



The Journal

A SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

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***Laura Kent:
Adventism's oldest pastor's wife***

The Journal



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Editor's Musings

Dear Friends,

The azaleas are blooming, and our summer guests have arrived. Mr. and Mrs. Robin Redbreast know that raising kids is serious business, and for the past three summers, our porches have suited their needs.

The first year, they decided that the big wreath on the front door was a perfect place. They built a beautiful nest, and Mrs. Robin laid three bright blue eggs. So that we could peacefully cohabit, we placed a sign on the porch saying "Robin Nursery" and directed visitors and peddlers to our other entrance. The Robins raised two beautiful sets of chicks that year.

The second year, they again built their nest in the wreath. Their first family grew up and flew away, but cowbirds discovered their second batch of eggs. These bad-tempered birds are the Robins' worst enemy. They waited until Mrs. Robin laid her eggs, and when she left to eat, a cowbird jumped in and laid one big white egg in the nest.

What usually happens in these situations is that the mother bird sits on all the eggs until they hatch. The cowbird chick is three times bigger than other baby birds, and because the mother bird hasn't figured out the treachery, the cowbird chick gets all the food, and the legitimate babies starve to death or die when the big cowbird chick shoves them out of the nest.

So I intervened. Four times I gingerly removed the big egg with a teaspoon. Then it was time for me to leave on an itinerary. What should I do? Coming home to dead baby birds on the front porch would be heartbreaking, so I removed the entire nest. Mr. and Mrs. Robin were very upset! I figured our trusting relationship was over. But now they have returned. They forgave me without understanding why I had removed their nest the year before. And this year, they wisely chose the other porch! Their beautiful home is in a potted tree. Three eggs have appeared with no lurking cowbirds in sight. We have established our respective territories, and each day Dixie and I eagerly await the big event.

So what have these feathery beauties taught me?

(1) Trust. Sometimes joy comes from unlikely places. And even when we don't understand why, some things happen for our own good.

(2) Forgiveness. Don't lose a good relationship over something you don't understand.

(3) Time management. Mrs. Robin always takes three days off between building her nest and laying her eggs. Guess she knows she needs to nurture herself before assuming greater responsibilities.

(4) Awareness. Sometimes we are so focused on "good things" that we don't see big threats.

Pay attention to the godly creations around your home. We can learn many lessons from God's second book!

Your friend in Jesus,

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Bloom Where You Are Planted



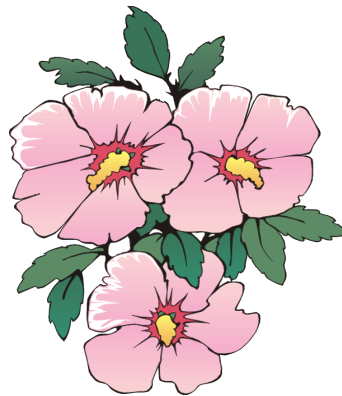
Hepzibah Kore

Hepzibah Kore is the Shepherdess Coordinator and Women's Ministries Director for the Southern Asia Division in India. She loves working with pastors' wives and lay women encouraging them to use their gifts to serve God by serving the people. Her passion at the moment includes to literate the women of the church and to encourage women to be witnesses in their community. She also enjoys writing articles. She and her husband Gnanaraj have one married daughter and two grandsons, Joash and Jared, who are the joy of their lives.

For most of our ministry assignments, my family and I have lived in apartments upstairs. But when we moved to Hosur, the division headquarters, I had a garden of my own. I did not work in the garden enthusiastically and cheerfully at first; rather, I was forced into it. I had to weed, water, and prune to keep the garden presentable. As the days passed, I saw the fruits of my labor and began to enjoy gardening. I spent all my spare time in the garden.

I became the Shepherdess Coordinator and Women's Ministries Director of the former South India Union in the latter part of 1993, and then for the division in 1998. This position took me to different places, and I began collecting seeds, seedlings, bulbs, and cuttings from wherever I went, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Washington D.C., and California. Each one found a place in my garden. I enjoyed nurturing them. There were times I talked to them and sang to them. Some thrived. I enjoyed the beauty of the flowers and their sweet fragrance. They bloomed where I planted them. I spent more time with those that did not grow well, only to see them wither and die a slow death. Though sad and disappointed, I learned that God has placed different plants in different places to suit the climatic conditions.

God, in His wisdom, has planted you and me in a particular family, in a specific church, to bloom for Him, to disperse the fragrance of His love and draw many to the Savior. Let me share with you the story of one of the Bible characters who bloomed during Christ's time.



She was the offspring of a mixed race, hated by the "pure" race of the day. Given a choice, she would have chosen to be a member of the pure race. Nevertheless, if you believe that children are a heritage of the Lord, she definitely was one. Though her birthplace, race, and family were not her choice, her lifestyle was. It was not worth mentioning. She was probably shunned, ridiculed, mocked, despised, and rejected by the young and old of her society. Why else would she choose to go to the well at an odd time when the rest of the community went in the morning and evening?

Strangely enough, she found a man at her destination who belonged to the pure race. Most people in this group hated her community and did not want to have anything to do with her people. None of them passed through her town at any time. To her surprise, this man started a conversation with her, contradictory to the culture of the day and his race. Hiding her emotions, she bravely wove into the conversation. Asked questions. Clarified her beliefs. Told the truth. Shared what she knew. Longed for the invaluable commodity this stranger was willing to offer for free, little realizing the spiritual application of it. Because she listened, asked questions, and believed what the stranger told her, she had the privilege of an encounter with the Messiah.

Who would believe an ill-reputed woman? Did she care about her reputation? No, she could not keep the good news of her encounter with the Messiah a secret. Ignoring

the mission that brought her to the well, she ran back to town, her heart overflowing with joy and happiness, and with hope for her future, which she never experienced in her life; she invited her fellow townsmen to have an encounter with the Messiah she had found.

The Samaritan woman permitted Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to weed the garden of her heart, quench her thirst with the “living water,” and nourish her soul with the “bread of life.” The rays from the Sun of Righteousness embraced her life, enabling her to bloom where God had planted her and dispersing the fragrance of His love and mercy.

Despite her reputation, “many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony” (John 4:39).

The God who planted the lotus in muddy, stagnant water to bloom with all its beauty and fragrance enabled the woman whom He planted in Samaria to bloom in Sychar, leading many to the Savior.

What did Jesus do to make the Samaritan woman bloom where she was planted?

