



The Journal

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A Shepherdess International
Resource for Ministry Spouses





Editor's Musings

Dear Ones,

Far too many ministers' wives seem to live their lives believing happiness will be simultaneous with "if and when." "If ___ happens, I'll be happy." "When ___ occurs, I'll be satisfied." Well, it seems to me there are only two outcomes to this type of thinking. Either ___ will happen or it won't. If it doesn't, we will continue riding the same old worn-out horse of discontentment, believing happiness is just around the corner and continuing to live in daily misery. If ___ does happen, we will be rudely jolted into the reality that this occurrence wasn't what we thought would bring us happiness after all, and we will immediately set another if-and-when scenario, which will put us right back where we were before—immobilized into waiting.

If-and-when thinking is such a clever, devilish idea. It robs us of today when we could be enjoying the good things God gives us. This doesn't mean we don't have dreams and goals; personally, I long for the day I lose those last five pounds and will feel a sense of personal achievement when finally I get the kitchen repainted.

Last night, however, I savored a few bites of mango sorbet, and it was delicious! And I ate it joyfully—focusing on the section of the kitchen that is finished!

Friends, keep on striving for the best. Keep on looking to Jesus who is waiting to give us that svelte teenage figure once again and who has personally designed our final heavenly parsonage with no renovations required. But in the meantime, just for today, find a little bit of that heaven here. You probably won't have to look very far!

God bless you every one,

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Voice from the Jungle of Papua

I am Jeane Manusama, my husband is a pastor, and we have been serving in the jungle of Papua since February 2005. To get to the part of the jungle where we are serving, we must first fly in by small plane, and then we hike about six hours to reach our jungle home. We have four children—the oldest is 9 years old and the youngest is 20 months. I don't have any background in theology but have studied management, though I am still working on my degrees.



Living in the jungle is not easy. There is nothing up there in the jungle—no stores, lights, phones, clinics, or schools. Many of the people are still naked, and most of them speak in their own dialect rather than in the Indonesian language.

We live 4,000 meters (13,123 feet) above sea level, where it is very cold and sometimes very hard to get oxygen. During our ministry I help my husband in house-to-house visitation, going from village to village finding people to help. We mingle with them and eat what they eat, and I teach them how to keep their bodies clean and healthy and also help all the mothers learn how to keep their babies healthy. I also teach the women how to read, and we give them Bible studies.



Jeane Manusama

Edited by Gina Wahlen

Jeane Manusama, along with her husband, Alfian, and four children, ranging in age from 20 months to 9 years old, are serving as missionaries in the jungle of Papua, the largest province of Indonesia. In this article Jeane shares the joys and struggles of ministry in such a challenging area.

I thank God for the great opportunity that Jesus has given to me to serve in the jungle with my beloved husband and children. Yes, this is an “altar calling” to be a missionary, just what Ellen White talks about in *The Desire of Ages* (page 195) when she refers to the Samaritan woman at the well.



Many tears have gone into our ministry here in the jungle of Papua. It is very hard to tell about these burdens in my own words, but I hope the Holy



Spirit will lead my fingers in typing this testimony.

We have served in various parts of the jungle since 2005. We live in the villages with the native people. In our first assignment we lived in a wooden house, 9 by 6 meters (about 30 x 20 feet), without a kitchen or bathroom—we had to go outside in the forest.

It was very cold, and to get things we needed in the jungle, we would climb the mountain for four hours to reach a terminal where we could get to a car that would take us where we could make some purchases. Our stipend was very small when compared with the price of food in Wamena (the nearest large village), but praise God, He always sent many angels to help us in the jungle.

After two years, the mission office moved us to another jungle called “Ndugundugu,” located in the central mountains of Papua, which is where we are now. For six months I did not see my husband because he was living alone in Ndugundugu while building a house for us



and becoming acquainted with the people and helping them with basic medical needs before the rest of the family joined him.

From the West Papuan capital city of Jayapura, it takes more than two hours by small aircraft to reach a small jungle airstrip where we land. Then we climb the mountain for six hours to reach our mission field. In Ndugundugu almost everyone speaks their own



dialects, but a few can speak broken Indonesian. All of the people are farmers—they plant sweet potatoes for their daily food. About 75 percent of the people are uneducated, 15 percent have finished elementary school, 10 percent have finished middle school, 4.7 percent have completed high school, and only 0.03 percent have gone to college. Those who finish high school don't stay in the jungle—they want to live in the city. So my work up there is to teach the mothers how to be clean, healthy, and faithful and to teach them how to read so that they may read the Bible in their own dialect.

I am sorry to say this, but this work is not easy because the people there smell bad. But I thank God that He empowers me to embrace them, to eat together with them, and to visit

them in their houses where pigs and people live together under the same roof. Praise God I am still in good health.

We face many challenges. Several times we have had no rice (a staple in Indonesia) to eat for many weeks and sometimes months. Sometimes we only have burned sweet potatoes. There are times when my husband must go to the mission headquarters, and he has to walk for three days through a large forest, cross a dangerous river, and climb a high mountain. But the Lord is great, and He takes care of us.

As a wife and as a human being, sometimes I am so afraid when my husband must go away for his work, leaving us for one or two weeks while he arranges for branch Sabbath Schools in other places and arranging documents with the government. But I can always feel God's protection. Yes, God promised in Matthew 28:20 that He will be with us forever and ever, and I believe that.

Last year when we returned to our mission field, the weather was bad. As the small airplane was landing on the jungle strip between two mountains, we suddenly we heard a loud noise and the airplane stopped in



the middle of the airstrip. As we climbed out of the plane, we could see that the airplane tire was flat, but we were safe

because the Lord was still taking care of us.



A few months later many people came to our house and wanted to kill us because they didn't want my husband to enter their territory. Many people had seen our ministry and had invited us to open a branch Sabbath School in their area, but the head of another mission there was really angry and wanted to kill us. So we prayed a lot and waited for God's instructions. Finally, some people came with the head of their tribe to tell us, "Pastor, come to our people. If not, we will have tribal war." We decided to go, and I prayed for my husband during the meetings that he held there. Ten people were baptized, including the tribal head. Now we have two branch Sabbath Schools in that location. Our members worship on the ground on a



plastic tarp so that they can be comfortable during worship. We also use the tarp for our jungle school.

As a pastor's wife, sometimes this life is very hard for me. Yes, sometimes I want to have a life like those who live in the city. But having my Bible meditation every day at 4:00 a.m. gives me strength to do God's work with my husband. God is so good, and even though this work is very hard, we can survive in our ministry. Here we serve as doctor, pastor, carpenter, and teacher. We have now built a school (even though it is very simple) so that the people will have a good future and so that we can help them to be good Christians in the future. A church member gave us money, and my husband and I decided to use it for the needs of the school in Ndugundugu and to buy medicine.




