessons that, for their good, He was trying to teach them. . . . The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the Holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls. They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ promised" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37).

Christ fulfilled His Word. The Holy Spirit was poured out in Pentecostal power. Thousands were converted in a day. The message of Christ's love impacted the world. In a short time the name of Jesus Christ was on the lips of men and women everywhere. "By the co-operation of the divine Spirit, the apostles did a work that shook the world. To every nation was the gospel carried in a single generation" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 593).

### CHRIST'S PROMISE TO HIS END-TIME CHURCH

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in the early rain was only a prelude of what is to come. God has promised to pour out His Holy Spirit in abundance in the last days (Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1). The earth will be "illuminated with his glory" (Revelation 18:1). The work of God on earth will be finished rapidly (Matthew 24:14; Romans 9:28). The Church will experience a spiritual revival and the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power like never before in its history. Speaking of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter gives us this assurance: "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39). Ellen G. White adds, "Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon his children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and his Word. Many, both



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*Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 121



(*The Great Controversy*, p. 612).

There is nothing more important than knowing Jesus, studying His Word, understanding His truth, and seeking His promise for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power for the fulfilling of the Gospel Commission. God's last-day prophet to the remnant wrote in words too plain to be misunderstood, "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work" (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 121).

**If a genuine spiritual revival is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs, should we not as leaders place priority on seeking Heaven's promised blessing with all our hearts?**

### OUR GREAT NEED: REVIVAL AND REFORMATION

When we seek Jesus, He fills us with His presence and power through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We long to know Him better. The Holy Spirit reawakens the dormant spiritual faculties of the soul. There is nothing we desire more than to have a deep and life-changing relationship with Jesus. The revived heart experiences a vital connection to Jesus through prayer and the Word. Reformation is the corresponding change that comes in our lives as the result of revival.

"A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and

of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 464).

Hundreds of thousands of people will accept God's last-day message through the teaching and preaching of His Word. Prayer, Bible Study, and witness are the elements of all true revival. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit will intensify as the end approaches, "Near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of Man" (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 333) and "by thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers"

heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits, and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend” (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 128). Reformation does not manifest itself in a self-righteous attitude that condemns others. It is the transformation of character that reveals the fruits of the Spirit in the life (Galatians 5:22-24). Obedience to God’s will is the evidence of all true revival. Our Lord longs for a revived people whose lives reflect the loveliness of His character. There is nothing that Jesus desires more than a people who are passionate about personally knowing His love and sharing that love with others.

### COMMITMENT AND APPEAL

**As leaders and representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church assembled at**

**the world headquarters** in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, for the **2010 Annual Council**, we give thanks to our great and awesome God for His faithfulness and abundant blessings to His Church since its inception. The rapid worldwide expansion of His Church in both its membership and institutions is nothing short of a miracle of God. Although we praise Him for marvelously working to fulfill His purposes through His church, and thank Him for the godly leaders who have guided His people in the past, we humbly acknowledge that because of our human frailties, even our best efforts are tainted by sin and in need of cleansing through the grace of Christ. **We recognize that we have not always placed priority on seeking God through prayer and His Word for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power. We humbly confess that in our personal lives, our administrative practices, and committee meetings we too often have labored in our own strength. Too often God’s mission of saving a lost world has not taken first place in our hearts. At times in our busyness doing**



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*Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 128



**good things we have neglected the most important thing—knowing Him. Too often petty jealousies, ambitions, and fractured personal relationships have crowded out our longing for revival and reformation and caused us to labor in our human strength rather than in His divine power.**

We accept the clear instruction of our Lord that “the lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ’s parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50).

We are confident that all heaven is waiting to pour out the Holy Spirit in infinite power for the finishing of God’s work on earth. We acknowledge that the coming of Jesus has been delayed and that our Lord longed

to come decades ago. We repent of our lukewarmness, our worldliness, and our limited passion for Christ and His mission. We sense Christ calling us to a deeper relationship with Him in prayer and Bible study and a more passionate commitment to share His last-day message with the world. We rejoice that “it is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of the Saviour” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 600).

**Therefore, as representatives of the world church and on behalf of our entire membership, we commit ourselves:**

**1. To personally place priority on seeking God for spiritual revival** and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power in our own lives, our families, and our ministries.

**2. To individually set aside significant amounts of time daily** to fellowship with Christ through prayer and the study of God’s Word.

**3. To examine our own hearts** and ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of anything that may keep us from revealing the character of Jesus. We desire willing hearts so that nothing in our lives hinders the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power.

**4. To encourage the ministries** of the Church to spend time praying, studying God's Word, and seeking God's heart to understand His plans for His Church.

**5. To encourage each of our church organizations** to set aside time for administrators, pastors, health-care workers, publishing house workers, educators, students, and all employees to seek Jesus and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit together through a study of God's Word and prayer.

**6. To use every available** media outlet, conference, and workshop to appeal to church members to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus for the promised revival and reformation.

**7. To urgently appeal to and invite our entire church membership to join us in opening our hearts to the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit, which will transform our lives, our families, our organizations, and our communities.**

We especially recognize that God is going to use children and youth in this last mighty revival and encourage all of our young people to participate in seeking God for spiritual revival in their own lives and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to share their faith with others.

We appeal to each church member to unite with church leaders and millions of other Seventh-day Adventists seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at 7:00 each morning or evening, seven days a week. This is an urgent call to circle the globe with earnest intercession. This is a call to total commitment



IF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE IS NOT SEEN AS IT MIGHT BE, IT IS BECAUSE THE PROMISE IS NOT APPRECIATED AS IT SHOULD BE. IF ALL WERE WILLING, ALL WOULD BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

*The Acts of the Apostles, p. 50*



to Jesus and to experience the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit that our Lord is longing to give now.

We believe that the purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power is to finish Christ's mission on earth so He can come quickly. Recognizing that our Lord will only pour out His Spirit in its fullness on a Church that has a passion for lost people, **we determine to place and maintain revival, reformation, discipleship, and evangelism at the top of all our church business agendas.** More than anything else we long for Jesus to come.

We urge every church administrator, departmental leader, institutional worker, health worker, literature evangelist, chaplain, educator, pastor, and church member to join us in making revival, reformation, discipleship, and evangelism the most important

and urgent priorities of our personal lives and our areas of ministry. We are confident that as we seek Him together, God will pour out His Holy Spirit in abundant measure, the work of God on earth will be finished, and Jesus will come. With the aged apostle John on the Isle of Patmos we cry out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).