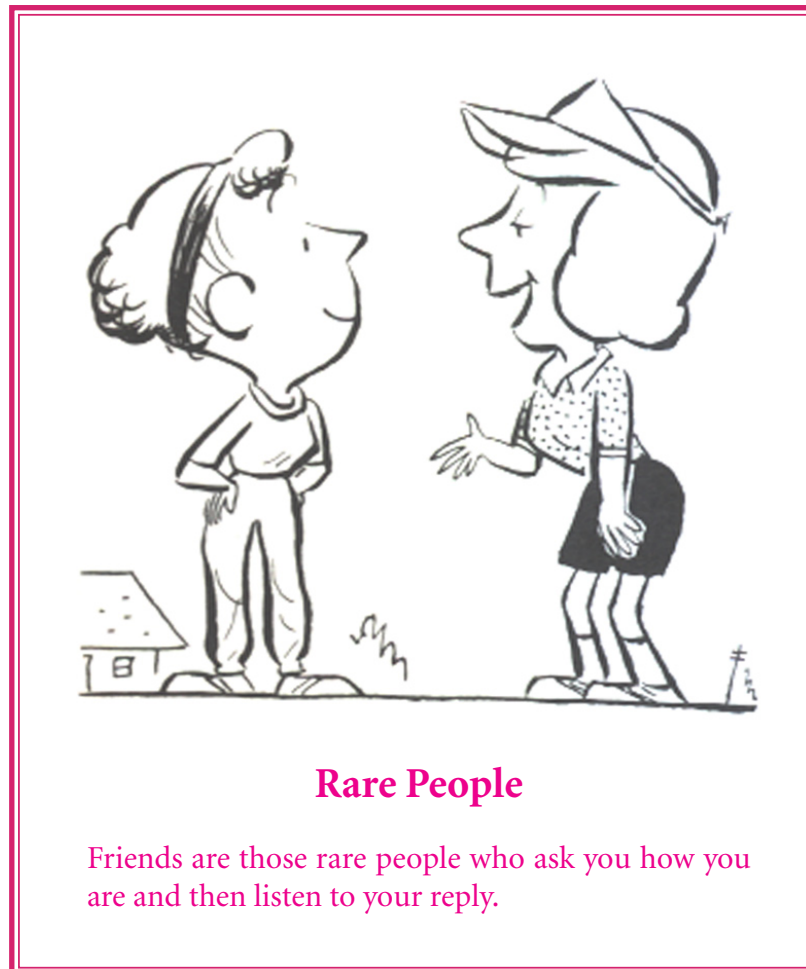
1. Jesus Christ valued the worth of the Samaritan woman.
2. Jesus considered her worthy of eternal life.
3. Jesus initiated contact with something familiar.

4. Jesus listened while the woman spoke.
5. Jesus aroused interest.
6. Jesus said just enough for her to long for more.
7. Jesus accepted her as she was.
8. Jesus kept the conversation focused and to the point.
9. Jesus revealed His identity in a simple manner.
10. Jesus went where He was invited.

You will bloom where God has planted you if you will:

1. Listen to God’s voice.
2. Converse with Him anytime, anywhere.
3. Believe that He cares for you.
4. Confess your sins.
5. Yearn for the “living water.”
6. Have an encounter with God.
7. Share what the Lord has done for you.
8. Permit God to weed the tares from your heart.
9. Meditate upon what He says.
10. Allow the Son of Righteousness to fall on you.

Choose today to bloom where you are planted, to disperse the fragrance of God’s love and drawing many to the “Living Water.”



Rare People

Friends are those rare people who ask you how you are and then listen to your reply.

A Tribute to Jo Rhodes



John Rhodes

John Rhodes is the “dean” of ministerial secretaries. He is now retired and lives with his wife, Jo, in Riverside, California.

The wise man says in Proverbs 18:22, “He that marries a wife does a good thing, and he will find favor with the Lord.” Solomon must have had Jo in mind when he wrote that. Jo was my answer to prayer.

When we were students at La Sierra College, I was in my junior year and realized I would need a wife to get a call to the ministry. While I had dated Jo’s roommates and later married two of them—I hasten to mention, to other men—I hadn’t really known Jo. A fellow student suggested to me one Friday night that we hike up Two Bit, the large hill behind the college. There he would join me in prayer that God would lead me to the right girl to marry. A few days after that, I was at the old college hall. It was Skate Night and the dean said, “See that girl out there?” and pointed to Jo. “Why don’t you ask her for a skate?” I took him up on his suggestion. Immediately I fell for her, and we dated the rest of that year. At the end of the year, we had a simple wedding in a little chapel near my home off Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles.

Who was this lovely girl? Jo was the youngest of two sisters and two brothers. She grew up in White Bear, Minnesota. Her father died at age 42. Her two brothers got married, as did her sister. The other sister took up nursing, and Jo was left behind. She got a train ticket from her brother, who worked for the railroad, and went to live with an uncle in California. She took a job at the Glendale Sanitarium in housekeeping and saved enough to start working her way through nursing at La Sierra College.

Jo worked as a secretary to the dean of women when she was going to school. After our marriage, she used these skills to get a job at Norton Air Force Base. I got a job as

an attendant at Patton State Hospital, working nights, and went to school part-time during the days, which enabled me to finish my junior year. Jo and I were people of faith—we had \$40 between us on our wedding day.

We lived in Loma Linda in a little \$15-a-month cottage. The next summer, I colporteur and Jo worked as a secretary at a trucking company. We then moved to Pacific Union College for my final year of ministerial training.


Jo was creative and made orange crates into bedside tables with curtains in front and doilies on top. She made our attic home so attractive. Jo worked as secretary to the librarian, and I worked as a cook in the kitchen. With my colporteur scholarship and both of us working part-time, we ended the year with only \$8 in debt.

After camp meeting I began my ministry at Cedar Falls, a conference summer camp, as a boy’s counselor. Jo got a job in the kitchen. After the boys were sleeping, we would tell each other good night behind the trees for a few minutes. We got our first pay check and felt rich with the little we had made.

Thus began more than 40 years of ministry. Folks always loved Jo. At our first baby shower, the church rallied around her and literally showered her with baby gifts. Jo would say, “I have no talents,” yet her modest humility was her greatest gift. I have seen many a pastor’s ministry ruined by a pushy wife. Jo’s greatest contribution was her warm concern as a greeter at the door of the church. She would direct folks to my pastor’s class. We were a team. Jo was a devoted homemaker. With just a little, she made things look elegant. She took classes on healthful cooking, and I give credit to her for my many healthy years.

Jo went back to school after our children were in school and earned a nursing degree from Long Beach City College, where she made the dean's list (with great distinction) and scored a 99 percent on her National League of Nursing exams. For the last 20 years of her career, she worked for a surgeon as his nurse. She retired at the age of 72. From time to time, we bump into a patient who knew Jo, and they are always happy to see her again. The

doctor she worked with attests to how much the patients loved her and missed her when she retired.

As a team, we celebrate 18 years as retiree directors. At retiree retreats, she serves as a hostess, making each attendee feel welcome. I can say with Solomon, "He who marries a wife does a good thing and finds favor with the Lord," as I did with Jo as my companion of 64 years so far, as of last September 6. 

Blame God? Yes!

Sandra Johnson

Sandra Johnson is a missionary wife in Zaokski, Russia.

Victoria was in her early thirties when she died of cancer. She left a broken-hearted husband and a little girl who didn't understand why mommy wasn't coming back.

Terri fell during tumbling practice in his high-school gym and is paralyzed from the neck down.

Every day babies are aborted or born addicted to drugs or abused by the people who are supposed to love and care for them.

The list is endless. We could go on and on about the horrible, frightening, unimaginable, inexplicable things that happen to innocent children and grownups alike. We ask why, and there are no answers.

So we cast about for someone to blame. Someone has to be responsible or it might happen to us. Then it does.

Go ahead. Blame God. Hold Him responsible. He can take it. And He is still in control, all visible appearances to the contrary.

We worry that blaming God is not respectful. He is, after all, *God*. So we say, "God allowed Satan to do thus and so, and God can and does bring good out of it for our best good."

