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A SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

Volume 22

Third Quarter 2005

Number 3

Special News Issue

Editor's Musings

"I hope you learned your lesson." Countless times we heard this admonition from grown-ups. How many mistakes did a kid have to make until all the lessons were

"learned"? As an adult, I've found it is preferable to "learn" through someone else's experience rather than falling into every ditch myself. One unusual place I've discovered this learning curve is literally under my own feet—Dixie. Dixie is Jim's and my sevenpound Yorkshire Terrier. Through her life, God is teaching me a lot about His second book, nature. So here



- 1. Begin each day with a positive attitude. Dixie wakes up happy every morning. She anticipates what good things might happen and rejoices in simple experiences—seeing a bird fly by or looking up at us, grateful for her breakfast.
- 2. Be patient and polite. Dixie understands that sitting quietly and waiting eventually leads to treats and treasures. Barking and running around just leave her tired and troubled with no satisfaction.
- 3. Nap times are important. Despite all the household activity, company, and stimulation, Dixie will regularly retreat to her own private space and enjoy a short respite. Maybe this is the key to her positive outlook on life!

4. Come when you are called. When the Master calls, good things happen. Dixie enjoys food, rides in the car, and companionship through play. You and I savor

spiritual food, journeys to interesting places, and Divine fellowship when we respond to our Lord's bidding.

- 5. Know when you need a bath. Dixie walks in the shower when she thinks she is dirty, waiting for us to make her feel fresh and clean. You and I know the source of spiritual cleansing, and Jesus will instantly restore us to the joy of our salvation.
- 6. Enjoy blessings today and don't fret about tomorrow. Sometimes Dixie roams the house with a recently-acquired doggie biscuit, whimpering and whining as she

worries about where she might hide this prize possession. There are dozens of lessons in this one, so choose to apply where appropriate!

7. When times are stressful or uncertain, there is safety and refuge in the Master's arms. Whether it is a trip to the veterinarian, the threat of a larger, vicious dog, or the noise of frightening thunder, Dixie knows the comfort and security of Jim's or my arms. She completely trusts us because through experience, she understands that bad things don't happen when she is in our arms. You and I have that same assurance from our Heavenly Master. Whatever pain we may experience, His arms are open to hold and comfort us.

So, there they are—lessons from a little creature.

God bless us every one,

Shepherdess International News

- 3 East-Central Africa Division
- 4 Euro-Africa Division
- 4 Inter-American Division
- 4 North American Division
- 6 Northern Asia-Pacific Division
- 7 South American Division
- 10 Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
- 10 Southern Asia Division
- 15 Southern Asia-Pacific Division
- 21 Trans-European Division

The Journal A SHEPHERDESS
INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR
MINISTRY SPOUSES is a quarterly publication
produced by Shepherdess International, an
entity of the General Conference of Seventhday Adventists Ministerial Association.

Editorial Office: 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

Phone: (301) 680-6513 Fax: (301) 680-6502 e-mail: lowes@gc.adventist.org

web page: www.ministerial association.com/ shepherd/shepindex.html

shepherd/shepindex.ht Printed in the U.S.A.

Coordinator & Editor: Sharon Cress

Editorial Assistant: Shelly Lowe Layout and Design: Ann Taylor

Proofreader: Sheila Draper

Ministry to Clergy Spouses Division Coordinators:

East Central Africa-Mercy Ferrer

Euro-Africa-Maeve Maurer

Euro-Asia—Galina Stele

Inter-American-Evelyn Omana

North American—Marti Schneider

Northern Asia-Pacific-Young-Ja Nam

South American-Evelyn Nagel

South Pacific—Debora Kent

Southern Asia-Hepzibah Kore

Southern Asia-Pacific—Octofien Sumendap

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean-Nonceba Mathema

Western Africa-Elizabeth Ewoo



Shepherdess International News

East-Central Africa Division

Mrs. Miriam Njagi reports: "We praise God for all His care and protection. Though we experience a number of trials, the Lord carries us through. We praise His holy name. Our union has three conferences and five fields. Each conference/field has a Shepherdess chapter."

Each chapter has divided itself into small areas in order to reach every shepherdess. In each region pastors' wives meet once a month or quarterly, and the whole group meets once a year. The shepherdesses have to walk long distances to gather for fellowship and evangelism.