*\* All Bible texts are taken from the New King James Version. Emphasis Supplied*



# CRACKERS, CHEESE, AND ORANGE JUICE

by Gina Wahlen



The sun was just coming up over the mountains as my husband, Clint, and I started out on our adventure. Wanting to see the breathtaking beauty of Grand Teton National Park in the northwest corner of Wyoming, we decided to begin our day with a “short” early-morning hike to a beautiful flower meadow located near Jenny Lake.

Because this was to be only a short walk (we were told the meadow was not far), we decided not to carry the weight of food or water with us. The fresh morning air was cool, and we would certainly be back at the lodge in plenty of time for lunch.

After crossing Jenny Lake on a small raft, we headed up the trail toward the meadow. For the first hour or two the hike was easy and the view beautiful, but as the August sun rose higher in the sky, the flower meadow seemed to get farther away—and less important to see. As the next hour passed I was wishing we had brought some water, and as noon approached my stomach began reprimanding me for my foolishness of not packing a lunch.

Walking more slowly now, my thoughts began to linger on the idea of food and water. *Why hadn't we brought some? How could we have been so remiss?* I kept asking myself these questions again and again until a thought came to mind: *Why not ask God to help? Has He not promised that our “bread and water” will “be sure”?*

Then the argument with myself began—*How can I ask God for help, I reasoned, when it is my own fault that I am in this predicament? Wouldn't it be presumptuous to ask for His help? Besides, would He even care about such a little thing?*

But the thought—just like my hunger and thirst—wouldn't go away. “Why don't you just ask Him?” prompted a still small voice within. “OK, God,” I silently prayed. “I've gotten myself into this situation, and I really need Your help. I know it's my fault, and I'm sorry for being foolish as to not bring food and water, but I'm really thirsty and hungry. You've told us in the Bible that You will provide bread and water for Your children, so Lord, please, if it's Your will, would You please send some?”

Silence. I felt foolish, and I had no peace—no peace because I had not been completely honest with God. I had been too embarrassed to ask Him for what I really wanted.

“Go on,” continued the still small voice. “Why don't you tell Him what you really want?” “How can I do that?” I wondered. It was hard enough to ask for bread and water, but if I asked for what I was really craving . . . “Don't you think He already knows what you want?” asked the voice. “Just tell Him.”

I continued to walk along in silence. Finally, I prayed again. “God, You know everything. You know it is our own fault for not bringing anything. But, Lord, it's so hot, and I'm so thirsty and hungry.

I would be grateful for some bread and water, but—and I'm so embarrassed to ask You this—but what I'd really like is crackers, cheese, and orange juice."

Nothing happened. I had no idea how God would fill such a ridiculous request in the middle of this wilderness, but I had peace.

Weary from the walk and hot from the sun, I sat down on a rock under a shade tree while Clint went on to check out the trail ahead. As I sat there resting, a group of serious backpackers came by and joined me for a short rest. We chatted for a few minutes about the beauty of the Tetons and the warm day, and before long they started down the path toward Jenny Lake. Watching them leave I noticed the last one pause, turn around, and walk back to where I was still sitting.

"Are you hungry? Are you thirsty?" he asked. "I don't have much—just some crackers, some cheese, and some orange juice. Would you like some?"

Gratefully holding the precious snacks in my hands, tears blurred my vision as I watched this unknown hiker catch up with his group. It was like manna from heaven, like food brought by ravens to Elijah, like the feeding of the 5,000. It was a real miracle.

Does God care about the "small things" in our lives? I believe He does—especially after this experience in the Tetons. Even though He does not always give us what we ask for, we are invited to cast "all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

But what about when we plead with God for something much bigger than this, and there is no answer—or at least not the answer we want to hear?

A few years ago my uncle was diagnosed with a glioblastoma—a very aggressive, fast-growing brain tumor. It would take a miracle to keep this diagnosis from becoming a death sentence.

So once again I pleaded with God, reminding Him that this uncle was a really special person, not only to his wife and children and to me but to the entire community, where he was a much-loved and highly respected high school teacher and principal. "He is a shining light in the community," I told God. "Won't You please spare his life?"

But this time there was no "crackers, cheese, and



## CASTING ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM; FOR HE CARETH FOR YOU.

1 Peter 5:7



orange juice" answer to my prayers. This time the answer was "No, not now." I sobbed at the funeral, wondering how the God of answered prayer could let such a good man die. And yet, it is in times like these that perhaps the most powerful lesson of that miracle in the Tetons comes to mind.

I am learning that the awesomeness of that story does not lie with the actual food in my hands but with the kind of God who would answer that type of prayer. When we focus only on the temporal benefits, we are like the crowds who saw Jesus only as someone who had the power to feed their stomachs but not save their souls. God cares about our physical needs, but seeking the Savior Himself, rather than just what He can do for us, is the key to finding an anchor in times of storm. We are encouraged to "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Knowing the kind of God He is gives me the assurance that no matter what the immediate outcome, I am sure that He has heard my prayer. And while I may not understand everything now, I know that the "snacks" He gives us here are only a foretaste of the banquet to come.



*This article appeared in the March 19, 2009, issue of the Adventist Review. Reprinted with permission.*



# FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT



*Denise and Roger visit Denise's homeland of Chile.*



*Denise praises God for the many opportunities He has given her.*

**Denise** Vince never imagined that one day she would become the wife of a pastor. The daughter of a Croatian father and a Chilean mother, Denise was born into a Roman Catholic family in Santiago, Chile.

During her childhood years in Chile, Denise and her family were very superstitious and involved with witchcraft. At age 11, she and her family moved to Australia, where they were approached by Jehovah's Witnesses for home Bible studies. Eventually, the family became Jehovah's Witnesses, although Denise and her two siblings never became baptized members.

Denise remembers the trauma this change brought to her family. "We had been used to celebrating Christmas and birthdays, and that was taken away from us—overnight. It was shocking for all of us."

During the next decade, Denise was drawn deeper into the occult—yoga, New Age, more witchcraft. She also married and had two daughters, whom she began raising "in a very pagan environment."