If I stand at my stove and watch my son pull the kettle of boiling water on his head and don't move to stop him, then say, "He learned a lesson about boiling water he needed to learn," no caring human being is going to say, "Don't blame her, she wanted her son to learn a valuable lesson." More likely my son would be removed from my care, and I would find myself in jail.

More than human parents know what is best for their child, God knows what is best for us. He knew when He created beings with the power of choice that the whole sin problem would come up. He knew when He created this world that Adam and Eve would sin and that humans would keep on sinning until the world became the horrible


mess it is today. Yet He created this world and has allowed evil to run rampant for thousands of years.

So why do we go to great lengths to avoid letting God be responsible? It is very hard for us to reconcile the God who loved us enough to allow His Son to die for us with the God who allows the horrible, cruel, wicked, heartbreaking things we live with every day. But we must. God asks us to trust Him, to accept that He knows the end from the beginning and that His ways are just and true. "He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he" (Deut. 32:4).

If we cannot put the responsibility of this wicked world on the One who is able to take that responsibility, we are undone. There is no other answer. A nuclear war that destroys all life would be the most humane solution to the hopeless situation.

But, glory to God, He is in control. For reasons far beyond our understanding, He is allowing Satan to wreak havoc on this world. He is allowing horrible things to happen to the good as well as to the bad.

But He will make it right again. Not always right now and not always in the way we think it should be, but in the way that He knows is best. Someday, we will stand before God, and He will explain everything. Then we will understand and say, "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages" (Rev. 15:3).

So go ahead and blame God. Let Him assume the responsibility that belongs only to Him. But don't stop there. Trust Him. Lean on Him. Accept His control in the bad as well as the good. And He "will turn your mourning into gladness and give you comfort and joy instead of sorrow" (Jer. 31:13, paraphrased). He is, after all, *God*. 

Are You Blaming Yourself For Your Prodigal?

Name Withheld

The author is writing anonymously to protect her daughter's privacy.

My husband and I have experienced the reality of knowing that “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (3 John 4). Our two daughters professed Christ at an early age, witnessed in their schools, traveled on mission trips, and embarked into adult life with a passion for Christ. Our family life has been built around joy and laughter, and even through our girls’ teen years, we enjoyed close family times backpacking and ministering together here and abroad. The girls have been characterized as leaders, constantly encouraging and challenging those around them to live their Christian beliefs.

It always brought us great joy, knowing that our children were walking in the truth. Then one bought into a lie. Now we see the flip side to the above verse; there is no greater sorrow than seeing your children walk in a lie. Since our daughter’s ungodly choice, we have grieved for the loss of our close family relationships, for our witness in our community and family, over the eventual consequences of her decisions, and even grieved that God would allow this to happen. Our joy, peace, energy, and focus have been drained and replaced with despair, anger, fatigue, and distractedness. We have been plagued by questions. How could this happen? What should we do? What would influence her? How should we respond? Our close family was thrown into crisis: joy turned to sorrow, and lies were twisted truth. The parable of the prodigal son has become a real and personal journey with a precious, yet prodigal, daughter.

At one point in this heavy journey, I had a mental picture of us facing our prodigal daughter, she standing with her back to us. We were pleading and begging for her to turn around, to listen to God’s Word, and to recognize the lies. Then the focus shifted. God was standing behind me, my back turned to Him, and He was calling me to turn around and recognize the lies. God was trying to get my

attention while I was trying to get my daughter’s attention. Her lies were different from mine. But nonetheless I had also been ensnared by lies. God was pleading with me to recognize and accept His truth in my own life.

God’s truth needs to be sorted from the enemy’s lies. I cannot allow my daughter’s actions to *define* me, but I can, through God’s help, allow them to *refine* me. Through godly counsel and His Word, the truth is being sifted from the enemy’s subtle and pervasive lies. The refinement process is not complete, but I have identified, examined, and discarded the following lies:

What if?

The enemy loves to get us into the “what if” blame game. What if I had been more persuasive? What if I had counseled her with more studied words? What if I had been more discerning? What if I had just been a better mom? I was consumed with analyzing every nuance over the past years, reviewing my interactions and questioning my role as both mother and wife. My analytical thoughts became paralyzing, and I spiraled downward into a pit of remorse and inadequacy. Slowly, I began to see that it was not all about me. My eloquence or lack of it, my parenting skills or lack of them, will not ultimately change a heart. That is the Holy Spirit’s job. I can be obedient to God’s direction. I can do the best I can in parenting and counseling. But the ultimate work is God’s. My pleas will not bring a prodigal into right thinking, right living, or right decisions. Our daughter made this choice in spite of Scripture, godly models, and counsel, and she will also reap the consequences of her choice. Ezekiel 18:20 reminds us that “the son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.” I can neither accept the blame nor take the credit. The “what ifs” must cease because they are not from God.

Parent well and your child will not make ungodly choices

When my daughter turned away from her firm foundation, I questioned how this could happen to *my* family. Subconsciously and incorrectly, I presumed that Proverbs 22:6 —“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”—guaranteed a child’s godly choices. Through my own heartache, the Lord showed me that I have wrongly judged others and their parenting abilities. I thought if someone had a child not walking with the Lord, it was always a direct reflection on their parenting skills. Now on the other side with a wayward daughter, I realize the lie and repent of my judgment of others. Godly parenting does not guarantee a godly child.

My prodigal adult child disqualifies me for ministry

One of the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:4 for an overseer is to “manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.” This does not refer to adult children. But Satan wants to fuel our insecurities, point out our inadequacies, and cripple our ministries. Instead of stepping out of ministry, we should step up to be used by God. The more open and transparent we are in our parenting journey, the more dependent we are on Him for strength, and the more opportunities there will be for us to minister. Answering concerned inquiries about our daughter has allowed us to be open to those sharing similar burdens. One embarrassing instance of addressing pointed questions at a neighborhood party resulted in a phenomenal opportunity to share God’s truth. Leadership is not about being perfect—it is about being humbly obedient and available. Transparency and vulnerability can make us better servant ministers.

God is powerless to intervene

Somewhere in this extended battle, I crossed the line from believing God *would not* act to believing God *could*

not act. I fell prey to the lie that God could not change our daughter’s mind or way. My personal systematic theology had me spinning in circles around God’s sovereignty and the free will of man. The Lord has chosen to not answer my fervent prayers to radically intervene in our daughter’s life. Since faith and hope are intricately entwined, I used to feel hopeless. My view of God was too small. I still do not understand how God’s sovereignty and free will work, but I have become convinced that God is so much bigger than we can ever imagine. He can and will intervene if He so chooses. This mom needs to trust more, worry less, and stop trying to figure everything out. He is God and I am not! My God, our God, is a God of hope that fills us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him (Romans 15:13), and He is more than able to do great things.

This mother’s journey in parenting a prodigal is far from over. The hurt and sadness are still very real. But as the Lord has revealed the insidiousness of the enemy’s lies, the burden has become more manageable. Now I can focus on what I am learning instead of on what my daughter should be learning. This was reiterated during a recent visit. We were scheduled to rendezvous with our precious prodigal after church. The sermon was unexpectedly relevant: “Grace Demands a Death.” The pastor pointed out that if we are to extend grace as Christ did, we must also experience death. As parents, we need to die to our dreams, our desires, and our expectations for our children. We need to love them unconditionally, expecting nothing in return. Still stirred from this poignant message, we exited the church building and saw our daughter standing on the far side of the parking lot. My husband *ran* to our cold, stiff daughter, standing sullenly by the car, and wrapped her in a warm, loving hug. That was our best visit to date! My hope has been renewed; He is restoring my soul. Like Habakkuk, I will wait and keep watch from the ramparts to see what the Lord will do. God is in control, and He loves us and our prodigals dearly.