Oh, sisters in the world, many times I sacrifice because I am very hungry and there is no food. Many times my tears come when I see my kids crying because they are very hungry. Sometimes I ask God, "Why? I am doing my best to serve You here in the jungle. Sometimes the people get angry and want to kill us. But why no food, no airplane schedule from the city? Are my family and I going to die because there is no food?" Many times I have asked God these questions, but the answer always echoes in my mind that "Follow Me" means to die to self. "Follow Me" is what Jesus



said to His disciples, so I have decided not to complain while I do my best in God's service.

And when we have no food, God sends His angel to our family through the local people, when they give us sweet potatoes so that we can survive. And sometimes when we receive our paycheck, I ask my husband to please find something—salt, noodles, cooking oil—that I can share with our church members so that I can become closer to them. Praise God, since I've been doing this, I have made many women friends in our mission field.

I know that God has made many sacrifices; He even died on the cross for me and for you. Let's work without complaining, and God will give us a crown when He comes. God bless you. 



Everything I Need to Know About Life. . .

I Could Have Learned Sitting in the Pew While My Dad was Preaching— If I Had Listened

My Dad: Lee Allen

One thing I learned without even listening to my dad's sermons was that a person should be willing to do things outside his comfort zone. You see, my dad wasn't a pastor—he was an accountant. Early in his career, he went to work for the church as a treasurer for the Nebraska Conference. In addition to his work as treasurer, he was also asked to preach throughout the state, mostly at small churches that shared a pastor.

It was quite a novelty for us, and my mom would sometimes snap pictures of his name on the church sign. Often on Sabbath, he would give the sermon at a small church at 3:00 in the afternoon—after he had already delivered the same sermon to at least one other church that morning. He didn't have that

many sermons, so he wrote the names of the churches on the back side of his sermon so he wouldn't repeat.

Dadisms

Throughout the years, I have heard so many people restate advice they got from their dads: "Well, as my dad used to say," they would start out and then share their father's nugget of wisdom—"Dadisms" such as "It never hurts to ask," "Don't make me stop this car," "I'm not 'Everyone's' father," "Don't let Mom hear you," or "I'll give you something to cry about." I don't remember my dad using these or any other sayings, but I still learned so much from him throughout my life.

My dad died when he was only 54 years old. I thought that was the end of learning from him, but just recently I

realized that my dad's words are still alive in his old sermons. Within these typewritten and handwritten messages, I can still see his beliefs and his faith in God, and I can be reminded of his advice to me. I would like to share with you some of his thoughts from his sermon on Philemon.

Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Testament. Most of his writings were letters to specific churches to provide leadership and guidance, but one exception is the book of Philemon. This was a personal letter written to Philemon, a fellow Christian. Paul wrote it while he was in a Roman prison. While in prison, Paul met a man named Onesimus, a slave from Colossae. Looking at a map, we can see how amazing this really is. Onesimus had run away from his master, Philemon, and had probably stolen from him



Jodie Trana

In this tribute to her father, Jodie Trana, the daughter of a conference treasurer, shares the gems she has learned from her father's sermons.

as well. He continued on to Rome where he was converted to Christ by Paul, who then sent him back to his master.

This is a great story, but that's not the reason it is in the Bible. Here's what my dad said:

"As we study Paul's letter to Philemon, we notice that even in his personal correspondence Paul had a burden for Christian love and fellowship. I believe this is the reason this letter is included in our Bible. *It's easy to preach love and it's easy to tell others to love one another, but what Paul is talking about is love in action.*"

In my dad's sermon, he used the principles in Paul's letter to show how employers, church members, and even parents can follow the spirit of Paul's teachings by treating other people as sons and daughters of Christ.

Encouragement

The first principle is encouragement (truthful praise). Why is encouragement so important? It keeps us going. Think of a parent encouraging a child to take his first steps. The parents cheer the child on because they know how difficult walking can be and they want their child to succeed. Encouragement helps children to keep trying until they master a skill. It is the same with our Christian brothers and sisters. We all need encouragement to continue the Christian walk.

In his letter, Paul identifies Philemon's specific behaviors that are glorifying God: Faith in the Lord Jesus (verse 5), love toward Paul and all the saints (verse 5), sharing his faith (verse 6), and refreshing the hearts of

the saints (verse 7). Only after identifying these behaviors does Paul make his request in verses 15 and 16:

"I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, for perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord" (Philemon 1:12, 15-16).

Generosity

The second Christian principle we see in Paul's letter to Philemon is generosity. He writes of generosity and the intent behind it in his second letter to the Corinthians: "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart,

not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

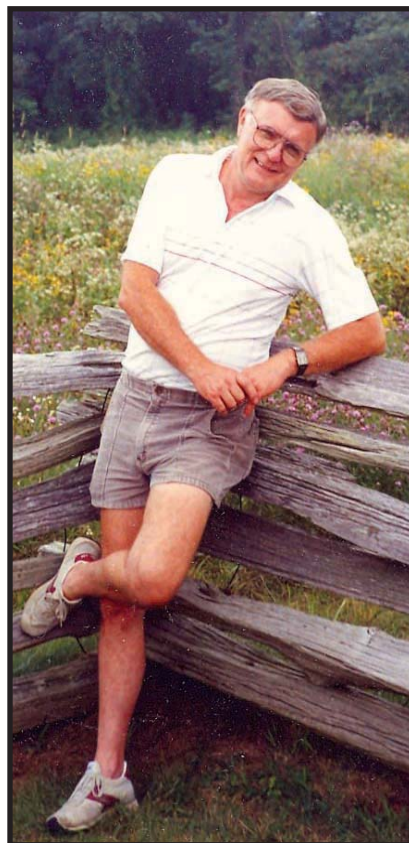
That is the Christian principle. In Philemon, Paul shows us how to be generous. The request is made: Paul wants Philemon to accept Onesimus back, not as his slave but as a fellow Christian. But Paul doesn't stop at this; he gets involved. That is sometimes where I err—I may be comfortable making a request, but I leave it there. Instead, I should offer something to help make it happen, as Paul did in this case:

"If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account; I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well" (Philemon 1:18-19).

Being generous and taking care of one another. Providing for one another. That's what Paul is talking about. One of my dad's colleagues said that my dad "was a true minister's treasurer. He made them all feel comfortable as they struggled to make ends meet. He made sure they received what was coming to them, whether they knew about it or not."