Then one day a surprise was waiting in the family's letter box—a small card, advertising some Christian children's stories. "I really wanted my girls to know about God," recalls Denise. "I remembered hearing about Jesus when I was young, and I wanted them to know about Him."

Sending in the card, Denise waited for a response. Later she learned that the Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist (L.E.) who put the card in her box had tried for three months to respond, but he faced many roadblocks—including several accidents as well as being turned away by Denise's husband—before he finally was able to meet her.

Soon, Denise was studying the Bible with the L.E., and later with an elder and pastor of the local Adventist church.

During that time, Denise faced an intense experience from her past. "I really felt convicted that I had to burn all of my occult memorabilia—a whole room-full of it," she recalls. Thinking the materials would burn easily in the hot Australian summer, Denise placed all of the satanic items outside where her husband tried three times with fuel to light a fire—but the items simply refused to burn. Going into the house, Denise knelt down in a room facing the pile of memorabilia and pled with God, "If you are real, this has to burn."

Within five seconds, Denise heard an explosion and watched as the entire pile was incinerated. "It was such a powerful answer to prayer," she says. "I felt that God was saying



**GINA WAHLEN** enjoys meeting people from around the world and has lived in many wonderful places, such as Russia, England, the Philippines, California, and Nebraska. She currently lives in Maryland, where she writes about people, adventures, and God. She and her husband, Clinton, have been married nearly 26 years and have one son, Daniel, 19, and one daughter, Heather, 13.

to me, 'I am real, and I want you to be in my flock.'"

After a year of intense Bible studies, Denise was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, for some time afterward, Denise still faced spiritual attacks. "I was literally in darkness all those years," she recalls. "When you are playing in the devil's playground, he's not about to let you go."

Sadly, Denise's marriage also fell apart while her unconverted husband continued to abuse her horribly. Finding a place of safety, Denise took her two daughters and began a new life in Jesus.

It was while working at a bookshop in the Sydney Adventist Hospital that Denise met the hospital's chaplain, Roger Vince. While not looking for a relationship, Denise was attracted to Roger's "kindness, gentleness, and godliness."

The 50-year-old chaplain had

never married, Denise learned later, because "he just had a feeling that there was someone special he was supposed to wait for—and I was that someone."

After 18 months of dating, the couple married on October 29, 2000, in the Galston Seventh-day Adventist. "He's been a great support for my family, for my girls, and for my grandchildren," says Denise.

Currently, Roger is pastoring the Galston and Toongabbie churches in the Greater Sydney Conference, where Denise supports him in prayer ministry, hospitality, and children's ministries. She also enjoys reaching out to newcomers and keeping in touch with members through greeting cards.

#### **ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PASTORS' WIVES**

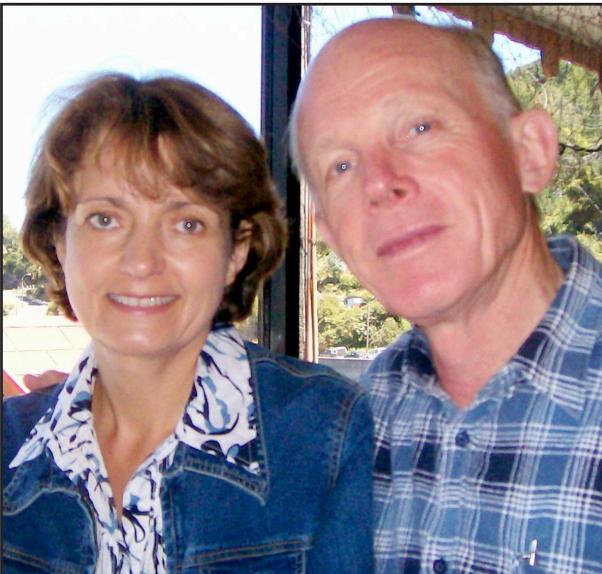
When asked what she would like to say to other pastors' wives around

the globe, Denise shares from her heart:

"The last 10 years have been a very difficult journey [for me], and I have often wondered if I have what it takes to be a pastor's wife. Spiritually, it's been difficult at times, with ups and downs. But I hear God's voice telling me that He has chosen me for this purpose and that He will empower me with gifts I need.

"God has hand-picked you to be in the ministry. And it is such a privilege. When you feel down or attacked, remember that it is only for a season. God will bring us out of that.

"We are living in very serious times. The devil is doing whatever he can to discourage us. When we are discouraged, our husbands are discouraged. We need to ask the Lord to help us to be a blessing to those in need. It's about being chosen—you're not a pastor's wife by accident. There is a purpose for our lives." 



Denise supports her pastor husband, Roger Vince, as he ministers in three churches in the Sydney area.

#### **PEAR CREAM**

##### **INGREDIENTS**

- ½ cup raw cashews
- ½ cup soy/rice or oat milk
- 1 825gm can stewed pears, drained (can also use fresh or canned pineapple or any other summer fruits such as mango or peaches)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 tablespoon honey (optional)



##### **METHOD**

- Blend all ingredients till very smooth.
- Chill before serving.
- This is a lovely cream for breakfast cereals or on any dessert and keeps for five days in an airtight container in the fridge.

*This is one of Denise's favorite recipes.*

# ARE YOU TWO NEWLYWEDS?

Dear Readers,

Recently I came across an exceptional article focusing on spiritual health written by Dr. Allan Handysides, Director of the General Conference Department of Health Ministries. What a perfect topic for this month's Journal with its emphasis on revival. He kindly agreed to write an article for us with a similar theme but with special focus on relationships as we women understand them. I'm sure you will find his message helpful, practical, and enjoyable, too, as you catch some insights into his love relationship with his wife, Janet.

Thank you, Dr. Handysides!

Rae Lee Cooper

I'm not sure about you, but sometimes I get preoccupied. My mind focuses so intently on something that I can tune a person out without trying. It's a wonderful attribute when I need to get something done (like writing this article), but it's a major hazard when it comes to relationships.

Take birthdays, for example. I went home to the farm many years ago, and there was a lovely birthday cake on the table. "Wow!" I exclaimed. "What a great cake! Whose birthday is it?"

"It's for Janet," they replied. That was wonderful—except that Janet is my wife, and this was June 9, her birthday was June 6, and I had completely forgotten.