The Executive and His Family

Edward R. Dayton

*Christian Leadership Letter, Edward R. Dayton,
World Vision International*

There is probably nothing that has greater impact on the effectiveness of the Christian executive than his or her relationship with the family. On one hand, Christian organizations tend to shy away from interfering with an individual's family life. On the other, as in the case of the local church, they may have very high expectations for the role a pastor's family should play. There is tension here that must be handled with discretion and care. We need some way of thinking about the overall situation. Fortunately, there are some basic principles which, if understood by both the individual and the organization, can be of great help to both. We think about this in terms of priorities. Which things will be the most important in our lives?

Three levels of priority

It is my profound conviction that there are three levels of priority for the Christian, and that the relationship between these priorities is of prime importance. These priorities relate to the whole structure of our life's relationships, including our relationship to our family.

Our first priority is obviously to God in Christ. The Bible leaves no room for disagreement here. Our commitment to God must be ultimate. Few would argue with this as our first priority.

The *second level of priority* is not so universally appreciated. The Bible calls us first to a commitment to God, but second to a commitment to one another. The biblical concept is that the work of Christ is carried out by His Church, not by individuals (Ephesians 4:12f). Indeed, the New Testament focuses primarily upon the relationship of believers to one another and to the world, rather than on the work that Christ's followers are to fulfill. Romans 12 is a good illustration of this. After 11 chapters of theological framework, Paul devotes a major section not to evangelism but to relationships with one another. Jesus told His disciples that the way others would know that we were His disciples was by the love that we had for one another (John 13:35). Certainly for the married Christian

man or woman, his or her spouse comes at the top of such a list. The Bible is clear about the unique relationship of husband and wife, going so far as to call them "one flesh." Paul tells us this relationship is so special that the only way to think about it is as the relationship Christ has with His Church (Ephesians 5:22f).

A third level of priority is the commitment we have to the work of Christ. And yet it is clear from Ephesians 4 that this work is to flow forth from a unique combination of gifts given to individuals for the building up of the body of Christ.

Obviously Christian organizations focus on the work of Christ. How then do we reconcile the tension between the second and third levels of commitment?

The organization man

Unfortunately, too many executives, Christian and otherwise, resolve this dilemma in favor of the organization. It is probably in the nature of the executive that he or she is generally a task-oriented person who finds satisfaction in the task at hand. As the Christian leader assumes increased responsibility within the life of the organization or church, the demands on his or her time increase proportionately. The time spent with a spouse or child decreases. In this situation, it is very easy for the Christian executive to leave his wife behind, both educationally and emotionally. (See "When Did You Leave Your Wife?" in *Christian Leadership Letter*, March 1977.)

Success can be a deadly enemy. As an individual rises to a position of leadership in an organization and becomes conscious of making a significant contribution to the growth and welfare of the organization, the work can become more and more exciting. Past successes generate enthusiasm for new ventures. We easily become stretched beyond our own capabilities. Fatigue and its accompanying sense of despair can drive us on to new endeavors, rather than warning us to slow down.

Part of the tension is the question of calling. Is the wife or husband of the Christian executive also called to

the same work? Traditionally, when a pastor has been called to a church, the congregation has assumed that the wife was part of the package; the wife was seen as an extension of her husband. But what about the Christian organization? Too often just the opposite has been true. The organization assumed that the task of the wife was to stay at home and have little or nothing to do with the life of the organization. In fact, organizational wives are often viewed as a source of discontent and potential gossip. (It is worth noting that some Christian organizations have taken the opposite tack and made a point of hiring both husband and wife and sometimes other members of the family.)

The second priority

If you are one of those people whose life seems to center completely on the work to which God has called you, we suggest the need for an ongoing reevaluation of your commitment to the body of Christ, particularly to your family. Use the same executive skill that you bring to your organization to think about the health of your family.

Your appointment book is a good place to begin. Most of us put down in our appointment books those engagements which have the highest priority in our lives. Are your spouse and your children in your appointment book? If your wife and children analyzed your time based on your appointment book, would they feel that they have a significant priority in your life? What can you do to set aside time in the months ahead to be with them during times that are important to them? Have you taken your wife or your teenage son or daughter out to lunch recently? Perhaps your schedule is full this month. But plan ahead!

Your understanding of your call needs to be shared with your family. They need to understand what it is you do and why you do it. It is amazing how many children have misconceptions of their parents' work. Have you let your children spend the day with you at work? Have you ever walked them through your organization's facilities and explained to them how different things work? What about taking your children on a business trip? If you are a person who is required to do a considerable amount of traveling, perhaps you can save ahead so that your wife can accompany you on some of these trips, not only to experience the travel stress that you have, but also to see the ministry in which you are involved.

Family times need to be protected. Too many executives take their work home, and children view this work as competition. Many executives and pastors encourage people to contact them at home, leading the family to develop an "us vs. them" mentality. This is a particular problem for the pastor.

Each week, time should be reserved exclusively for the pastor and his family. This appointment should be kept (except in the case of a real emergency). The congregation needs to hear from the pastor that this is an important priority with him. This needs to be *quality* time. It is

all too easy to be in each other's presence without really experiencing each other's person. An evening of games, a day at the park or beach, or some other mutually enjoyable experience can happen with some advance planning. Take a look at your children's calendars. Do they have ballgames or other sports events that they would like you to attend? And don't overlook your older children. They still need you, even though at times they may not act that way.

The *devotional life* of the family can quickly be neglected by the Christian leader with "greater" responsibilities. Visit your local Christian bookstore for help here. Don't assume that because you're an effective pastor or because you're a well-known speaker, you have insight into what would be appropriate for children and families.

Vacations are important. Perhaps you and your wife need an occasional vacation away from the children. For family vacations, try to understand each family member's needs; many family vacations have been ruined because each member had a different perception as to what the goal of the vacation was.

Planning is important. We suggested earlier that you use some executive skills to strengthen the health of your family. In the merry-go-round world in which we live, our only defense against the unbearable number of demands that will be placed upon us is to start planning into our lives those things which we believe would honor God and benefit ourselves and our families. Compare your calendar with your spouse's and your children's. What do they tell you about the way you're spending your time? Can you see areas where you could set aside time to build into each other's lives?


Don't overlook "unplanned" time. When you see that you're going to be in a high-stress situation, such as extended travel, allow some free time, either days or hours, to do nothing except what comes to hand. It's a great tension reliever.