The shepherdesses from the Kenya Lake Field started a tailoring school in order to help each other. They held prayer and Bible study groups and were able to visit the needy people around them. They distributed food and clothing that they had carried from their homes.

The South Kenya Conference chapter was able to conduct rallies in different districts and went to Kilgoris to fellowship with the Masaai shepherdesses who live far away.

❖ Shepherdesses from the *Kenya Coast Field* participate in many activities. They visit the retired shepherdesses, new mothers, and the sick. They travel by lorries through Tsavo National Park to Kilibasi Church where they meet their fellow shepherdesses. The distance from the main tarmac road is 45 kilometers. They spend the weekend and distribute clothes to the needy people.

Photos on this page are from the Coast Field Shepherdesses as they travel to Kilibasi.



Shepherdesses with bags of clothes for distribution



Shepherdesses distributing clothes



The arrival of the shepherdesses



Going back to the main road

Euro-Africa Division

The Spanish Union held a Ministerial Couples' Retreat in a beautiful resort city on the ocean. Mrs. Maeve Maurer, division coordinator, and Sharon Cress were guests of Majbritt Hendrickson, the union Shepherdess Coordinator. Majbritt planned extraordinary meetings in a beautiful hotel theatre. Highlights included:



Lively discussion in small groups



Maeve Maurer (left) visits with a pastor's wife



Majbritt Hendrickson Shepherdess Coordinator for the Spanish Union, interacts with her pastors' wives

Inter-American Division

Patrice Gordon, Shepherdess Coordinator for West Jamaica Conference, reports that Manchester pastors' wives had their first parish shepherdess meeting in February 2005. More than 15 ladies attended. The focus was on a prayer pact. The ladies wrote down their requests/concerns and put them in sealed envelopes to put in a box. Each lady took one and would pray for that individual for one week before passing it along to the next person.

This program was also introduced in the home of Pastor and Sister Ronnie Henry where they had a soup vespers. It expanded to include the entire pastor's family.

The box is continuing to be transferred from one family to another, and families are experiencing answers to prayer. Praise the Lord!

North American Division

Annual Council was held at the General Conference world headquarters in October 2004. Gloria Trotman,



Elizabeth Bediako welcomes the delegate spouses to Annual Council



Mrs. Kari Paulsen, Shepherdess Sponsor, shares a message with the ladies

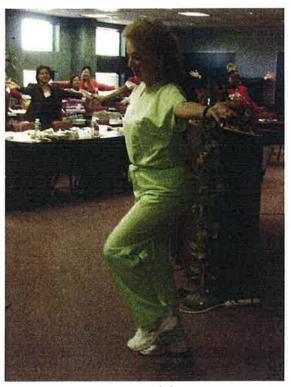
Shepherdess Coordinator for the Caribbean Union Conference, shared with the administrators' wives messages on "The Enriched Life" and the ladies were blessed. Another day James Cress, Ministerial Association Secretary, gave a seminar on keeping in touch with your spouse when he travels. Each lady received a packet of cards to encourage them in writing notes.



Gloria Trotman, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Caribbean Union Conference, presents a seminar



Ladies enjoy the presentation



Rae Cooper led out in the exercise break each day



Pastor James Cress presents a seminar on communication

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Mrs. Young-Ja Nam, Shepherdess Coordinator for NSD, Pastor Dong Woon Im, Ministerial Secretary for the Korean Union, and Sharon Cress from Shepherdess International traveled to a Shepherdess Retreat in each conference in the union. Pastor Im organized the meetings and Mrs. Nam and Mrs. Cress presented the seminars. Hundreds of pastors' wives were blessed by the tremendous programming, fellowship, discussion and good food. Highlights of these memorable meetings:



Shepherdess Retreat in Korea



Group discussion at the Shepherdess Retreat in Korea



Listening to a presentation at the Shepherdess Retreat in Korea



Song service at Shepherdess Retreat in Korea



Presenters at the Shepherdess Retreat in Korea

Mrs. Young-Ja Nam also reports that Shepherdesses from the West Central Korean Conference love music and have organized the Eunbitsori Flute Band. They were started in September 1997 and have done concerts; played at hospitals, prisons, and the World Cup Stadium, and performed charitable concerts for the handicapped and in sanitariums. Kim So Young is the conductor and Kim HeeSook is the vice conductor.