I have also been known to forget my own birthday, and I've been surprised by friends taking me out for lunch and wishing me a happy birthday! But to forget my wife's birthday? Mind you, I only did it that one time because I felt so ashamed afterward—and I'm telling this story now as an act of contrition. My wife never, ever brings this story up; she doesn't have to. Like David, I feel my sin is "ever before me."

Incredibly, about 10 years ago, I nearly repeated my mistake! I had purchased a bottle of perfume for Janet's birthday and hidden it in my briefcase. We were in Montreal to get our green cards, and when June 6 came around, I was all set—except my mind must have been preoccupied with something else. On the way back from the embassy, it dawned on me: "Today's the day!" Impulsively, right there on the street, I grabbed Janet, wished her a happy birthday, gave her a big kiss, and then dragged her to the perfume counter of a department store where I bought her another bottle of perfume.

We were laughing and joking at the cosmetics counter, and the young lady working there looked at us wistfully and asked, "Could I ask you something personal?"

"Sure, you can ask," I said, "but we won't necessarily answer!"

"Are you two newlyweds?"

We laughed. "Yes! Only 35 years married!"

She replied, "You look so happy and so content; I thought you must have just been married."

Our spiritual relationship is like our marriages. From time to time, it also needs a wake-up call. There is a





ALLAN R. HANDYSIDES, M.B., Ch.B., FRCPC, FRCSC, FACOG, is the director of the General Conference of Health Ministries Department.

grave danger that we can become preoccupied. Our preoccupation can be with very legitimate things, even church work! After all, when I work so hard, I'm doing it for "the cause." I'm not gazing with doe's eyes at another woman. I have no thoughts about romance with anyone else but Janet, but the daily grind does wear one down. In our spiritual lives, it's possible to get ground down, too.

When Ellen G. White wrote, "The greatest need of the church is a revival of true godliness," I suspect her emphasis was as much on the godliness as on the revival, though both are necessary if the statement is to make sense. It's important for me to listen—yes, to listen to Janet with both ears and be engaged with my brain.

A friend told me last week that he had his hearing checked and it was fine. His wife told him she knew he could hear, but could he listen?

For marriage to escape the tedium and humdrum existence of the mundane and ordinary, a couple has to communicate. For there to be a spark of freshness and newness, there must be the unexpected, the surprise, the out-of-the-ordinary. Flowers for no special reason—a gift because Janet is Janet. A hug, a squeeze, a kiss, a cuddle—because Janet is Janet.

In our spiritual lives, Bible study and prayer are equivalent to listening and communicating. Sometimes, like the legalists we so intrinsically tend to be, we want to systematize our spiritual lives. Our leaders prescribe, in the old Methodist tradition, a plan for our spirituality. This is a wonderful idea, but the great food of an institutional cafeteria becomes despised, not because of its taste (or lack thereof) but because of its repetitive sameness. A revival may have us up at 4:30 a.m., reading and praying, but there has to be a true godliness in the revival for it to be meaningful. True godliness is far more than disciplined Methodism. True godliness comes from an exquisite, focused adoration, a sustained and sustainable living together, a relationship, a romantic fixation on the object of our love. That's what makes it sustainable.

Janet is my soul mate, my daily companion. She knows my thoughts and can finish my sentences. She senses my highs and lows, as I do hers.

Jesus wants us to be His "bride." No wonder the Old Testament is full of matrimonial examples of the relationship God wants with us. He wants to draw us to Him, to give us a hug, to run His ideas by us, to be involved in our daily routine. That's why a revival has to be more

than a prescription; it has to be a lifestyle.

As I write this article, it's 5:30 a.m. "Good morning, Jesus," I'm thinking as I write. "Today I'll have this piece delivered to Rae Lee for the magazine. It's three days past the deadline, but did I get the message right? Is there more you want me to say, Jesus?"

"Tell them I love them," I hear Him saying. "I don't want a mechanical set of behaviors. I want their happiness. I want their joy to be complete. I want to be their friend."

So, dear reader, I'm passing on the message. I have found that Janet responds so well to a hug, a compliment, or a kiss given for no other reason but that I love her. I think Jesus would like the same—a wave, an acknowledgement, a smile—all through the day. He said, "Inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these my brethren, you did it unto Me."

A revival of true godliness will be exemplified as much in our caring, our loving, and our living as in anything else. It's little acts of random kindness, given like the love of God with no strings attached, that count.

Try giving the checkout cashier a little bar of chocolate. Pay for the car behind you at the toll booth. When asked why, say, "It's free, no strings attached—just like God's love." Then move on. It's the little things that make the marriage. It's the little deeds that show we love God. It's not the sermons I preach or the columns I write; it's the little kindnesses and the little talks with Jesus that revive my relationship with Him.

How great it would be if people were to ask of your relationship with Jesus, "Are you two newlyweds?" That's why we need a revival—every day and all day long!

"Lord, *spe*ak to me that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone;

As Thou has *sought*, so let me *seek* Thy erring children lost and lone.

O *lead* me, Lord, that I may *lead* the wandering and the wavering feet;

O *feed* me, Lord, that I may *feed* thy hungry ones with manna sweet.

O *strengthen* me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in Thee,

I may *stretch* out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea."<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from Frances Ridley Havergal, "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak," emphasis supplied.

# PROTECTING YOUR MINISTRY MARRIAGE

by Karen Holford



“HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER.”

*Eph. 5:25, NIV*

I looked at the leftovers in the fridge. Each evening I would come home from work, heat the leftovers of the dinner Bernie had eaten at lunchtime, and then cook our dinner for the next day. He would eat it at lunchtime and I would eat it alone in the evening. By the time I came home at 6:00 p.m., Bernie had already gone out to help with a local evangelistic campaign. I knew the members wanted me to be there, too, but there was no way I could work all day, go straight to church and stay there till 10:00 p.m., arrive home at 10:45, go to bed at midnight (after doing the housework and preparing for work the next day), and still remain sane.

So I spent my evenings alone in the apartment—in bed before Bernie came home and out of the house almost before he was up. I realized then that ministry was going to have a profound impact on our marriage. I was free in the evenings and on weekends when he was busy, and Bernie was free during the week when I was at work. And that wasn't all. There were phone calls to take, messages to convey, dinners to cook, children's stories to research, visual aids to create, and a multitude of assorted requirements (such as making 200 flour bombs for a youth retreat when we had three young children sick with influenza at home) that suddenly appeared on my job description as a pastor's wife! We tried to plan at least one day off together every month, but something would almost always disrupt the day, or Bernie's cell phone would ring with an urgent call . . .