But generosity doesn't need to be void of common sense. At the end of his statement in verse 19, Paul points out to Philemon that while he (Paul) was ready to make things right on Onesimus' behalf, Philemon should remember the things that had been done on his behalf as well.

This reminds me of a story that a friend told me about my dad. As the finance manager



for the church, my father was responsible for approving expenses for the pastors in the area. When one pastor was attacked by his pet alligator, my dad arranged for medical care for him. The pastor was told that church policy did not normally cover medical costs associated with owning non-domestic pets and that he would need to get rid of the gator. But the pastor kept the wild reptile and was attacked again. This time, the pastor paid for his own medical expenses. We should be generous with common sense!

Freedom to Choose

The third Christian principle in Paul's letter to Philemon is freedom to choose. Paul referred to this freedom in his letter to the Galatians: "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13). In his letter to Philemon, Paul shows us how to respect that freedom in others by leaving the final decision up to Philemon (verses 13, 14). Paul did not threaten, coerce, or bribe Philemon. As my Dad said:

"Paul's argument for Onesimus was not based on anything other than Christian love. He did not decry the evils of slavery or the unfair treatment of slaves. He did not use many methods which we might class as logical (or persuasive). His appeal was made only in Christian love and brotherhood."

Paul recognized the law of liberty. He knew that the only way to truly love was to allow freedom of choice. My dad summed it up in this way:

"It is so easy for each of us to make decisions for the other. In our churches we must allow the individual members to be individuals."

Perseverance/Check Up


The fourth Christian principle might be the most important but is probably the one we do the least. I call it perseverance, but it really means checking up. Don't just make a request and forget about it—follow up, persevere. Is more help needed? More guidance? More encouragement? Is the person on the right track? Is there more you can do?

In his letter to Philemon, Paul writes, "Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say. At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you" (Philemon 1:21-22).

Paul plans to come to Colossae to see how it all worked out. It is not that he distrusts Philemon to do the

right thing; he just plans to follow it through to the end.


What a great model of Christian love Paul has shown to us in this letter! We can use this model at church, at home, and at work. Reflecting on this important aspect, my dad said, "Our dealings, whether in business or in the home, should reflect this same attitude. Practice Christian principles and rely on God rather than manipulating the situation to get our desired results. In many cases the results may be noble and pure, but the methods we use to accomplish them are so unChristian that our influence overshadows the results."

Paul's letter to Philemon is a lesson about putting Christian principles into practice. Have you ever seen this bumper sticker: "Walk the Talk"? It means that we should put our principles into practice. I pray that will be exactly what we do. As my dad said, "Let's put our love into action." "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (Philemon 1:25). 



Allen Family in 1990

Let Us Give Thanks

ffer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High” (Psalm 50:14).

You remember the story recorded in Luke 17:17 of how Jesus entered a village where 10 lepers from afar cried out to be healed. Jesus did not immediately heal them but sent them to show themselves to the priests. As they acted in faith upon His commission, they discovered on their way that they were healed. One of them, a Samaritan, turned back and gave thanks; the other nine did not bother. It is hard to understand why nine out of ten victims, suddenly healed, would not even bother to say “thank you.” But how is it with us? Have we considered how much we have to be thankful for?

Let us not be like the unthankful nine, whose hearts

were untouched by the mercy of God. As we give thanks today, let us duly consider how much we have to be thankful for.

One of the churches in Ireland was having a Thanksgiving program. The parents of a young man who was killed in the war had given their church a check for \$200 as a memorial of their son. When



Lilly Satyavadi

Mrs. Lilly Satyavadi and her husband live in Hosur, India. They have three children. Mrs. Satyavadi enjoys cooking, reading, preaching, and sharing. She exercises every morning, during which time she meets with and tells at least two people about Jesus. Her greatest aim in life is to be found in God's Kingdom with her family. This article originally appeared in the Southern Asia Division Shepherdess bulletin.

the presentation was made, another war mother whispered to her husband, “Let us give the same for our boy.” The father said, “Why? What are you talking about? Our boy did not lose his life.” The mother said, “That’s just the point. Let us give thanks because he didn’t.”

In the midst of the storm, when the storm-battered vessel was plunging at its four anchors off the coast of Malta, Paul gave thanks to God in the presence of them all (Act 27:35). He could do that because he had faith in the Word and promises God had given him.

Paul’s reasons for gratitude to God cover the whole scope of human life and experience. He gave thanks for the following:

- His daily bread (Acts 27:35).
- Men who have faith in Christ (Romans 1:8).

- Deliverance from anxiety (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- Deliverance from temptation (Romans 7:25).
- The memory of his friends (Philippians 1:3).
- Kindness in the day of trouble (Acts 28:15).
- The unspeakable gifts (2 Corinthians 9:15).

“In the darkest days of my life, I thank God the light was in it and my life was worth living,” said a Christian leader.

Before we do anything else, we should first thank God that we have come this far with no serious trouble and that we have enough strength left to finish our life’s journey.

Give thanks to God for victories won! Sing praises for all His wonderful gifts. May we never become so calloused that we fail to show thanks to our Father in heaven for His tokens of love. Let us stop in our busy lives and give thanks to our Father for His rich blessings.

The true meaning of Thanksgiving is:

T — *Trusting*
 H — *Heartily*
 A — *Almighty*
 N — *Noteworthy*
 K — *Kindness*
 S — *Selflessly*
 G — *Gifts*
 I — *Investing*
 V — *Voluntarily*
 I — *Individual*
 N — *Nurturing*
 G — *God’s Word*

Dear Shepherdesses, our prayer may be: “Our Father, thou has given us so much. Please give us one more thing—a thanks-giving heart.”



*Merry-go-round of ministry,
 Will you ever stop?
 It seems there is an eternal line
 Of those who need a ride.*

*The crowds and throngs of people
 Are ever pressing near.
 Will there ever be a stop
 To this twirling human motion?*

*Yes, my child, if you will only
 Come apart awhile with Me,
 You will hear My voice above all others,
 I will care for all these needs.*

*I want you to step off this
 Merry-go-round of ministry.
 It is not My will for you
 To spin and twirl through life.*

*My child, walk as I did upon earth.
 Take time to come apart,
 To listen, to be with those you love.
 I have other servants to do the work.*

*Come away with Me, My child.
 Walk in the stillness of My Presence.
 For I have instructed you: In quietness
 And confidence shall be your strength.*





A Parable

Author Unknown

“**W**hen did we see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you anything to drink? Or a stranger and help you? Or naked, and clothe you? And I will tell them, ‘When you did it to the least of these, my brother, you were doing it to me’” (Matthew 25:34-40).