One man's experience

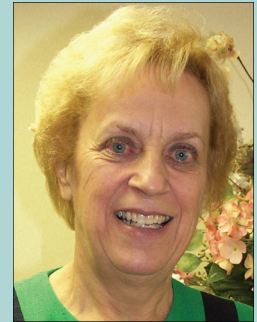
A Christian executive shared with us his frustrations of being so involved with his work that his family always suffered. No matter how hard he tried, he arrived home each evening still full of the day's problems. He tried the suggestion of leaving his worries on a "worry tree" in the front yard. It didn't work. Finally, he sensed the Lord was telling him he was going about it the wrong way. Rather than empty his mind of his concerns, he saw that he should fill it with thoughts of his family. His drive home was about five miles. He picked conspicuous landmarks along the way and associated them with specific members of his family. As he passed each one, he tried to imagine what that family member would have been doing that day, what special concerns he or she would have, what he would like to discuss with him or her that evening. By the time he walked up the front path, his mind was on his family. Now the cries of "Dad's home!" began to have real meaning. As he expressed it, Dad was *really* home, and the family knew it.

We are made for relationships

The most important part of God's creation is people. Relationships are what life is all about. No matter how high our spiritual calling, the basis of our effectiveness

is our effectiveness as members of a mystical body called the Church, and the love we have for one another. If you are looking for a measure of your effectiveness, check out the love within your family. 

First Corinthians 13 for Ministers' Wives



Roxy Hoehn

Having spent her life in a parsonage, Roxy Hoehn has a passion for pastors' wives. She has recently retired as Women's Ministries Director and Shepherdess sponsor for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, and in that capacity started the M&M retreat for Mates in Ministry. In retirement she is torn between wanting to travel, spend time with her 11 grandchildren, and staying home to take care of the yard and be a good neighbor.

- If I can teach a good Sabbath School class and even preach a sermon, but can't love the church members, I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- If I have good intuition and can figure out unusual personalities and even have giant-sized faith, but have no love, I am nothing.
- If I give my clothes to the poor and work at the Community Service Center long hours 'til I'm ready to drop, but have not love, I have no advantage.
- Love means patience with my children, kindness and support for my husband and his ministry, and unwavering devotion to God. It means I don't envy the best musicians in the church or brag about the things I can do.
- Love means I'm polite, not trying to get the best for myself. It means I keep my cool and do not keep records on the church members who offend me or who criticize my husband.
- Love doesn't get pleasure from church gossip but celebrates the good news of babies, weddings, and baptisms.
- I put forth every effort to protect my husband's reputation, trust his judgment, hope for success, and keep persevering in ministry.
- God's love never fails. However, the time may come when nominating committees and church boards cease to exist and even sermons aren't preached.
- Now I have limited understanding, but when Christ comes, all my questions will be answered.
- When I was a little girl, I looked forward to getting married. I even wanted to marry a preacher. And now I really do live in the parsonage and have exciting opportunities for ministry.
- Some days I reflect Christ's life poorly, but as I see His love more clearly, I want others to get a better picture of Christ through me.
- Here are the enduring qualities: faith, hope, and love. *But the greatest of these is love.*

Laura Kent:

Adventism's oldest pastor's wife

NEWS FLASH

On May 13, Laura Kent celebrated her 108th birthday with family, friends, and neighbors. She enjoyed eating cake and gave a beautiful little speech. It was a memorable occasion with messages from the Prime Minister, Governor General, and the Queen.



Mrs. Laura Kent

Editor's note: In March 2007, Kay Winter, former SPD Shepherdess Coordinator, met with Laura Kent and her daughter, Glenda Hansford. Glenda assisted her mother in answering questions.

Kay Winter : In what year were you married?

Laura Kent: We were married on February 7, 1921.

Kay: When did you begin your ministry?

Laura: My husband began his ministry in 1920, so when we were married it was immediate.

Kay: Where all did you live and serve?

Laura: We began our ministry in South New South Wales in Sydney, Temora, Stockinbingal, Tumut, Adelong, and Wagga Wagga. Then we went to North Queensland area to serve in Prosperpine, Mackay, Charters Towers, Cairns, and Atherton Tableland. We then moved to South Australia Conference in Wallaroo. After that we served in South New South Wales again in Dubbo, Narromine, Mumble Peg, Warren, Wellington and Dunnedoo. Our ministry ended in Greater Sydney Conference. We served several churches in Sydney (Epping, Kellyville, Penrith, and Windsor) and another district that included Glenn Innes, Tenterfield, Inverell, and Bingara before moving on to Lismore. We owned our first home while in Casino and Kyogle. Then Ballina and Evans Head. We were at the Strand Church in



Glenda Hansford, Laura Kent, and Kay Winter

Cape Province, South Africa for 12 months of retirement. Also in retirement we were at the Foster-Tuncurry Church. Then we enjoyed our retirement home in Cooranbong. All together we lived in nineteen different homes.

Kay: What was your favorite place to live and work?

Laura: Laura Mackay, my birthplace. However, we made the most of every assignment we were given.

Glenda Hansford remembers: Glen Innes was possibly the worst. It was here that, at the age of 8, I saw my mother cry for the first time when she saw the house we had to live in. No paint, semi-detached—no heating, no floor coverings, a huge shell of falling-down boards. We arrived at this place at about 7:00 p.m. when it was dark. Our furniture had arrived, and I remember finding beds and making them. Because of the huge rooms, Mum insisted that I have a bed in their room. At about 3:00 a.m., we awoke to the house shaking as if in an earthquake, only to realize that we were right beside the Northern Tablelands rail line. Glen Innes was the coldest place she ever lived, and she hated the cold. Often the taps were frozen—the bathroom was outside the house! However, although she experienced ill health while here (breast cancer) and often felt very depressed, she never complained. When she felt lonely or depressed, she would sing until she felt on top of it all again. But she loved the people and always had a tasty morsel from her oven to give to those in need.

Kay: What was the best day of your life?

Laura: I'm not really sure of this. We loved life and enjoyed doing anything we could that would "further the Work"!! We had a wonderfully happy marriage, so perhaps my wedding day was the best day of my life, or perhaps the birth of each child.

Glenda: I understand she suffered terribly in childbirth, but she was and is still a wonderful mother.

Kay: What was the worst day of your life?

Laura: I nursed our eldest son, Mel, through very severe rheumatic fever, which developed into more serious complications. The attending doctor said he would never be employable because of the damage to his heart. I was caring for him one evening while Tom was conducting an evangelistic program in Mackay. We prayed together, and Mel requested he take promises from the promise box for the mission. It read “Be of good courage and I will strengthen your heart.” He assured his mother that he was going to be fine and that God had promised to heal his heart. Years later at Avondale College, he had to register for the army. The doctor refused to believe he had had rheumatic fever but was assured by the college matron, who was a relative of the family, that Mel was not lying. The doctor again looked at his papers and realized that he had been the attending doctor in Mackay who had told Mel that his heart would be damaged for life. He said it was nothing but a miracle.

Our daughter Rhoda suffered from asthma from three months of age and came close to death many times.



Glenda remembers again: Her own diagnosis of cancer came when she was 52. But through it all, she prayed the most amazing prayers! Morning and evening our family witnessed her on her knees, either in the quietness of her bedroom or the formal lounge room, praying for each of her family by name and for the “Work.” As I child, I thought her private devotions went on forever, but as a family we have all loved and appreciated her for her wonderful faith and prayers. Because of this, I am sure she would say there has never been a worst day of her life.

Kay: Can you share a human interest story?

Glenda: I really think Mum would say, “You’ve said enough”! She baked her own bread until she had a stroke at 105. To cook and make her home a delight was the joy of her life. Kneading bread for all those years was probably beneficial to her, and the exercise of kneading could only have done her good. So often my father would be going

Laura Kent and Kay Winter




visiting or to a study, and she would have a basket of food ready for him to take along to the home he was about to visit.