There's no doubt that life in a ministry family can seriously challenge your marriage. Sometimes ministry cou-

ples become utterly disheartened with their relationship because it seems that ministry, the needs of the church, the plans of the administrators, large evangelistic projects, meetings, social events, and local members' emergencies all come before your own personal needs and the needs of your marriage. I have seen many ministry marriages fall apart because the non-church-employed spouse felt so alone, so neglected, and so worthless.

One pastor's wife told me, "My husband spends an hour a week visiting an elderly housebound lady in our church. People think it's wonderful that he's so dedicated, but it's been years since he spent an hour a week totally focused on me." Another said, "Somehow I always feel that I'm at the bottom of the list—the last person to get a visit, be ministered to, or thought about. I feel as if I'm the only person in the church who isn't allowed to have needs. My minister-husband chats to members, takes them flowers, plays with their children, and mows their lawns. But he hardly ever does any of these things for us." Another wife said, "My husband is always doing God's work. What right do I have to ask my husband to spend time with me when he needs to write a sermon or visit someone seriously ill in the hospital? There's always something more important and urgent for him to do than to be with me. How can I compete with God's work?"

These are real issues and attitudes that many of us face. They can seriously undermine our worth as a spouse and as a human being and can quickly erode our marriage. I remember one pastor's wife telling me, "Many pastors seem

to be married to their churches! So we have a choice—we can nag them till they run deeper into ministry to avoid us, or we can seduce our husbands with love, admiration, and delight back into a wonderful marriage!” Then she pointed out Ephesians 5:25 and said, “Christ has already given Himself up for the church! That’s not the pastor’s job! It’s his job to love his wife!”

The closer a minister is to his or her spouse, the happier they are both likely to be, and this happiness will shine through their marriage to their family and their congregation. A minister who takes care of his own wife’s needs for love, closeness, appreciation, and spiritual companionship sets a positive example to the other men in his congregation and protects his own marriage. When a minister’s home is happy, he is better equipped emotionally and relationally to help those in his church who are struggling with unhappy marriages and families.

So what can we do to invite our spouses into warm and energizing relationships? Be positive and make a list of all the gifts and good things that ministry offers your marriage. Often your spouse can pick up children or be home to receive deliveries. Sometimes you are able to travel together to interesting places and conferences. You may have a secure income. What else do you enjoy about being a ministry spouse? Sometimes we can be so resentful of the time that ministry takes our spouse away from us that our negative feelings become a barrier to our closeness.

Explore ways in which ministry work might put your marriage at risk. Identify the challenges: which are the riskiest and what can you do to protect your marriage from these dangers? What effect is ministry having on you as a couple: your spiritual life, your sexual relationship, your experience of love, your communication, your family, your vacations, your ability to have fun together, etc.? Once you identify the ways in which ministry work may come between you as a couple, you can also find creative ways to counteract the effects of not eating together in the evening, your spouse coming home tired at 11:00 p.m., and not seeing each other as often as you would like.

Take care of yourself and find something you enjoy doing when your spouse isn’t around. View this time as an opportunity to build yourself up spiritually, get some exercise, socialize, do housework, enjoy a hobby, etc. This may help you to feel less resentful of the time your spouse spends on his or her work.

When do you and your spouse feel closest? When you feel close, who usually initiates the contact? What do you both do and say that helps you to feel close, and how can you make sure that this happens more often? What else would you like to do that would help you to feel even closer to your spouse?

On a scale of 0 to 10 (where 0 is not close at all and 10 is as close as you can imagine), how close do you feel as a couple? What could you do as a couple to score your closeness one number higher? Make a list of things you

can do to show your closeness at every level up to 10. This will give you a “road map” to help you know what to do next to increase your spiritual, relational, and sexual intimacy as a couple.

Tell each other how much you appreciated the last time you were really close. Be positive and only say what you enjoyed. Appreciation does far more to encourage someone to be close to you than nagging or criticizing. Try saying something like, “I love it when we have time to be close. I really feel very close to you when we \_\_\_\_ (describe something that you know your spouse enjoys, too). Let’s make time to do that again today or some other time this week.”

## SIMPLE IDEAS FOR COUPLE CLOSENESS

- Praying together
- Taking a bath or shower together
- Reading a book together
- Eating out together
- Driving together and talking about something important or special
- Giving each other a back massage
- Finding a tiny gift for the other person
- Going for a walk together in a beautiful place
- Cooking together or making something creative together
- Soothing each other after a busy or troubling day
- Going away for a weekend or midweek break together
- Holding each other close
- Planning a surprise for the other person
- Messaging or emailing each other
- Meeting together for a lunchtime picnic
- Visiting a historic place, a church, a museum, or a gallery together
- Gardening together
- Cycling, sailing, or boating together
- Spending an evening doing different peaceful, non-work things in the same room as your spouse
- Watching a positive, funny, or inspiring movie together (download interesting discussion guides and read movie reviews at [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com))

Surprise your spouse. Find a free slot in the calendar and whisk him or her away for a special time of closeness. Book a one-hour weekly cafe appointment to talk together as husband and wife without any church issues—and agree to turn off your cell phones. Both of you deserve the other's undivided attention! It can be disappointing to go to a cafe together and then have to listen for half an hour while your partner deals with a church/work issue over the phone.

Try a short experiment. Spend at least 15 minutes a day doing something simple together. If you are stuck for ideas, see the list of ideas for couple closeness. Then spend one block of three hours per week and two blocks of one hour per week doing something you enjoy doing together—and don't talk about work or ministry or church members (this can be quite difficult). Better still if you can manage to spend one whole day together relaxing and doing things that bring you closer as a couple or that help you create positive memories of your relationship. Do this for at least two weeks. Then ask yourselves what effect your times of closeness have had on your marriage. What effect did they have on your pastoral ministry?

Couples often find that their times of closeness strengthen them for the other things they need to do. When couples feel topped up with love and the good feelings that come from spending time with someone who cares for them, they can often face challenges with greater courage and optimism, and they will have more emotional and spiritual resources to help others.