The Eunbitsori Flute Band performing



The Eunbitsori Flute Band

The West Central Korean Conference Shepherdess Choir was organized in 2001 and has done many concerts, church dedication services, and performances for patients in Adventist hospitals.



The West Central Korean Conference Shepherdess Choir



The West Central Korean Conference Shepherdess Choir

South American Division

• In February the Austral Union held a Ministerial Council for pastoral families. Seminars were given by Pastor Ruy H. Nagel, SAD president; Pastor Raul Gomez; Drs. John and Millie Youngberg; Pastor Roberto Bullon, SAD

Ministerial Secretary; Dr. George Reid; and Pastor Jonas Arrais, SAD Associate Ministerial Secretary.

Special activities were planned for the children, and the pastoral wives had two days of meetings. Pastoral wives from the various conferences gave their testimonies.

- ❖ Two Shepherdess Coordinators retired: Marly de Ciufardy from the South Argentina Mission and Mrs. Liliana de Pinto from the Austral Union. The work of these ladies has been appreciated, and we pray they enjoy this new phase of their lives.
- ✿ In August 2004 SAD and the North Brazil Union held a Shepherdess Retreat in Belem. Pictures highlighting this event are below and on the following page:



Conference uniformed pastors' wives



Conference uniformed pastors' wives



Cultural music was enjoyed by all



During each program there was an exercise time for the ladies



Shepherdesses at closing ceremonies



Union AFAM ladies



Mrs. Creunete Cardoso (gray and red scarf) AFAM Union Coordinator, welcomes her pastors' wives to the retreat



 $Local\ conference\ AFAM\ group$



Elder Nagel presents the opening address



Mrs. Creunete Cardoso (right) and a conference coordinator



Beautiful cultural entertainment



A memorable play



Elder and Mrs. Cardoso (left side) and Elder and Mrs. Ruy Nagel (second and third from right)



Mrs. Evelyn Nagel (second from left) with pastors' wives

Mrs. Evelyn Nagel, AFAM division coordinator, reports the pastor's wife, Mrs. Sonia Filiu Albuquerque Lima, from the Penfigo Adventist Church in Campo Grande, Brazil, organized with the church for the women to carry out their first public evangelism.

They chose to hold the evangelism in a community center located in front of the hospital church. This institution is maintained by the Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance and renders educational and recreational assistance to children and teens in the region.

The team began planning and prayer meetings 30 days prior to the conferences. The participation and suggestions of the group demonstrated that our ladies were committed to the work. Several volunteers carried out a brief survey and handed out invitations.

The social topics on health and relationships were presented by local Seventh-day Adventist physicians and professionals. The meetings began with the Bible studies in small groups. After each program, the team met for evaluation, gratitude, and prayer. On Good Friday, they had 100 individuals in attendance.

A closing ceremony was held to give each participant who completed the studies a Bible and certificate. In gratitude, the students surprised everyone by taking a basket of flowers to the front and distributing roses to the presenters.

One of the participants stated that the program was the best thing that had happened in her life. She had previously been a church member and was rebaptized as a result of the meetings. Another student stated that the studies helped to free her of substance abuse. A participant who had decided to keep the Sabbath was going to tell his employer of his decision. Before he told his employer, he was given a promotion, salary increase, and Saturday as his day off.

During the meetings, at the same time the program was held for the adults, a special evangelism program was held for children. A total attendance for children averaged between 40 and 50 each night.

The husbands supported the meetings by helping with the sound equipment, audio visuals, purchasing prizes, giving Bible studies, and carrying equipment.

Meeting Results:

- 36 students were enrolled, not including children.
- 26 students received a certificate of course completion.
- 4 participants are preparing for baptism.
- 2 small groups were formed in the home of individuals who completed the course.
- More than half of the students were teens, and several indicated their desire to be baptized later.

Participating in this first public evangelism was a marvelous experience for the women. They received many blessings and had a glimpse of what they can accomplish for God.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

- The East Zimbabwe Conference Shepherdesses conducted community outreach programs at Lowdale in Mazoe. They had an average daily attendance of 180 people, and at the end of the crusade, 72 people were baptized. During the VBS program, 61 children graduated. The shepherdesses also fed and gave clothes to orphans, widows, widowers, disabled people, and home care patients.
- ♠ In the Nyabira community, the shepherdesses had a kitchen program for the needy and then a three-week evangelistic effort by a local pastor. The event was covered by the local media and broadcast on national TV.