While in Wallaroo, she spilled a kettle of boiling water over one of her legs. In excruciating pain, she removed her stocking, but the skin came off with it. That must have been a terrible day for her.

I’ve thought of one story that was quite funny. Because she played the piano and wanted the children to learn piano, she wanted a piano for our home. She and Dad went to an auction where they had seen a piano advertised. Somehow they lost each other, and it wasn’t until they had been successful in obtaining the piano that they found they had been bidding against each other! I am not sure who made the highest bid, but the final cost was 21 pounds, 21 shillings, and we still have the piano in the family.

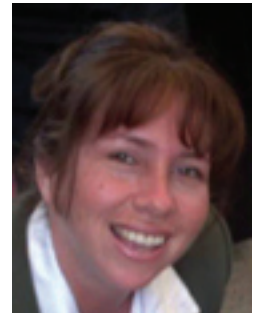
She made the most of every day, and I am sure the good Lord will take her bad memories away.

Laura: My motto in life was and still is, “Be content no matter what!” 



Laura Kent, Kay Winter, and Glenda Hansford enjoy a laugh together

When You Lead a Child by the Hand, You're Leading the Parents by Their Hearts



Annabella Franco de Abril

Annabella Franco de Abril has enjoyed cooking since she was a child and is an expert in vegetarian meals. She and her husband Mauricio pastor in San Camilo, Prov. De Los Rios in Ecuador. They are teaching their son Mauricio to love God. Annabella enjoys singing praise to God and telling others about His love. She is also involved in serving her community through ministry.

In Matthew 19:14, 15, our Savior says: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Have you ever reflected on the value of a blessing? What does it mean to bless? The dictionary defines it as thus: “To invoke in favor of a person.”

In the Old and New Testaments we find stories of special blessings of parents to children, grandparents to grandsons, etc. The act of blessing had a significant place in the social and spiritual surroundings of many lives.

Now Christ has in front of Him many mothers, tired and overwhelmed, many of them trying to determine what it means to raise a child, wishing fervently that their children would receive a special blessing from the lips of the Savior. Sister White comments, “He took the children in His arms, He laid His hands upon them, and gave them the blessing for which they came” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 511). “The mothers were comforted. They returned to their

homes strengthened and blessed by the words of Christ. They were encouraged to take up their burdens with new cheerfulness, *and to work hopefully* for their children. The mothers of today are to receive His words with the same faith. Christ is as verily a personal Saviour today as when He lived a man among men. He is as verily the helper of mothers today as when He gathered the little ones to His arms in Judea” (*Ibid.*, 512.1, emphasis supplied).

Jesus saw those faces radiant with peace and relief, all of their confidence deposited on Him, and He knew that He could not deceive them.

Today, many centuries after that scene, Christ continues blessing all those who approach Him with sincere hearts. He wishes to calm the anxiety and to clear the preoccupations of our lives.

As mothers, we are the first teachers of our children; we are called to shape ourselves in the image of God in the lives of our little ones. Is this an easy task? No, *but it*

is not impossible. It takes time, effort, perseverance, and above all, *intelligence*; all the talents promised by God will be received by those who ask in faith. He does not deceive anybody. It has been many centuries since Jesus walked on this earth, but His steps are present. “Just by His word will be enough.”

Teachers are also called by God to collaborate in the delicate task of drawing in the mind of the child and placing in it the image of our Creator. This is an arduous and sometimes difficult task, but how wonderful to see the fruits of our efforts in our children!

I want to share with you the experience of Jerilyn Cogan, a mother from a North American family, who, like many of us, looked for a Church within ours where she could give her children a more genuine spiritual experience. It was never her plan to begin an evangelistic campaign; she merely wanted to reach others for Christ.

One Sabbath, Jerilyn’s son was very excited about what his teacher had done in Sabbath School that day; it had been a long ago since he had had that much fun. The teacher had made the class very creative and dynamic.

After attending Cradle Roll for several weeks with her daughter, Jerilyn wondered what she could do to make the Cradle Roll class as much fun as her son’s class. “We only had two children in my daughter’s class,” she comments, “so I began by speaking with the teacher, with the Sabbath School Director, and we devised a plan. We made a list of all the members of the church who had children of this age, and we also included nephews, nieces, cousins, grandsons and granddaughters. I personally called each church member and invited him or her to accompany the child to Sabbath School. It was a fabulous venture of discovery through music, movement, and imagination. In some cases, it was necessary to offer a

personal guarantee and the support of an interactive class; many of these adults were no longer attending church. I gave them an invitation so that they would return and see how *wonderful* change can be.

“The first week I took six children on an enjoyable tour of Noah’s Ark. The following week, eight children showed up to be part of this biblical adventure. A hall classroom that had been adapted for two children now was too narrow. I realized that something so emotional had to be shared with other churches and with the community.

“I contacted the local newspaper and placed an announcement about our Cradle Roll class. After this, I received many calls and registered new children for the next week’s program. Parents were thrilled to see that their children could participate in a very interactive program and without any cost. Eventually we registered 25 more children in our Sabbath School class.”

Is this not an easy and creative way to evangelize? The benefits that the church and the community receive are immense.

I recall the phrase from the title of this article: “When you lead a child by the hand, you are leading the parents by their hearts.”

A vast field is ready for the harvest; we only need ideas,

goodwill, and the willingness to work together. *There does not exist work that we fulfill by ourselves; God needs our cooperation in salvation of souls.*

We must not neglect the important work that God has placed in our hands. Let us set egos aside and recognize that many people have gifts that are valuable in God’s eyes. Together we can all fulfill an important work for Him. Let us look for the best elements of the church and use them for service.

“People will forget what you say, forget what you do, but they never forget how you made them feel.”



Annabella, Mauricio, and Mauricio



I Proved His Promise

Judith Esperanza de Flores

Judith writes from her experiences as a missionary and as a primary school teacher in Adventist schools. She and her husband have two children and live in Venezuela. She is happy to be a pastor's wife and feels privileged to help in the work of God.

I was worried. It was the last part of the evangelistic meetings at one of the district churches. Church members from five other churches brought visitors from their sectors.

My job was to direct the children's meetings. The place where we were to meet was not big enough for us to be comfortable. The hall had a rug and two little benches. The church was under construction, so conveniences were few. On opening night, we arrived before the church members. I inspected the room, arranged things in the best way possible, set up the projector, tested the slides, and went over the illustrated material. Everything was in order. I prayed that God would help me and that the teachers would arrive to help.

I went out of the room and looked outside. At that moment, the bus arrived with members from one of the churches. I hurried back inside and stationed myself at the door to greet the large number of children coming in. I was nervous because they were of different ages, and I could tell by the way they acted and by their clothing that the majority were not Adventists. They all looked for places to sit. The bigger children pushed the younger ones. I tried to calm them down by situating the smaller children on the rug. The other teachers helped the bigger children sit behind the benches or near the wall.

I noticed one boy, about 12 years of age, acting restless and rude. "What's your name?" I asked.

"Charlie," he replied.

Charlie was rebellious and obstinate. He wanted to do what he wanted to do. His attitude affected the others. Afterward one of the teachers commented that Charlie was unbearable and out of control. That night I prayed that God would bless Charlie and control him. I also prayed for the other children.