“Dear Ruth, I’m going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I’d like to stop by for a visit. Love always, Jesus.”

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. “Why would the Lord want to visit me? I’m nobody special. I don’t have anything to offer.”

With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. “Oh my goodness, I really don’t have anything to offer. I’ll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner.” She reached for her purse and counted out its contents.

Five dollars and forty cents. “Well, I can get some bread and some cold-cut meat, at least.” She threw on her coat and hurried out the door.

A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk—now Ruth had a grand total of \$.12 to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home

with her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

“Hey, lady, can you help us?”

Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans that she hadn’t even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway—a man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags.

“Look, lady, I ain’t got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, it’s getting cold and we’re getting kind of hungry, and, well, if you could help us, lady, we’d really appreciate it.”

Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad, and frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. “Sir, I’d like to help you, but I’m a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I’m having an important guest for dinner tonight. I was planning on serving that to Him.”

“Yeah, well, okay, lady, I understand. Thanks anyway.” The man put his arm around the woman’s shoulders, turned, and headed back into the alley.

As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart.

“Sir, wait!” The couple stopped and turned as she ran

down the alley after them. “Look, why don’t you take this food. I’ll figure out something else to serve my guest.” She handed the man her grocery bag.

“Thank you, lady. Thank you very much!”


“Yes, thank you!” It was the man’s wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

“You know, I’ve got another coat at home. Why don’t you take this one?” Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman’s shoulders. Then, smiling, she turned and walked back to the street without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

“Thank you, lady! Thank you very much!” Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn’t have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox.

“That’s odd. The mailman doesn’t usually come twice in one day.” She took the envelope out of the box and opened it:

“Dear Ruth, It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat. Love always, Jesus.”

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed. 



From the Virgin Islands, With Love



Gina Wahlen

Gina Wahlen enjoys meeting people from around the world and writing about them. She currently lives in Maryland with her husband Clinton. They have two children a son, Daniel, 17, and a daughter, Heather, 12.

*Meet Celeste M. David
from the Inter-
American Division*

Celeste (Rogers) David was born in St. Thomas and grew up on the beautiful U.S. Virgin Islands. During her pre-teen and teen years, Celeste was active in her church and Pathfinder club in St. Thomas. She participated in the drill team and youth choir, and it was there that she met her future husband, Vincent A. David.

After graduating from high school, she attended Andrews University in Michigan, U.S.A., where she graduated with a B.A. in music and a B.S. in nursing. On August 18, 1985, Celeste and Vincent were married at the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Thomas. The couple have two grown children, Vincent A. David II, 22, and Chaunielle Lizette David, 19.

Dr. Vincent David has been a pastor for several years in

the North Caribbean Conference and is currently serving as the Education Director for that conference. Celeste works full-time as a registered nurse in pediatrics for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health. She also enjoys playing the piano and organ and working with several church choirs. In addition, Celeste is involved in the church's health ministry, giving presentations and participating in outreach programs and church-sponsored health screenings.



Celeste at the piano—her ministry of blessing

In the following interview, Celeste gives us insights into her life both as a Shepherdess and as a departmental worker's spouse.

Shepherdess Journal: Tell us of an interesting experience that could be an encouragement to other pastoral wives.

Celeste David: Sometime during our pastorate a young woman came to me right after AY and told me that I didn't act like a pastor's wife. I asked her what she meant and she stated that I acted "normal." I took it as a compliment and realized that being yourself is what members appreciate. . . . Church members appreciate pastors' wives who are respectful, humble, kind, and understanding toward them. However, pastors' wives should maintain a certain type of class and dignity, but at the same time display a "people person" attitude. Pastors' wives should always aim to be spiritually mature.

Shepherdess: What is the most challenging aspect of being a pastor's wife?

Celeste: Expectations of members—what they feel you must do or be. However, if you are confident and sure about your role as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in God's Church, half of your stress is over. Another challenge is moving. Packing a home approximately every 4 years or so is not exactly a treat.

Shepherdess: What do you love most about your husband?

Celeste: His ability to balance travel, work responsibilities, family time, and authoring books. He loves Jesus and has a consistent prayer and devotional life. He is ambitious, a go-getter, confident and insightful.

Shepherdess: What do you love most about Jesus?

Celeste: He is faithful. Jesus is Someone that I can talk to anytime. His promises are true. He is my best Friend.

Shepherdess: Tell us a little more about yourself, your family, and your church.

Celeste: St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, is my sixth place of residence since our marriage. This assignment is unique in that my husband does not have a church assignment at this time; he is a departmental worker. I enjoy feeling like




The David Family

a "regular" member, and I believe that the "spotlight" may not necessarily be on me now. However, the members of the church we attend still show that respect for me and relate to me as a pastor's wife.

Our children, now grown, enjoyed meeting new people and making friends as we moved from island to island. They grew up as normal youngsters and didn't seem bothered by the pressures of ministry as far as human relationships. The moves were challenging for them as they had to say goodbye to friends and make new ones. We allowed them to live "normal" lives as far as possible, but taught them to make God proud of whatever they did.

My husband has recently authored two inspirational and dynamic books: *He Restoreth All Things: The Elijah Message and Today's Generation* and *Daring to Dream: 70 Plus Magnanimous Insights of Wisdom and Inspiration for Anyone Daring to Dream*.

Shepherdess: Is there any particular ministry that interests you?

Celeste: I have a special interest and concern for the young men of our Church. This ministry includes care, support, appreciation, and encouragement in certain aspects of life—academic, social, career, and spiritual. I hold a strong conviction that our young men need to be nurtured on a consistent basis in these important areas, thus leading to more focused, confident, mature, and converted individuals. I have found this ministry over the years to be not only enjoyable but rewarding. 

Lasagne

*From
Celeste's Kitchen*

1 box Lasagne noodles
2 Tablespoons salt
1 can Vegeburger
4 16-oz bags Mozzarella cheese, shredded
1 16-oz jar Prego tomato sauce
1 Tablespoon butter
1 onion, pepper, tomato
2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
1 3.4 oz can mushrooms (optional)
Season salt, parsley flakes, garlic powder, oregano (to taste)

Bring water, oil, and salt to a boil. Add lasagne and stir occasionally. Cook over medium heat until tender.

Steam onion, pepper, and tomato with butter. Then add season salt, parsley flakes, garlic powder, and oregano. Add vegeburger and cook 5 minutes. Add tomato sauce and cook another 5 minutes.

Preheat conventional oven to 300 degrees F.