Malawi Union Shepherdess Executive Committee members from South, Central, North Malawi Fields and the Union office who participated in the Leadership Training Seminar in Lilongwe.



Mrs. Nonceba Mathema (center), SID Shepherdess Coordinator, Mrs. Margret Thumbalamoto (third from right), Malawi Union Shepherdess Coordinator with sponsors and coordinators from the three fields

Southern Asia Division

• Derilla Marak reported on the Adult Literacy Project in Garo. One attendee brought her husband to the church as well and he was baptized. They are already witnessing to others in their village. The group is working on having a women's prayer band every Sabbath after church to pray for special requests. They are also encouraged to memorize a Bible verse each Sabbath.

In March 2005 Jim and Sharon Cress and Elder and Mrs. Kore were the featured speakers at the meetings in Pune, India, where the union held a Pastoral Couples' Retreat. Below and on the next page are highlights:



Sharon Cress, Shepherdess International Director, Suman Khajekar and Hepzibah Kore, Shepherdess Coordinator for SUD



Opening ceremonies



Special music



Mrs. Sharon, Union Shepherdess Coordinator



Mrs. Suman Khajekar who has led the Jalna Tailoring Center for over 10 years





For Pastoral Couples
Pune
larch 17-19, 2005

Elder and Mrs. Kore



Elder and Mrs. Cress and Elder and Mrs. Kore



Pastoral couples enjoy Mrs. Kore's opening message



Elder and Mrs. Kadjakak from Jalna



Union pastors' wives' formal portrait



Elder and Mrs. Padmaraj (far right and far left) welcome the guests to their Ministerial Meeting in Bangalore

s Jean Sundaram, Shepherdess Coordinator for South Tamil Conference, reported that nearly 55 shepherdesses attended meetings held in Chettimedu. There were seminars on team ministry and money management. Many rededicated their lives to God at the close of the meetings.



North Andhra Section Shepherdess meetings with Hepzibah Kore, Division Shepherdess Coordinator (seated left)



North Andhra Section Shepherdess meetings

Nellore hosted the first-ever Shepherdess meetings from Southeast Andhra and South Rayalaseema Regions from July 17-19. Thirty-five ministerial workers' wives attended the combined Shepherdess meetings. Hepzibah Kore, the Division Shepherdess Coordinator, presented the seminars and led in the discussions while Vinodhini John, the Union Coordinator, assisted in the translations.

The topics presented were "New Life for the Pastor's Wife," "The Role of Shepherdess," "The Art of Giving Bible Studies," "Organizing Small Group Ministries," "Different Types of Evangelism," "The Importance of Women's Ministries," "How to Interact with Women in the Community," and "The Virtuous Woman."

Vinodhini John spoke to delegates and the believers at the vespers meeting on the topic "Fill My Cup Lord." The Sabbath School, including the lesson study and other Sabbath services, were led by the delegates. Hepzibah Kore shared God's Word during the divine service. The message was based on fervent prayer. Everyone responded to the altar call given by the speaker, and special dedicatory prayer was offered

by Pastor Wilbert, Southeast Andhra Region Director.

The financial self-support was noteworthy in conducting these meetings. Vinodhini John congratulates Pastor Wilbert and Pastor Jesudas, the Region Directors, and appeals for similar enterprise in other regions and sections to strengthen the ministry in the Central India Union. See photographs:



Searching the scriptures at the Nellore Shepherdess meetings



Group discussion



Group photo in Nellore



Shepherdesses listening to the presentation



Group photo in Ibrahimpatnam. Seated in front left to right: Rukuma Jesurathanam, Shepherdess Coordinator for the South Andhra Section; Hepzibah Kore, SUD Shepherdess Coordinator; and Vinodhini John, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Central India Union

✿ Nearly 30 shepherdesses benefited from a Shepherdess meeting at Ibrahimpatnam July 21-23 which was organized by Rukma Jesurathnam, South Andhra Section Shepherdess Coordinator. The shepherdesses



Widow clothing distribution. The first Adventist Church member giving a sari to an elderly widow.

enjoyed group discussion and searching the scriptures. They also rededicated their lives to serve the Lord faithfully and fruitfully.