The next night, the children arrived, and Charlie was with them. During the program, he was restless. I asked

him to be my helper and to turn the lights on and off as needed. I also asked him to help keep the children in line. He did as asked for a short while, then he left the room.

The third night he came determined to cause trouble. I prayed for Charlie. He left the room again, but the deacons brought him back as he spouted obscene language. Charlie came in ill-tempered. I called him to come up front and sit with me until it was time for the next teacher to lead. Then I invited Charlie to come sit with me on the steps to the baptistry. I gave him a hug. He calmed down. After a bit, two of the church members came out and watched us. They smiled and went back in. Charlie liked being with me and told me a few things. The rest of the meeting was very peaceful, and the teacher was able to teach her class without any trouble from Charlie.

As I left that night, the church elder from the church that Charlie attended asked me, "Sister, what do you have that enables you to control that 'monster'?" I wasn't sure what he meant until he said, "I asked one of my friends to come and see what I had just seen." Then he told me that Charlie had participated in robberies, and it was believed that he had even killed someone. The only thing I could tell him was that it wasn't me; it was the power of the Holy Spirit.

I thought about how such a disruptive boy became quiet. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit heard my prayers for Charlie and helped him. The Holy Spirit used me, even though I had no special ability.

I am sure that if you will use your abilities, ask for wisdom, and do things to glorify God, He will give you strength. You can be confident that you will be a useful instrument. "For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy one of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" (Isa. 30:15, KJV). 



Shepherdess International News

East-Central Africa Division

The following is a pictorial report from meetings recently held for the Shepherdess Coordinators and Women Ministry Leaders in ECD.



North American Division

Andrews University: In February 2007, Marti Schneider led out in meetings with the seminary wives at Andrews University. Sharon Cress attended to honor Cynthia Burrill for her dedicated work with theology spouses.



*Marti Schneider and
Cynthia Burill*

Northern New England Conference: In February 2007 pastors' wives gathered for a weekend retreat. The ladies arrived weary on Friday afternoon and left refreshed and inspired on Sunday afternoon. Lyn Ortel reports that they are proud of these ladies and grateful for them. Following are pictures from this event.



South Pacific Division

Morobe Mission: Partners in Ministry (PIM) coordinator Mrs. Esther Hamura reports that they had 16 members in 2004. They have been helping to replace materials with modern technology so that cooking will be more convenient for mothers who live in remote areas.

In April 2006, a pastor's wife conducted a one-week meeting in Ramu, which resulted in 12 baptisms.

Sepik Mission: Mrs. Elizabeth Nara was the Shepherdess Coordinator for 2004 and 2005. In 2005, she led the PIMs in preparing a proposal for the Community Development Scheme office to request funding to build a leadership training house. The center will be used to train ladies in areas of cooking, literacy skills, sewing, handcrafts, parenting, counseling, and other areas so they can return to their communities and share their knowledge with other women.

The PIMs also worked with Women's Ministries to get uniforms for congress at Pacific Adventist University.

The *Kanauki District* has seven members, and they have held two meetings where they spent time encouraging each other as they support their husbands in ministry.

Mrs. Lucy Moke became the PIM coordinator in 2006. She continued to work with the Community Development Scheme so construction could begin. A carpenter flew in to begin the work, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held.

Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission: Mrs. Yorio was the PIM Coordinator in 2004 and 2005. In April 2004 their group met at the Kama Primary School and held meetings that were enriching and practical. Seventy ladies came together August 28–September 5 for a “spiritual enrichment

program.” They had more practical training and helped develop each other's spiritual gifts and talents so they can better support their husbands and families in ministry. For some, this is the only training they will receive.

In April 2005, the worker's meeting was reported to be the best one yet. Mrs. Kola presented spiritual programs on Bible studies and the art of preaching. The ladies also learned to make peanut butter, axion, biscuits, pakipaki, and tapiok flour.



EHSM PIMs retreat at Kuso School

Mrs. Effrey Lohia became the PIM Coordinator in 2006. Their first meeting and training was held in Goroka in August 2006. Their next program was at the Kabiufa SDA Village Church; wives of officers and departmental directors were the facilitators.



Pr. and Mrs. Davai (right) with six newly ordained pastors and their PIMs at Goroka in 2006

Bougainville Mission: In June 2006, Mrs. Davai conducted worker's meetings with her husband. They shared recipes and ways to prepare local food more nutritiously. Sister Nancy taught flower arranging; Sister Ruphina conducted workshops on health, child care, and helping pregnant mothers prepare for delivery. Mrs. Rikis led the group in prayer ministry, and attendees encouraged each other through Bible study.



Pr. and Mrs. Davai with the Bougainville Mission family

North East Papua Mission: Mrs. June Oli was the PIM Coordinator in 2005. They held a meeting in Ramaga during the Mission Workers' meetings. Everyone participated in a nutrition class.

In 2006 Mrs. Dorcas Yorio became the coordinator. At the headquarters, there are only three families. When mission programs take place, Mary Soga, Waili Kwalu, and Dorcas Yorio work together. They, along with Mrs. M. Beso, teacher and wife of the headmaster at Inonda School, have supported mission sessions, workers' meetings, HIV/AIDS training, and Start Your Own Business training programs missionwide. Some of the ladies took part in the training to help support their husbands in a team effort.

South West Papua Mission: Mrs. Grace Elodo leads the PIMs in this mission. It is very difficult for them to all meet together, but they have planned programs for ladies at the mission on the third Thursday of each month. They encourage and pray for each other, and they sew together.

In April 2004, they held a retreat for families at Kinomere Church east of Kikori. A dugout canoe and dinghy with a 40-horsepower engine took the PIMs, husbands, and children to their destination. They spent a wonderful weekend with church members. Ninety percent of the church members are women and five percent are men. All the weekend programs were led by PIMs, as was a cooking demonstration. This is the first time that all the officers, departmental directors, and PIMs visited with this group. They were blessed!

New Britain New Ireland Mission: Mrs. Davai, along with her husband, attended a workers' meeting for this mission. There was good attendance, and this was the first opportunity for some to participate since they work in very isolated areas. Sometimes the spouses feel they are not part of the ministry, so workshops were targeted to be useful to partners in gospel ministry. There were also practical workshops such as baking, and how to make gluten, and participants were given other simple recipes. The ladies also made crafts to use in their kitchens.

North East Papua Mission: Mary Soga and Waili Kwalu conducted an outreach program for neighboring non-Adventist villages in January 2006. They had 45-50 people attending regularly. The ladies had worship with the participants and did cooking and sewing demonstrations. Those who attended commented that this was just the type of program they needed.

Western Highlands Mission: Susan Yehisembi shares how she sold food every Sunday at the market to help provide for her family while her husband attended Pacific Adventist University. Her sales were always the highest. This continued until her husband graduated and became General Secretary for Morobe Mission in 2003. The Lord blessed.

Australian Union: In February 2007 Merilyn Webster and Sharon Cress led the Shepherdess Advisory. Following is a pictorial report from those meetings.



Division PIM Coordinators during their Advisory at Crosslands



Children enjoyed the time at the meetings as well



PIM Coordinators met with Ministerial Secretaries at the SPD Advisory

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Africa Division

Pretoria: A Shepherdess Advisory was held near the new division office. Denise Ratsara, Shepherdess Coordinator, planned this event, and Sharon Cress was one of the speakers.