One church we know is passionate about protecting the families of their pastoral staff. They insist that staff members spend at least three complete days and at least four other evenings at home with their families—with no work contact—during each two-week period. They know the devastating effects of a ministerial marriage breakdown, both on the family itself and on a church, a congregation, and a community.

We experience God's love through each other. When we feel loved and close to another human being, it is easier for us to believe that God loves us and cares about us, too. When we feel neglected by those we love, it is harder to experience God's love in our lives. When we keep each other topped up with love, God's love has a greater opportunity to flow through our lives and into the lives of those around us. Nurturing our "couple closeness" is one of the best investments we can make to strengthen our relationships with each other and with God.



**KAREN HOLFORD** is a freelance writer and family therapist living in the tiny village of Auchtermuchty, in the tiny Kingdom of Fife. Her husband, Bernie, is the president of the Scottish Mission. When they do have time to be together, they enjoy walking, exploring local farmshops and cafes, visiting historic buildings, and eating tiny pieces of very good chocolate.

# QUIET TIME IN A CRAZY WORLD

by Sarah K. Asaftei

**Quiet** time is tough to find. At least it is where I live.

I suppose pastors' wives in different cultures may manage to live at a slower pace, but the increase of technology makes life run faster nearly everywhere. Just to write this article, I'm snatching a few peaceful moments at 6:00 a.m., before our household explodes into the day's activities.

"Come away, and rest awhile," Jesus told His disciples when they were so busy ministering that they hadn't even taken time to eat (Mark 6:31). But if you're like me, that can be a tough invitation to accept.

The thing is, if we want to minister effectively, if we want to have a lasting impact, if we want to be agents of revival in our congregations and communities, quiet time is something we cannot do without. Revival at church can come only after we experience personal revival at home.

It's an inescapable fact: We simply *cannot* minister to others when we are empty ourselves. Even Jesus needed time away with His Father to rejuvenate and refill. But how do we actually make it happen? Where do we find the time?

Sometimes I look at older women or younger women, and I envy the extra free time they seem to have. Probably their lives feel just as busy as mine, filled with different activities. But it's easy to imagine that *other* people have more time to rest or pray or study.

As younger pastors' wives, we tend to fall into a narrow set of categories: fiancée, newlywed, young mother. I'll admit that there are times when I daydream about the flexibility and freedom I had to spend time alone with God during my six years of being a "newlywed," back when my day's schedule was dictated by what I chose to do instead of by feedings and diaper changes and nap times.



The silly thing is, I didn't think I had enough free time then, either. I thought I was so incredibly busy, and taking quiet time to be with God had to be just as intentional then as it is today.

And that's my point. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. It doesn't matter if you work or stay home. It doesn't matter if your house is full of children or if you haven't had kids yet or if they have all grown up and moved away. Getting daily spiritual revival time has to be a conscious choice. It is never going to magically happen. And the less time you spend communing with God, the more you'll feel empty and dried up when dealing with others.

On my blog for young pastors' wives, I recently published a series of profiles on several pastors' wives and their devotional habits. I asked each woman to share what she did during her devotions, how she makes it happen, and what time of day she chose. An interesting trend emerged. The women who reported having successful, regular daily devotions *all* said that they wake up extra early to make it happen. The ones who don't get up early, don't make it happen. Now I'm sure that doesn't mean there isn't some woman out there who has meaningful quality time with God every single day in the middle of the afternoon. But our best chance of spiritual rejuvenation comes early, before the day's madness begins.

Right now, I'm in a season of life where even the early mornings are difficult. Some of you probably are right here with me. Between my one-year-old son and the new baby arriving shortly, it is not necessarily quieter before dawn! And it probably won't calm down much for another year or two. So what about us? What about the ones who do want to dedicate daily time with God but whose commitment to being good mothers to our little ones makes quiet time all but impossible?



WHATEVER YOUR STAGE IN LIFE,  
WHATEVER YOUR SEASON, THE  
IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER  
IS THAT GOD LONGS TO BRING YOU  
SPIRITUAL REVIVAL EACH DAY.



If your day is so full of babies that you hardly have time to shower (believe me, I've been there!), try an unconventional approach to devotions. Play uplifting music and sing along while doing dishes, pray out loud while folding laundry, or turn on a recording of the Bible being read aloud while you nurse the baby. Talk to spiritual women whose children are a little older than yours and ask them how they did it. There are all kinds of ways to commune with God.

Life brings many seasons. Some seasons bring flexibility, others bring exhaustion. Some seasons bring deep spiritual communion, others feel like a drought. Sometimes we are rejuvenated best through hours of deep study, and at other times God speaks to us through song, uplifting relationships, or supportive prayer partners.

Whatever your stage in life, whatever your season, the important thing to remember is that God longs to bring you spiritual revival every day. He hopes that you'll think He is important enough to make Him a priority in your day, even if you can only snatch a few minutes here or there.

If your season right now is flexible, why not choose to spend more time with God than you usually do? Maybe cut back on media consumption and other less valuable activities and just soak up this part of your spiritual journey!

And if, like me, your current season is full of exhausted weariness, remember that seasons come and go. This phase of life won't last forever, and when it changes, you'll have a different schedule with a different amount of time to spend with God.

Whatever your season, God wants to spend time with you today. What do *you* want to do with Him? 



**SARAH K. ASAFTEI** is a pastor's wife and work-at-home mom in the southern United States. She grew up as a missionary kid; married an Eastern European; worked for the General Conference Office of Adventist Mission; and loves writing, traveling, evangelism, and women's ministry. In addition to writing for *The Journal*, she also co-authors a blog for young pastors' wives.

# THE LIFE OF DOROTHY WATTS



**Dorothy** May Eaton was born in Hilliards, Ohio, on December 4, 1937, to Oliver and Estelle Eaton, third- and fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventists. She was their only child. She attended elementary school in Jackson, Ohio, where her parents were florists. In 1952 she entered Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio, graduating in 1956. She supported herself in the academy by selling Christian literature every summer.

She enrolled in Washington Missionary College in 1956, became a student leader there, and developed a strong desire to marry a minister. She found this minister in Ron Watts from Canada, who was studying at the SDA Theological Seminary in Takoma Park. They were married on September 6, 1959, and proceeded to Winnipeg, Manitoba to begin a fifty-year partnership in the Adventist ministry.

They served in district work in Saskatchewan and in full-time evangelism. With her as a partner, Ron was ordained in less than three years in the ministry. They led the conference in additions to membership.