Put layer of lasagne in 13x9 baking pan. Add layer of tomato sauce and layer of cheese. Continue same pattern until complete.

Oven bake for 30 minutes. Remove, let cool, serve. Yield: 15 servings.



Mary, the Child, and the Sword

As I sat in that cold, impersonal courtroom, I looked straight ahead at my adopted teen son. He had chains on his feet. He was dressed in that dreaded orange jumpsuit. His otherwise handsome face was grimaced, especially as he shot shamed glances at his mother and me when he saw us entering the courtroom. Guards stood on either side of him.

He was being sentenced for a crime he did not commit. He would end up in a federal prison for several years. Two other youths framed him, naming him in order to let a third youth go free.

However, his mother and I both knew that Jay was on a course of self-destruction. He had run away from home several times, was unruly when

he was in that surly mood, and regarded no final authority other than his own. Not good for making it through life.

Nevertheless, as my striking multi-racial boy stood before the judge, I could not help but see not a grown teen but a little baby only two and a half months old. That was his age when we adopted him, gave him my name, and hugged him to our hearts. I saw in front of me not a man before the law but a little baby, a tiny tot, cuddly and warm, smelling of fresh powder and looking endearingly into my face. He was wrapped in that first blue blanket we bought him. He was smiling and cooing. How we delighted in showing him off to everyone we met!

Then I recalled visiting him at the state youth center after

one of his earlier escapades. My wife and I dreaded that crude waiting room. We had to sign in, and behave ourselves as if we were under some sort of investigation. If we were accorded this “cordiality,” what were the youth enduring?

As Jay would come into the room to visit with us each Sunday afternoon, I did not see my misbehaving son; rather, I saw a squirming baby boy in my arms, held tightly to my heart. Then I saw him as a toddler, off to the waiting bus on his first day at school, then a pre-teen all dressed up for some event.

During one visit, a mother from the northern part of our state introduced herself to us. I could tell she was distraught. She too was waiting to see her troubled teen son. Soon her boy came through the door,



J. Grant Swank, Jr

Pastor Swank ministers in Windham, Maine. He enjoys spending time with his wife and three children. He also enjoys watercolor painting, walking, and taking in as much Maine scenery as possible!

dragging his chained feet behind him.

In an instant the anguished mother jumped to her feet to embrace her son. Many tears flowed from the two of them. Not much in the way of words, but much in the language of the soul.

It was then that I could feel in her the wretched piercing of that sword, just as it had pierced my heart on too many occasions. Here was a mother seeing not her 16-year-old son, but her six-day-old newborn, her six-week-old baby, her six-month-old growing child.

When my son was in prison, I wrote him a letter in which I related to him that when a child goes wayward, the parents are cut through and through with the memories of childhood. I then attempted to get him to understand the slippery, twisting sword that cuts right through every one of life's muscles. I am not sure if he got the message, but one of these days, if he has children of his own, he will. Nevertheless, I do know that our prayers were

eventually answered. While in prison, Jay gave his life to Jesus Christ. That, of course, made all our sorrowing worthwhile.

So it is that once again this Christmas, I think of another parent. Her name was Mary. She had in her womb the Son of all sons, Jesus. In the jubilation of that pregnancy, however, there was a sword promised her. Luke tells of it in his account. It was a dagger which would cut very close to her heart.

Mary! Mary! I will never fathom how you ever lived through all of that utter brokenness! It is simply beyond my imagination. When I compare the pain my wife and I have endured, I wonder how you ever survived all the anguish inflicted upon your holy Offspring. He too wore chains. He too was scoffed at and derided, led before authorities for harsh scowls and snickers. He then was crucified between heaven and earth for a crime that He never committed, but for crimes which *we* have done. Yet through it all, you stayed

there beneath His bleeding body—patiently praying, wrestling with the shame.

Surely, as you looked from Calvary into the face of your grown Son, you too held in your arms the precious Bethlehem Baby. Cuddling Him. Kissing His cheeks. Spreading your kind fingers across His brow, wanting to rub out those fears and injustices.

Yet when He was but a tiny One, as you held Him in your arms beneath the starry night, you knew in your heart of hearts that someday you would hold Him in your arms when He lay limp from the Cross. How could it be?

I give praise to God for Mary, a parent who endured the sword, who stayed true to her Son because of that sword, and now receives the just honor given her. May every parent who likewise endures the sword find such courage as came from Mary. Thank you, God, for providing the strength to endure to the very end, for Mary and for us.



When the small daughter of the distinguished sculptress, Sally Farnham, was once asked which child was her mother's favorite, the little girl promptly replied:

“She loves Jimmy best because he's the oldest, and she loves Johnny best because he's the youngest, and she loves me best because I'm the only girl!”

It would be difficult to find a better illustration of God's all-embracing love for His children. It is wonderful to know that God loves us personally, no matter what our experience has been. His love transcends every barrier, and each one of us is most precious in His sight.

—By Richard A. Rentfro, *Signs of the Times*, October 27, 1952;
December 2003 Signs of the Times Email Newsletter



Keep A Song In Your Heart

Whether we are aware of it or not, music is in everything.

From the moment we're conceived until the time we leave this world, the average person is exposed daily to a variety of musical sounds. Step outside and listen to the birds. Turn on your radio or TV. Music is used as background noise, to promote products, in entertainment, and for educational purposes. Music is used at parties, weddings, funerals, celebrations of all types, church gatherings, in most stores—the list goes on and on.

There is evidence that early man was well aware of music and produced musical instruments like bone flutes, drums, etc. In fact, these musical instruments are some of the oldest known archaeological finds. In Bible stories we find that music was frequently used as a method of expressing joy and praise. Isra-

elite armies would go to battle, lifting their voices in praise to God for the victory He promised. We are told there is music in heaven, “such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived” (*Education*, page 307).

Through the ages, every culture has developed its own unique style of music, from the very primitive people groups to the sophisticated, educated centers of the world. It would appear that music is an important part of the total human life experience. In 1991, Mario Lanza may have expressed the feelings of many when he wrote the music and words to “Without a Song.” This is how the first verse goes:

*Without a song,
the day would never end.
Without a song,
the road would never bend.*



Rae Lee Cooper

Rae Lee Cooper is a registered nurse. She and her husband, Lowell, have two adult married children and three adorable grandchildren. She spent most of her childhood in the Far East and then worked as a missionary with her husband in India for 16 years. She enjoys music, creative arts, cooking, and reading.

*When things go wrong,
a man ain't got a friend
Without a song.*

Is music merely a pleasing expression, an entertainment luxury? Or was it the divine plan that there can be health, psychological, and even educational benefits too?