Shepherdess meeting in Bangalore, January 2004



Group discussions at Bangalore meetings



Pastor Padmaraj, union president, welcomes the pastors' wives to the Bangalore Retreat

- ✿ Goa-West Karnataka Section reports that in 2003 Mrs. Esther Nazareth prepared 15 souls for baptism in Thigadolli, and Mrs. Nirmala Arthur prepared 12 souls in Kanadal for baptism.
- The South Karnataka Section has 16 shepherdesses working in schools, staying at home, involving themselves in branch Sabbath School, VBS, and visiting.

North Karnataka Section

- Mrs. Annpurna assisted Pastor Mark Sharma in meetings held at Holabellary and Kattithugoan. She gave Bible studies to 10 families which resulted in 12 souls for the year.
- ✿ In Sanjya, Nagar, and Kalebough villages, Mrs. Mary Solomon assisted Pastor Solomon in meetings. She won 11 souls for God's kingdom.
- Mrs. Indira assisted Pastor Raju in the meetings held in Honnattigi and Poothipalli. Bible studies resulted in six souls.

Bangalore Metro Region

- ✿ Mrs. Aliyamma Jacob helped give Bible studies to a Muslim family, and they have accepted Christ secretly. Her influence has also won two souls.
- Mrs. Karuna Subhakar Rao is caring for two congregations in Siddapura and Bakshi Garden. She is giving Bible studies and has won 16 people to the Lord.
- Mrs. Bharathi Thompson is rendering full-time gospel ministry and caring for two churches at Summanahalli and H. B. Colony. She has won 18 souls.
- Mrs. Clara Thavasekaran in Rajivgandhinagar influenced a Hindu family to accept Christ.
- ✿ In the North Rayalaseema Region in April 2004, shepherdesses conducted a children's Sabbath School by teaching small choruses, stories, and memory verses. They also had a revival meeting that evening. Many people requested prayer for their spiritual needs.
- ✿ In the Jharkhand Bihar Section, Mrs. Phulti reports that she visited a village called sinjuri. One of the family members was possessed by an evil spirit. After much prayer, the family is not troubled by evil spirits anymore.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

❖ When the earthquake and tsunami devastated the Indian Ocean coastlines on December 26, 2004, two shepherdesses sprang into action. Sherine Perera, Shepherdess Coordinator for Singapore Adventist Mission, and her husband were spurred by the hurt of losing Sherine's cousin and family. They collected clothing, food, and usable items. Many volunteers came to help pack goods and load containers. They were overwhelmed by the response of generous people.

Sherine and her daughter, Rochael, left January 17, 2005, for the Moratuwa Adventist Church and arrived in time to receive the container of gifts and spent one week distributing the symbols of love.

✿ Mrs. Man-Ling Leong, Shepherdess Coordinator for the mission in Kuala Lumpur, gathered shepherdesses and Pathfinders to offer help to the Red Cross packing clothing and other items. She worked with Mrs. Ellen

Mrs. Ellen Andrews, a registered nurse, and Mrs. Man-Lin in the First Aid Course



Graduates of the First Aid Course



Group with Mrs. Leong (standing at right)

Patrick, shepherdess from Klang Valley, in starting Basic First Aid training. Because of these activities, four people have begun Bible studies. Please continue to pray for those affected by the tsunami.



Pathfinders preparing clothes



Children, victims of the tsunami, waiting for food and clothes



Some of the ladies helping with clothing distribution



Clothing awaiting distribution to tsunami victims



Destruction caused by the tsunami



Tsunami devastation



Temporary housing for tsunami victims



Peninsular Malaysia Mission Shepherdess uniforms

✿ Mrs. Dorothy Biswas, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Bangladesh Union, organizes the Shepherdesses each year for extensive evangelism in their local towns. Here are some highlights of their continuing efforts which have been bountifully blessed by God.