In 1965, the couple was called to India, where Ron served as Ministerial Director of the South India Union. Dorothy took up elementary teaching in which she had trained. She first taught the children of the overseas missionaries and then became the principal of the International School, which served missionaries of several denominations and USAID personnel. They then went on to serve at a local mission and a Union Mission. While in Bangalore, Dorothy and Ron adopted three Indian children: Stephen, Esther, and David. She also founded "Sunshine Home" for

orphaned and abandoned children. During this time she wrote her first morning devotional for children, *This Is the Day*. Three other devotionals followed along with 23 other books on spiritual topics.

The family returned to North America, and Dorothy taught church school in the Oregon and Michigan Conferences and edited "The World Mission Report" in the GC Church Ministries Department for one year.

In 1988 the family moved to Alaska where Dorothy, as the Conference President's wife, took special interest in enabling pastors' wives in their ministry. From 1991 to 1996 she continued this ministry to pastors' wives in the British Columbia Conference as the president's wife. In 1997, Dorothy was elected to serve as the Women's Ministries Director of the General Conference, where she emphasized the development of resources for the women of the church. She enjoyed this work immensely but after only a short time, Ron was called to lead out in the work of Southern Asia. She was then elected as the Associate Secretary of the Southern Asia Division. During this time she developed a program called Adventist Child India to arrange scholarships for worthy children to study in Adventist boarding schools. It was successful from the start.

In 2007, Dorothy learned that she had cancer. She battled this enemy bravely and through much suffering until she succumbed on November 8, 2010.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband of 51 years, Ron; her children, Stephen, Esther, and David, and their spouses; and six grandchildren: Heather, Shelley, Calvin, Rachel, Bethany, and JoAnna. She plans to meet them again on the Great Resurrection morning at the second coming of our Lord.



# REMEMBERING DOROTHY WATTS

By Sharon Cress

**These** last few days of processing Dorothy's death have been an emotional earthquake.

Only our Rock, Jesus Christ, can steady us in this stormy attack from Satan. We can trust Jesus. He has promised to give us His limitless love and compassion when nothing else makes sense.

Right now, we can close our eyes and wish we had Dorothy back or we can open our eyes and see **all** that she left us. Today I choose for us to focus on what she left us.

Dorothy had the gift of words. The poet Ralph Waldo Emerson also had that gift, and he wrote a tribute I would like to apply to Dorothy:

*To laugh often and much*

*To win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children*

*To earn the appreciation of honest critics*

*To endure the betrayal of false friends*

*To find the best in others*

*To leave the world a bit better*

*To know that a life breathed easier  
because of her reassurance.*

*Because she lived among us we are all better blessed.*

Dorothy Watts modeled Jesus in many ways, but there are three particularly unique ways that Dorothy was like Jesus.

**First**, Jesus and Dorothy both loved stories and they both loved to tell stories. Dorothy wrote stories that filled us with wonder about her adventures in India, about people's miracles, and about finding Jesus Christ in a culture steeped in pagan religions. Many of us would wait eagerly for those emailed stories. We would never have known the influence of Jesus Christ on the lives of these precious ones if Dorothy hadn't told us.

Dorothy's godly values were evident both in her writing and in her speaking. Dorothy loved stories, and she creatively crafted the words that told us the stories. Dorothy used words as art—both in speaking and in print—to encourage, enrich, and embellish the lives of thousands of women.

When the Ministerial Association was looking for an author to tell the story of an Adventist who lived the Philippines during World War II, they chose Dorothy. She authored the book *Sunrise In Her Heart*.

This brings us to the **second** way Dorothy mirrored Jesus. Dorothy cared for women and their individual and personal needs. Dorothy took the time one-on-one to show her love and concern in her work and service for Women's Ministries and Shepherdess International.

Dorothy's devotional messages at retreats were the highlight of many meetings. No one slept in if Dorothy was having the morning service! Her personal counsel was a balm for so many in pain who were looking for spiritual mothering.

Two verses come to mind as most appropriate for Dorothy.

The first is from Paul to the Philippians, when he talked about "those whose names (Dorothy) are **written** in the book of life" 4:13. Then in Isaiah 43:1, God says, "I have saved you, I have **called** you (Dorothy) by name and you are mine."

The Lord verbalizes. He spoke His promise to Dorothy, and one of these days very soon, He will speak to her personally when He calls her from this little sleep.

**Thirdly**, Dorothy imitated Jesus with her interest in children. Children stuck to Dorothy like chocolate candy on a white dress. Maybe it was because of her wonderful stories. Dorothy valued and loved children so much that she established the Sunshine Orphanage Home so the very least of these would have the necessities and opportunities which you and I take for granted.

Just two weeks ago, significant funds were transferred to India for orphanage projects. The only reason these funds were realized is because Dorothy's actions so many years ago still inspires hearts today.

Her legacy will continue. Dorothy's principles were strong and timeless, and they will endure in each one of us she touched.

Dorothy's death has left a hole in our hearts, and the tears in our eyes are leaking from it. The beautiful flowers here today will fade, but what Dorothy has left us will never fade. She left the gentle footprint of her presence on the hearts of women all around the world.

Matthew 26:13 says: "Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be held as a memorial to her." These words were spoken about another influential woman who personally served Jesus.

Now, over 2,000 years later, Dorothy's words, influence, mentoring, and compassion will continue to linger like a fine perfume in the hearts and through the lives of clergy spouses and lay women. Dorothy's writings will always nourish the faith of those of us who continue to serve.

Proverbs 31 asks, "Who among us has found the virtuous woman? We probably found about as close as we'll probably get on this earth when we met Dorothy Eaton Watts. The light of Dorothy's example will never be extinguished from our hearts. She served as Jesus served with her thought-provoking stories, her faithful ministry to women, and her tireless concern for innocent children.

Because she left us a wealth of memories, we now feel so much poorer because of this tremendous loss. But we are closer to Jesus because she was our friend.

Ministers' wives have a little dialogue when we are tired and weary and know there is little time for sleep or rest before the next task. We often say to each other, "sleep fast, sleep fast. Tomorrow will be here before you know it."

So, precious Dorothy, sleep fast, my beloved friend, sleep fast. Jesus will be here before you know it!!