Let's look at some interesting facts.

Music Can Help Heal

Music has been proven to aid in digestion, sleep, blood pressure, breathing, and the release of endorphins that help the body to heal. Medical science is becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of Music Therapy. Music interventions by qualified professionals can promote wellness, manage stress, alleviate pain, enhance memory, improve communication, relieve depression, improve the immune response,

and even have beneficial effect on reasoning ability.

Music Can Promote Growth

Exposing an unborn child to music will help the fetus as it develops. Fetuses in the womb begin responding to music at 17-19 weeks gestation—becoming agitated at excitable, rhythmic styles, and calm with classical, gentler compositions. After birth, music still helps the growing child as it learns and forms connections in the brain. Music has the “power to quicken thought and to awaken sympathy, to promote harmony of action...” (*Education*, page 167).

Even very young children can find help in dealing with life’s experiences in the simple, uplifting songs of Sabbath School, school, and home. On one occasion some years ago, while beginning my teaching duties, a young student approached my desk. His request was direct: “My parrot died last night. Could we sing ‘God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall’ for worship this morning?” This young child, from a non-Christian home, was already finding comfort and healing in the sweet words of this little song.

Music Can Soothe and Calm

How many of us have sung a lullaby to calm a restless baby? Even animals are not immune to the power of music, as evidenced by the harp work of Alianna Boone, Sue Raimond, and Diane Schneider, who have proven that gentle harp music can soothe agitated animals like cats, cows, dogs, and even gorillas. Not all animals will react to music like this, as not all babies are soothed by lullabies.

On the other hand, loud music or music with a strong beat can have the opposite effect on the human body, encouraging excitement, agitation, raising blood pressure and heart rate. William Congreve once stated that “music has the charms to soothe the savage beast.” Music can soothe human stress by decreasing the amount of the hormone cortisone released in the body.



Music Can Help Memory and Development

Music has been found to be a helpful aid in storing and recalling information. Memorizing musical passages and words has a cognitive side effect overlapping to related skills. According to studies, children who had music training had significantly better verbal memory than those with no training. Music facilitates brain development, enhances spatial reasoning and motor skill development, and contributes to the emotional, social, and cognitive growth of children. But not only to children. Results of studies show significant increase in human growth hormones following keyboard lessons and music-related activities among a group of senior citizens. Further findings showed improved ability to cope with stress and overall improved emotional and physical health.

Music Can Comfort

Music can help relieve grief. It has an amazing power to influence man’s emotions and behavior. Through the use of music there can be found encouragement for the struggles and burdens of life. Jesus was our example: “With a song, Jesus in His earthly life met temptation. Often when sharp, stinging words were spoken, often when the atmosphere about Him was heavy with gloom, with dissatisfaction, distrust, or oppressive fear, was heard His song of faith and holy cheer” (*Education*, page 166).

Music is a gift from heaven designed to help us along life’s journey. It affects us on emotional, physical, and spiritual levels—sometimes all at once. It can help work and chores go by faster. It can bring people together. It can define one’s self. It can be a means of creativity. It can link our past with our future. It can help us learn. It can help us recognize beauty. It can be uplifting. It’s an avenue of praise and thanksgiving. It encourages love, compassion, gentleness, and goodness—a more abundant life.

Sources: “Why We Need Music,” [pencharter.com/MS/Bob’s %20Web, 6/1/2009](http://pencharter.com/MS/Bob's%20Web/6/1/2009/); “The Music Instinct: Science and Song,” Elena Gillespie, www.livescience.com/animals/080103-harphtherapy.html; “What is Music Therapy,” Arturo Carrejo, www.wpace.com/scienceastromony/blackhole_note_30909.html; 2009 American Psychological Association, www.apa.org/journals/releases/neu173439.pdf; “Why Children Need Music at a Very Young Age,” Pam Mathews, www.mathewsmusic.com/kinder/whymusic.html; “Music and Children,” The National Association for Music Education, info@menc.org.



The Story of Pr. T. D. Francis

A Product of the Adult Literacy Program



Pr. T. D. Francis

*Pr. T. D. Francis is the director of
Adventist Seminary, Ibrahimpatnam,
Andhra Pradesh, India.*

I am one of 11 children in the family. I was very sick in my childhood and suffered from severe asthma and tuberculosis. My parents gave up hope. Finally, my parents decided to place me in the hands of the Master Healer. After a year of sincere prayers, our compassionate God healed me miraculously. Seeing the blessed healing of God, my parents dedicated me for His ministry.

Since my parents were heavily burdened financially, they were unable to send any of their children to school. Moreover, the caste system was very prevalent in those days. The teachers in the government schools were from high caste. Lower-caste students were not encouraged to study because of the problem of untouchability. I was sent to take care of the cattle of a high-caste landlord. I did this for two years.

In those days all the people in my village were illiterate except my church pastor's family. Seeing the need, my pastor, M. M. Prasad Rao (retired) and his wife Prema decided to start an Adult Literacy Program in the evenings on the church premises.

Our pastor's family gathered some young, married ladies and a few boys to teach basic literacy. My pastor's wife was a personal friend to many young ladies in the church, and she was also a good motivator and singer. Mostly through her talent of singing, she gathered many young ladies and taught them songs and stories. The young women were interested. They were very prompt in coming to church to sing songs. After a while, these ladies realized the value of reading and writing because the pastor's wife sang many new songs from the church hymnal.

An invitation was extended to the ladies, and some boys also came to church for one hour in the evenings to learn new songs for 30 minutes and learn to read and write for another 30 minutes. This became an ongoing program.

Many attended the class with great enthusiasm. Twenty ladies learned to read and write and also sing from the church hymnal within six months. My church became a very lively, musical church. The news spread that the pastor's wife was teaching the members basic literacy.

In 1968, I was still a shepherd boy caring for the sheep during

the day. The pastor and his wife encouraged a handful of boys to come and learn songs, pray, and sleep in church. I was one of them. We woke up very early in the morning and went to work. Seeing our interest and enthusiasm, our pastor's wife taught us the alphabet. Soon we received the blessing of reading and writing.

Through the dedicated work and encouragement of our pastor's family, that group of boys learned well at the evening school and eventually left their work and joined Flaiz Memorial Boarding School, our school of prophets. In 1969 I became a witness for the Savior; I was 11 years old. Three boys in that group became ordained ministers, serving the church, and the rest went to work for the government.

Today 89 percent of men and women in my village are literate. Many are employed. My pastor's family inspired many through the Adult Literacy Program. I am very grateful and thankful to my Lord for the abundant blessings in my life and for the privilege of training young people for His ministry and being a blessing to them.