Mrs. Dorothy Biswas and her shepherdess team who organized the outreach program. From left to right—Usha Baidya, Juie Hagidok, Mary Mitro, Dorothy Biswas, Lita Murmu, Cecelia Kisku



A baptism inside the campus of WBM



Mrs. Dorothy Biswas, BAUM Shepherdess Coordinator, conducting the evangelistic effort. She is talking about Creation and the Sabbath.



Mrs. Dorothy Biswas (center in red) and her Shepherdesses lead a meeting



Lunch is served



A packed house listens intently



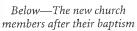
Young and old learn of Jesus



A group of baptismal candidates



Left—The husband and wife who were baptized with the pastor's wife (in a blue sari) who prepared them







The church is full in one location



Mrs. M. Mitra speaking to the attendees in Mushuria



Mrs. Mitra preaching in Godaipur



All the shepherdesses present and ready to work



Opening of the meetings



Children attend and are involved



Baptisms from the meetings



Health training is incorporated



Women and children are educated



A new start for many



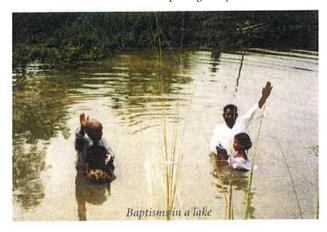
The men are taught separately



River baptisms



Pastor Halder baptizing in a pool



Mrs. Mitra, Shepherdess Coordinator, worked with Pastor Halder, Pastor Rema, and Mr. Mitra in conducting meetings in Godaipur during April 2004. She spoke on Christian adornment, the health message, and being a shepherdess and mother. There were 35 baptisms.



Baptism in the West Bangladesh Mission



Dorothy Biswas, Shepherdess Coordinator, speaking at the West Bangladesh Mission meetings

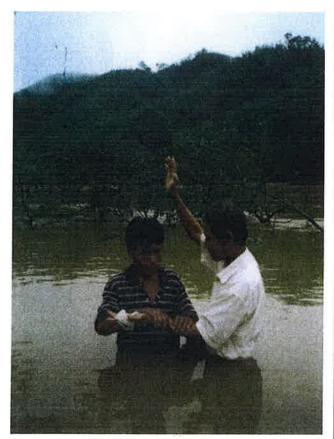
The Myanmar Mission reports on the work of Mrs. Naw Lar Htoo, a pastor's wife who works in Rakaine state, Ann township. It is a very difficult and remote district where there are many hardships and obstacles. Nevertheless, God has blessed her efforts and she has been privileged to see the results of her labors demonstrated in a baptism.



Naw Lar Htoo (left) and her ladies group



Naw Lar Htoo (left) with her deaconess helper (middle) and the deaconess's daughter (right)



Secret Myanmar baptism

Trans-European Division

✿ The TED Ministerial and Ministry to Clergy Spouses Advisory was held in Budapest, Hungary.



Elder Bertil Wiklander presents a seminar on leadership



Participants review and plan their ministerial documents



Mike and Karen Porter (center and right) president and shepherdess coordinator from the Middle East Union, with Stephen Carrow (left) from Newbold College



Lively discussion groups

The South England Conference held a retreat for pastors' wives in November 2004. Highlights of the week included:



South England Conference pastors' wives who attended the Retreat



Ladies enjoy a meal together



Ladies enjoy a seminar



Mrs. Rhona Hamilton, Shepherdess Coordinator (left), and Mrs. Mary McFarlane, conference sponsor (center)



Lovely decorations filled the beautiful meeting room. Karen Holford organized the design.

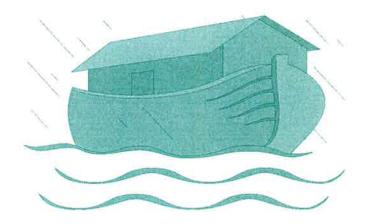


Fellowship was a highlight at the South England Retreat



Women's Ministries Shepherdess International are sponsoring special meetings and seminars on the theme "Transformed by Grace" al the America Center in the America's Ballroom Bevel 2, Room 220-229 at the General Conference Session in St. Bouis, Missouri.

Don't Miss the Boat in St. Louis!



The Ministerial Association has a boatload of useful ideas and resources for pastors and lay leaders. From sermon outlines and study helps to counseling aids and personal inspiration, they're all aboard (and in stacks of more than two and seven). We are leaving the door open for you. Booths #627-722 (just look for the big boat).

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