Sharon Cress presented this eulogy at Dorothy Watts funeral.



Ardis Stenbakken, ▶  
former GC Women's  
Ministries Director, with  
Dorothy Watts

# Dear Dorothy,

November 10, 2010

I thank you for your recent letter that I received when I got home. I was still thinking about your previous letter comparing your friends to birds. I loved it. It also made me think of your love for gardens and flowers and how I could compare my friends to flowers. I remember the first time we met. It was at Pine Springs Ranch. I think it was February 1992. You had on a sweatshirt it was bright and it said "Alaska." You came up to me to let me know who you were and to encourage this beginning conference president's wife. You became an Alaska Forget-me-not.

Then there is the pansy. It blooms in adversity. Dorothy, you've never stopped blooming, even in adversity.

You have been a prolific writer; just like the Arctic Flame Tea Rose that is prized for being reliable and a continuous bloomer.

The brilliant poppies with their knockout display of colors remind me of your knockout ability for organizing women's ministries.

You've been like the "Bleeding Heart" with a heart bleeding for orphans. You were filled with compassion for children who had no place to go, and you were able to find a place for them.

To many you have been the "Mother Hen." You have watched your numerous baby chicks develop from your nurturing. As Sharon has said and I have repeated, "Dorothy is the Shepherdess of Shepherdess."

Today as I drove to work, I listened closely to the words of a song, "Jesus, draw us ever nearer. Hold us in your loving arms. Wrap us in your gentle presence. When the end comes, bring us home." Those words reminded

me of the sweet fragrance of the "Rose of Sharon" and the "Lily of the Valley" that you have drawn many of us to through your words.

As I was told that you are not seeing visitors, Dorothy, I thought of Paul's letter to Timothy. You can join him in that (I paraphrase) "you have done your best in the race, you have run the full distance, and you have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for you the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life, the prize which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give you on that day—and not only to you, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear."

I'd like to quote another verse that seems to sum up my friendship, and admiration of you and Ron: "I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now."

First Peter 1:24-25 says, "The human life is like that of a flower: it blooms and is beautiful for a time, but inevitably fades and withers away. By contrast, God is eternal and will never die or fade away." I look forward to that day when I can come to your garden, that beautiful garden of flowers that will never fade. Thanks so much, Dorothy, for being such a lovely flower in the garden of my heart.

Your friend,  
Rita



Rita Stevens is the Shepherdess sponsor for the Texico Conference.

*Editor's Note: This letter was written just before Dorothy Watts died. Unfortunately she never read it; however, it conveys the thoughts of many Shepherdesses around the world.*

# NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION SHEPHERDESS MEETINGS

by Paula I. Johnson



**The** North American Division Shepherdess meetings, held November 5-8, 2010, during NAD Year-End meetings, were a blessing to all who attended. The meetings were led by Donna Jackson, wife of Dan Jackson, the newly-elected president of the North America Division, and Desiree Bryant, wife of NAD Secretary Alex Bryant.

During Friday's session, approximately 50 attendees were blessed by the generosity of Doug Sayles (Review and Herald), Dale Galusha (Pacific Press), and Don MacLafferty (*Kids in Discipleship*). In the morning devotional, Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy, captured the essence of the gospel writers' unique perspectives on Jesus and its application to our lives. Ruthie Jacobson, NAD prayer coordinator, introduced some students from Ozark Academy who gave personal testimonies about their recent experiences with prayer and the Lord.

Part of Friday's agenda was to make plans to move forward as an organization for the betterment of all concerned. Donna and Desiree introduced the concept of our mission, values, vision, and new initiatives for the NAD Shepherdess, which was followed by a brainstorming session facilitated by Paula Johnson, founder-coordinator of the Association of Regional Conferences Ministers' Wives. Paula involved everyone in small-groups discussion to determine how the suggested and accepted initiatives could move from concept to action. With so many gifted and intelligent women working together, many exciting ideas were submitted.

## **Mission, Values, Vision, and Initiative for the Ministerial Spouses' Association (MSA)**

**Mission:** To empower and support the NAD union and conference MSA leadership through networking, resources, and training.

### **Values:**

- To be spirit-led
- Confidentiality
- Affirmation
- Respect for ethnic diversity
- Empowerment
- Sanctity of family

**Vision:** To see the Ministerial Spouses Association established and growing in every union and conference of the North American Division.

### **The primary Initiatives that were discussed include:**

- *Fellowship and networking:* opportunities and as a support system
- *Spiritual enrichment:* for self and for ministry
- *Training:* as a paraprofessional in the ministry
- *Resources:* to meet the felt needs of ministerial families
- *Family:* discipling ministerial children
- *Prayer:* for revival and reformation in one's personal life and in the home

In today's age of inclusiveness, the group recognizes that the term "Shepherdess" excludes spouses of female ministers, so the ladies discussed a proposed name change—from NAD Shepherdess to NAD Ministerial Spouses Association—that will be submitted to Shepherdess International and to the NAD administration.

In the NAD Shepherdess, there is strong intent to continue and strengthen the affiliation with Shepherdess International, to operate within its defined purposes, and to target primary groups. In addition, the group would like to change some of the terminology from "wives" to "spouses."

On Sunday the ladies were invited to Donna Jackson's home for a "spa day." Approximately 40 women participated, and, in addition to lunch, they were treated to chair massages, foot baths, foot massages, paraffin hand treatments, and facials. There was hardly a room in the house that was not impacted by the spa experience! The fellowship was great, and the food was delicious. The spa day concluded with a devotional and prayer by Elizabeth Talbot. All the ladies left the Jackson home feeling happy, pampered, and uplifted.

Monday was another working session. Each union representative had the opportunity to speak about what was happening in her territory. Cheryl Retzer, Southern Union Shepherdess sponsor, facilitated this segment, and many ideas were shared. Paula led out in another encouraging and insightful activity, the "Question in a Basket" exercise, where questions that had been dropped in a basket were answered by ladies who had experienced similar challenges. Donna Jackson gave a powerful testimony about her spiritual journey. Janet Page, the new Shepherdess director for the General Conference, spoke about the Revival and Reformation Initiative introduced by the General Conference, after which she led the ladies in a season of prayer. Then the ladies departed, already looking forward to the next time they would to come together for the united purpose of lifting up ministerial spouses in ministry in the name and love of Jesus Christ. 



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