*In this column, Anna will address your questions and concerns.
Send your questions to: "Ask Anna"
c/o Shepherdess
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904, USA
or email: lowes@gc.adventist.org*

Dear Anna,

I love working alongside my husband in pastoral ministry and enjoy becoming close to our church members. However, when it is time to leave one church to go to another, it is very hard to leave our dear friends. Do you have any suggestions to help make the transition from one church to another less stressful?

Moving can certainly be a challenge! Some things to remember as you think about moving: 1) You do not lose your friends just because you move. After all, you didn't lose your parents when you left their home to set up your own home. 2) Your dear friends need to build a good relationship with the incoming pastor and his family. Make the new pastoral couple's transition as easy as possible by letting go, moving on, and not returning very soon. 3) You will build great *new* relationships in your new pastorate, thus adding to your repertoire of friends.

But the question is, *How can you transition more easily?* Here are a few ideas.


- Acknowledge your sorrow about leaving your friends; don't deny it. In fact, give yourself a week or even two

to mourn. It's okay to cry when you feel like it, but don't prolong the mourning time. For your own health, move on! By the way, don't talk about the last district in the new one.

- Look forward with anticipation. Meet your new church family with joy. Develop an interested, curious spirit. Explore your new community and its unique opportunities.
- As soon as you are settled in your new home, invite the church family to a simple open house so that they feel like they know you. They too must transition to you as the new pastoral family. Provide each person with a name tag to help you. Do you have a large church? Invite different alphabetic groups on different weeks.
- Compete with your husband to learn the names of the members. See which of you can say an approaching person's name first—but always help each other if a name is forgotten. If you can't remember someone's name, simply say, "I should know your name by now, but please help me." Or "I know you, but I can't think

of your name at this moment."

- Create a page for each family, or use a spreadsheet or database to record information that you learn about your members and their families—husband, wife, and children's names; birthdays; anniversaries; occupations or level in school; likes and dislikes; spiritual development; ministries serving in; talents; pets' names; hobbies; and more. (Don't treat it like a questionnaire—just learn it in natural conversation.)
- Your transition is a good time to draw in inactive, non-attending members. You don't have to *acknowledge* that they aren't attending when you invite them, visit them, email them, etc. Treat them well—they are special to God! Ask them to help you with something. Contact them often in some way.

As you find creative ways to get to know your new church or district family, you will discover you are having fun and feeling the satisfaction of accomplishment. One day you will realize, "This feels like home!" Have a great move! 

Special News Feature

A Policewoman/Shepherdess Reflects On Her Seemingly Conflicting Roles



Veronica Chilunga

Veronica is a shepherdess in Malawi, Africa.

“Is it possible?” Yes! This was a question asked by a lady member of the church who wondered if it was possible for me, a police officer, to be engaged to marry a pastor. She continued to ask, “How can it be, police work and God’s work?” She explicitly said that these two could not go together because she associated policing with brutality.

This question came to me after I had already served the Malawi government for over 23 years, both in the Public and State Security departments as a police officer (having risen to the rank of deputy commissioner of police) and as an intelligence officer.

During that time, I was not married but continually prayed three times a day, sometimes more, asking God to give me a husband who loved Him.

God holds our future. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not evil, to give you a future and hope.” I believe God set plans for my life before I was born.

Public and State security have been vital roles worldwide

since ancient times. In Acts 21:30-36, a Roman centurion prevented Paul from being lynched in Jerusalem and brought him safely under armed escort to his military headquarters at Caesarea when there were threats against Paul’s life. Even today, the police help to maintain law and order.

Number 13:1-33 talks about state security (intelligence)—legal spies. The responsibility of intelligence is to ensure the security of a nation’s interests. In this case, as sanctioned by God Himself, Canaan was of interest to Israel. Hence, the mission was to spy on the Promised Land.

In this example, the debriefing categorized the spies into objective or misleading agents. Objective state security assists formulation of sound policies, and the spies who reported positively about Canaan were objective, bearing in mind that the land was of interest to Israel. Today, Israel has a very efficient and reliable State Security Service known as the MOSSAD.

Defense security also is vital in defending the nations and in peace-keeping missions. In Judges 4, Deborah, a prophetess

who was judging Israel at that time, accompanied the Israelite army to war. The Israelites defeated the enemy, and not a man was left. When God is with you, nobody will be against you.

Just as Jesus performed the first miracle, turning water into wine as recorded in John 2:6-10, a police/intelligence officer is turned into a Shepherdess. God Himself has called me to serve Him. It is my prayer that I will work to His glory. Like the centurion at the foot of the Cross who declared, “Truly, this was the Son of God,” I believe in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cornelius the centurion (whose story is recorded in Acts 10) was a devout man who feared God with his household. I encourage members of the Defense, Public, and State Security to be like Cornelius in having a close relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. Inviting Him into our hearts should be ongoing. Just like the centurion who asked Jesus to come and heal his servant (Luke 7:3-10), we should have faith in Jesus and invite Him to heal our hearts. The joy of inviting Jesus into my heart is overwhelming.





Shepherdess International News

East-Central Africa Division

Milliam Kakembo, Shepherdess Coordinator for ECD, has been active in holding meetings for the Shepherdesses in various unions. Following is her pictorial report:



Pastors' wives from Kenya Coast Field



Trees were planted by pastoral couples to show importance of keeping the environment green and preparing for retirement



Ordination at Nyamira Conference in Kenya

Euro-Asia Division

In Ochakov, Ukraine, Chalova is the leader of the women's club, "Hope." The Shepherdesses prepare presentations to share with the ladies, and it is a great opportunity to witness since 10-15 non-church members attend the meetings.



Women's Club in Ochakov, Ukraine

North American Division

Andrews University

Seminary wives at Andrews University in Michigan held their second annual retreat in the spring. The theme was "Awakening Your Spirituality," and the featured speaker was Dr. Kim Logan-Nowlin, a licensed professional Christian counselor and communication expert from Detroit. The ladies enjoyed an agape feast, communion, praise singing, hula hoops, scrapbooking, massages, gifts, worship, and group games. This retreat is just one of many activities organized to offer seminary spouses a chance to recharge their spirits

and get better acquainted with others in the group.



Seminary Wives at Andrews University

Indiana

Erney Poenitz is the new Shepherdess sponsor for the Indiana Conference. She understands the "highs" and "lows" of the pastor's wife and wants to be available to support the pastors' wives at any time. They had a spring retreat in March.

