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 seven-pound Yorkshire Terrier. Through her life, God is teaching me a lot about His second book, nature. So here are seven lessons learned via canine wisdom:

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.

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Shepherdess International News

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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 Masai 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.
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](image)

![Maeve Maurer (left) visits with a pastor's wife](image)

![Majbritt Hendrickson Shepherdess Coordinator for the Spanish Union, interacts with her pastors' wives](image)

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](image)

![Mrs. Kari Paulsen, Shepherdess Sponsor, shares a message with the ladies](image)
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.

Rae Cooper led out in the exercise break each day.

Ladies enjoy the presentation.

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:

Song service at Shepherdess Retreat in Korea

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.

Group discussion at the Shepherdess Retreat in Korea

Listening to a presentation at the Shepherdess Retreat in Korea

The Eunbitsori Flute Band performing
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:

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
During each program there was an exercise time for the ladies

Shepherdess at closing ceremonies

Union AFAM ladies

Elder Nagel presents the opening address

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

Mrs. Creunete Cardoso (right) and a conference coordinator
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.

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:
Mrs. Sharon, Union Shepherdess Coordinator

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

Mrs. Kore presents the opening address

Elder and Mrs. Cress and Elder and Mrs. Kore

Elder and Mrs. Kore

Pastoral couples enjoy Mrs. Kore's opening message
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.

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

 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

 Group discussion

 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

 Group photo in Nellore

 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.

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Shepherdess meeting in Bangalore, January 2004

Group discussions at Bangalore meetings

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

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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 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.

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

Pathfinders preparing clothes

Graduates of the First Aid Course

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

Group with Mrs. Leong (standing at right)

Some of the ladies helping with clothing distribution
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 Kikku.
A baptism inside the campus of WBM

Lunch is served

A packed house listens intently

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

Young and old learn of Jesus

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

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

Below—The new church members after their baptism

Mrs. Mitra preaching in Godaipur

All the shepherdesses present and ready to work

The church is full in one location

Mrs. M. Mitra speaking to the attendees in Mushuria

Opening of the meetings
Children attend and are involved

Women and children are educated

A new start for many

Baptisms from the meetings

The men are taught separately

Health training is incorporated

River baptisms
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.

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.
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

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.

Ladies enjoy a meal together

Ladies enjoy a seminar

Fellowship was a highlight at the South England Retreat
Women’s Ministries and Shepherdess International are sponsoring special meetings and seminars on the theme “Transformed by Grace” at the America Center in the America’s Ballroom Level 2, Room 220-229 at the General Conference Session in St. Louis, 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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