Sharon Cress and Denise Ratsara (back row right) with Shepherdess Coordinators for SID



Discussion time



The ladies sharing gifts with each other

Malawi Union: Gertrude Mfune, Shepherdess Coordinator for Malawi Union, shares the following pictorial report.



In September 2006, Shepherdesses cleaned an old woman's house during door-to-door visitation when they were holding a two-week evangelistic campaign in an unentered area where 26 souls were won.



Present Malawi Union Sponsor (in white headgear), Union coordinator (in black headgear)



Shepherdesses from North Malawi Field during a week-long seminar



Long-awaited Shepherdess seminar in North Malawi Field. From left, North Malawi Field Coordinator and Malawi Union Coordinator

Zambia Union: Avinat Chitebeta is the Shepherdess Coordinator and Patience Matandiko is the sponsor. At the Mongu Retreat, the ladies met in the village of Mandanga. They held a Shepherdess meeting in Mandanga. At the Monze Retreat, more than 150 elders' wives joined the Shepherdesses, as well as retired Shepherdesses. The topics at both retreats covered family worship, child guidance, leadership, home management, and counseling. A Shepherdess Convention was held June 30–July 3, 2006. Sister Patricia Samu from Zimbabwe was the guest speaker.

The ladies have also been active in community service by helping out at a senior citizens' home and with prison ministries.



Shepherdesses at a retreat in Zambia



Zimbabwe Union: The Shepherdesses in this Union have been focusing on five initiatives—Epaphras Ministry, Zechariah Project, Hezekiah Operation, Haggai Venture, and Paul's Method. The Epaphras Ministry is a prayer ministry. They believe that prayer is their strength. In Paul's Method, Shepherdesses share ideas on how to live up to the Word of God. They hold seminars in children's ministries, cooking, health, child-rearing, how to relate to the in-laws, care for infected children, and working with AIDS patients. The Zechariah Project is evangelism. The West Zimbabwe Conference enrolled 200 students in the VOP program. Fifty students have been baptized. The Central Zimbabwe Conference held an effort in October 2005 which resulted in 49 baptisms. The East Zimbabwe Conference spent time on the Hezekiah Operation, which helps Shepherdesses obtain self-reliance. They visited non-believers, conducted Bible studies, and baptized 39 people. In the Haggai Venture, Shepherdesses participated in church building promotion programs.



Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Lucena Chambugong, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Bangladesh Union Mission (BAUM), appreciates the opportunity to write a short report of Shepherdess International work in their field for 2006:

1. Shepherdess International training seminars were conducted in four missions on various dates. Each mission has one Shepherdess Coordinator. Local mission leaders are also assigned a local church pastor's wife to help her.
2. Shepherdess International evangelism programs were conducted in four missions: East Bangladesh Field, North Bangladesh Mission, South Bangladesh Mission, and West Bangladesh Mission. As a result, 146 souls were baptized. We are using all Shepherdesses, including retirees, and they are very happy to work with this project. Last year we had only a short time to do this program, but this year we are planning to do this program in the first part of the year.
3. We celebrated our pastors with a special appreciation program. Children presented special music, church members gave flowers to them, the Shepherdesses were also honored, and finally, they received a token of love from the church.

4. The local church Shepherdess leader formed home cell groups in different villages to pray and worship together.
5. A Shepherdess Advisory was held in BAUM with all mission Shepherdess Coordinators. Mrs. Helen B. Gulfan came from SSD. We are planning to do more training and evangelism with local Shepherdesses who are not paid workers. All are inspired and committed to conducting more effective programs in their own areas.
6. Social activities have been done in most of our local churches. These activities included: prayer bands, caring for the sick, home visitation, Bible study programs, help for widows, retreats, health programs, seminars on preparing for old age, and sharing old clothing.

In conclusion, I would like to share a quote from the *Desire of Ages*: "The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ" (p. 822).



Shepherdess evangelism program at Akonpara in North Bangladesh Mission



Shepherdess training seminar at Katalchora in East Bangladesh Field



Shepherdess training seminar at Joypurhat in West Bangladesh Mission



There were two baptisms as a result of the Shepherdess evangelism meeting in Mandra in South Bangladesh Mission

West-Central Africa Division

Central Africa Union Mission: In September 2006, meetings were held in Gabon. The union is comprised of nine missions and conferences. Following is a pictorial report of these meetings.

Pastors' wives gave special music



Angele Nlo Nlo, WAD Shepherdess Coordinator, preached in Libreville, Gabon, on Sabbath morning. Her translator was the mission president.



Angele Nlo Nlo, WAD Shepherdess Coordinator, with Mrs. Tchentu, (center), the mission president's wife, and Mrs. Wora (right), the secretary's wife

Cote d'Ivoire: Shepherdesses met at the Ivory Coast for meetings with Angele Nlo Nlo, WAD Shepherdess Coordinator. Following is a pictorial report.



In March 2007, WAD held a Shepherdess Advisory in Ghana. Angele Nlo Nlo led out and was assisted by Sharon Cress. The ladies enjoyed fellowship together.



Sharon Cress (center) with Angele Nlo Nlo (to her right) and Shepherdess Coordinators



Angele Nlo Nlo and Mary Mensah enjoying the meetings

New Low Price!

The Ministerial Resource Center is offering special prices on books for pastors' wives. Specially designed to meet each part of your life—spiritual, emotional and physical—these books will bless your life and would be a great gift for family and friends.



Seasoned With Love

A collection of pastoral wives' favorite recipes, this wonderful cookbook is filled with recipes for appetizers, breads, beverages, cookies, candies and everything else—all meatless!

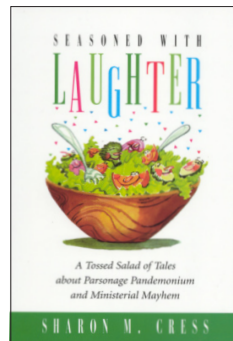
Editor: Sharon Cress
Cost: \$6.00



Seasoned With Love: A Second Helping

It is no secret that pastoral wives are some of the best cooks in the world. Whether preparing huge quantities of food for potluck dinners or entertaining angels unawares, food and fellowship form an integral part of their lives.

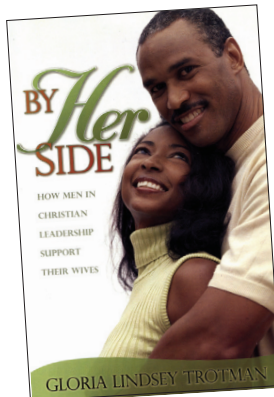
Editor: Sharon Cress
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Seasoned With Laughter

This book has been described as "a tossed salad of tales about parsonage pandemonium and ministerial mayhem."

Editor: Sharon Cress
Cost: \$3.00



By Her Side

This book will warm your heart and fill you with insights into the unique life of the pastor's wife. Many books have been written to prepare women for the role of a ministerial wife, but this book does an especially good job of revealing the heart of the mistress of the manse.

Author: Gloria Lindsey Trotman
Cost: \$3.00



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A gripping saga of a young Filipino freedom fighter in World War II who found the Lord while in a notorious Japanese prison camp.

Author: Dorothy Eaton Watts
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