*Erney
Poenitz,
Indiana
Conference
Shepherdess
Sponsor*



South Pacific Division

Fiji Mission

The Partners In Ministry (PIM) from Fiji Mission had their first weekend retreat last year in Suvavou. Pr. Nos Terry Mailalong, Ministerial Secretary from Trans-Pacific Union, opened the retreat and officiated at the Lord's Supper. There were inspiring messages about connecting with God and

the neglect and needs of pastors' children. Momoi Sausau, PIM Coordinator for Trans-Pacific Union, engaged the women in open dialogue on the concerns faced by PIMs and how to find solutions. They were also blessed to have "Angelic Voices of Vanuatu" give messages in song.



Laite Vuli, treasury staff with Kelera Suka, PIM in Fiji

Solomon Islands Mission

A worship conference was held at Fulton College June 17-23, 2008. Children preached at these meetings. Muletiti Daniels from Solomon Islands reported that the dedicatory prayer impressed her to work for God. She learned how to involve people who feel they can play a part in worship, and that music is powerful and can lift us to God. Muletiti now feels equipped to lead out in worship.

North New Zealand Conference

The North New Zealand Conference recently held a pastors' wives retreat. Val Jones, PIM Coordinator, planned the weekend and Sharon Cress was a featured speaker for the meetings. The ladies



Shepherdesses in North New Zealand

were blessed by the stories, presentations, and wisdom.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Malawi Union

Shepherdess has been active in Malawi. The following pictorial report shares what is happening in that area of the world:



Gertrude Mfjune, Malawi Shepherdess Sponsor, and Mrs. Chikomo (seated), Malawi Shepherdess Coordinator, at crusade in Edwendeni, North Malawi Field



Baptism at the end of two-week crusade by Shepherdesses in Malawi Union

Central Malawi Field

Ireen Phiri, Central Malawi Field Shepherdess Coordinator, reports that they have 53 active Shepherdesses. There are 12 Shepherdess zones, and so far, they have been able to visit and encourage Shepherdesses in six zones. They intend to visit all Shepherdesses by the end of the quarter to share scripture and prayer.

The Shepherdesses were encouraged to take active roles in evangelism and help conduct at least one crusade before the year is over. So far three Shepherdesses have conducted two crusades, and 42 people

have made a decision for Christ; some people have already been baptized.

They are also participating in charity programs and recently held a special meeting for retired Shepherdesses to cheer them and pray for them. Cloth and groceries were given to them, much to the surprise of the retired Shepherdesses.



Shepherdesses in Central Malawi Field

Tailoring School in Zambia

Denise Ratsara, Shepherdess Coordinator for SID, recently went to Zambia to purchase more sewing machines for the tailoring school. It was amazing to see all the work the ladies had done: trousers, dresses, hats, curtains, etc. They will soon be buying more sewing machines and then a refrigerator to begin a cooking school.



Sewing machines in Zambia

Ministerial worker's meeting/Bible Conference for Malawi Union

On January 11-17, 2009, the Malawi Union met for a ministerial workers' meetings and Bible Conference.



Ministerial Worker's meetings and Bible Conference in Malawi

Southern Asia Division

Adult literacy program opens doors

The North Orissa Region reports success with their adult literacy program. The region operates five centers and in one month had a total of 152 people from various religious backgrounds coming to study.

One of the literacy centers is located in the village of Paharsirgida. This village has 200 homes with a population of 500. The Lutheran Church is the largest church in the village, with a membership of around 300. The local Adventist Church has 87 members and has been running a successful adult literacy program. At first the Lutherans were suspicious of the Adventists and were hesitant to attend the literacy programs. However, having seen the success of those attending the programs, the Lutherans are now friendly and have asked the Adventist teachers to come to their church and run a similar program. Pray that the program will be successful.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Fun Games and Homecoming Banquet for Preachers' Kids (PKs)

Through the coordination of several departments—Shepherdess, Ministerial, Children's, Youth, Health, Communication, and Women's—a Preachers' Kids Fun Games and Homecoming Testimonial Banquet was held April 5. The three-fold objectives for this event were: 1) To foster closer bonding and camaraderie among preachers' kids; 2) To feel the connection and support of fellow PKs here and

abroad; 3) To hear success stories of adult PKs to give younger PKs inspiration and fresh insights.

A total of 100 PKs came to this first-of-its-kind program. After the opening devotional message on "I'm a PK: Make Me a Blessing!" participants went to various "play stations": Bible scramble, badminton, volleyball, table tennis, parlor games, PK talentado, basketball, and lawn tennis.



PKs in Philippines enjoy playing games

During the homecoming banquet, testimonies were heard from successful adult PKs, and the highlight was the induction of PKs Association Officers from missions, conferences, and some learning institutions. Mrs. Helen Gulfan, SSD Shepherdess Coordinator, gave the inspirational message.

Another significant part of the banquet was the recognition of more than 100 preachers' kids for their services to denominational work and the community by awarding them an Amethyst (five or more years of service) or an Emerald Service Medallion Award (2-4 years of service). It was a day of fun, fond memories, and warm bonding with fellow-PKs.

Bangladesh Union Mission (BAUM)

Lucena Chambugong, Shepherdess Coordinator for BAUM, shared the wonderful work that Shepherdesses are doing in their area. On January 23-25, 2009, they conducted a Women's Ministry and Shepherdess Evangelism program in Shibandakhila, which is in North Bangladesh Mission.

On March 12-15, 2009, they conducted another evangelism program in Vanaikushalia, West Bangladesh Mission. All the church members welcomed them in a special way by washing feet and giving oil and flowers. There were special programs, discussions, foot washing, and a communion service.

A spiritual revival meeting was held at Beribaid SDA Church in North Bangladesh Mission on March 26-28, 2009. There were more than 100 attendees from different churches and places. Eleven people were baptized. There was no pond, so the baptisms were held in a plastic drum.



Shepherdesses doing evangelism in Bangladesh



Baptisms in a plastic drum



GC Session 2010 Atlanta, Georgia Meetings for Adventist Women

A series of special meetings for women at the Session who are not delegates will be presented by Women's Ministries and Shepherdess International. The morning meetings will be held Monday through Thursday, June 28–July 1, from 9:30–10:45 a.m. Two afternoon seminars will be held Tuesday and Thursday, June 29 and July 1, from 2:00–4:00 p.m.

These events take place in the Georgia Ballroom in Building C, Level 3, Sections 1-3.

All meetings feature dedicated presenters who will explore topics of spiritual and personal growth, service, and daily living. Features include inspiring and interesting reports from around the world.

No registration is required.