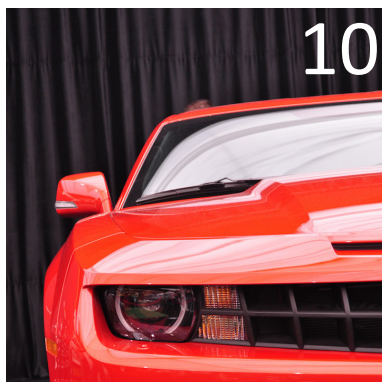


THE A RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES
JOURNAL

Vol. 30 | First Quarter 2013

A young woman with brown hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and dark jeans, stands in a room with light-colored curtains. She is holding a large cardboard box with both hands, looking directly at the camera with a thoughtful expression. Her right hand is resting against her forehead. The box is filled with white packing material. The background is softly lit, suggesting a bright, airy space.

*Going Where
God Calls*



ON THE COVER

Ministry life often means moving to new places. How do we deal with change when we don't feel ready to go?



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EDITORIAL

MOVING IS VERY traumatic for me. I don't like change. At ten years old I could not sleep the night before we moved. I looked out at the moon and cried, "Why, God?" Now I am married to a pastor, and with every move I cry, "Why, God?"

One move will forever remain etched in my memory: Pennsylvania to California.

Our teenage son decided to stay in Pennsylvania until he finished high school. Our ten-year-old started having nightmares. California was known for worldliness. I was afraid our sons would leave God and the church. Through prayer and the Bible, God made it clear to me that we were to move. But that did not make it easier!

We started looking for a house in California. But rent was expensive, there were no basements (where was I going to store all my junk?), and there was no land with the houses. We were used to living in the country and having a much lower cost of living. Yet my husband's salary was going to be less. How were we going to afford the house we needed?

We looked and looked at houses—and prayed and prayed—but nothing seemed right. Jerry was already working in California, while I stayed in Pennsylvania until our sons were done with the school year. Finally, Jerry

“And He . . . has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.”

Acts 17:26, NKJV

called and said, "Janet, we must find a house! Write down exactly what you want." So I wrote down my dream home.

When Jerry got the letter, he called me. "There is no way we can afford that kind of home!" "Well, you told me to write down what I wanted," I replied. "I didn't mean a dream house; I meant a house we can afford."

A week later someone offered to rent us their home for a price we could afford. It was my dream house! It was on three acres in the mountains. It was huge, with a basement and a very large garage. We could not believe it.

This house had more storage space than I could ever use. Many times when I went to the basement or garage, God spoke to my heart: "You think I can't give you a basement in California? I can do anything I want to." I was so embarrassed for giving God and my husband such a hard time about this move.

God provided over and over in amazing ways for our family. I promised God that the next time He called us to move, I would go without a struggle. I told Him how sorry I was for how I had acted and for my lack of faith in His power.

I had been sure I would hate hot, dry California. Yet within a week, I had fallen in love with California and its people! I am so thankful for God's patience and forgiveness. Our sons are adults now. No, they did not leave the church or God. They are both passionately in love with God and married to godly California Adventists. But that's another story.

You know what else? After that first very large house, the houses God has given us have been smaller with each move. It has forced me to get rid of stuff! But it is so freeing to have less. God knows what is best for me.

I'm praying that you too will see God's love in the changes you face as a pastoral spouse! J

Janet Page, Associate Ministerial Secretary for Prayer, Pastoral Spouses, and Families



Prayer and Faith



I HAVE FREQUENTLY seen that the children of the Lord neglect prayer, especially secret prayer, altogether too much; that many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise.

True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray,

believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is swallowed up. But many suppose they have much faith when sharing largely of the Holy Spirit and that they cannot have faith unless they feel the power of the Spirit. Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith. The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds. True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and those only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises. "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. "Whatsoever we ask, we receive



“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
John 15:7

of Him, because we keep His *commandments*, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”
1 John 3:22.

We should be much in secret prayer. Christ is the vine, ye are the branches. And if we would grow and flourish, we must continually draw sap and nourishment from the Living Vine; for separated from the Vine we have no strength.

I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, “Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.” I was then pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly. His faith endured the trial.

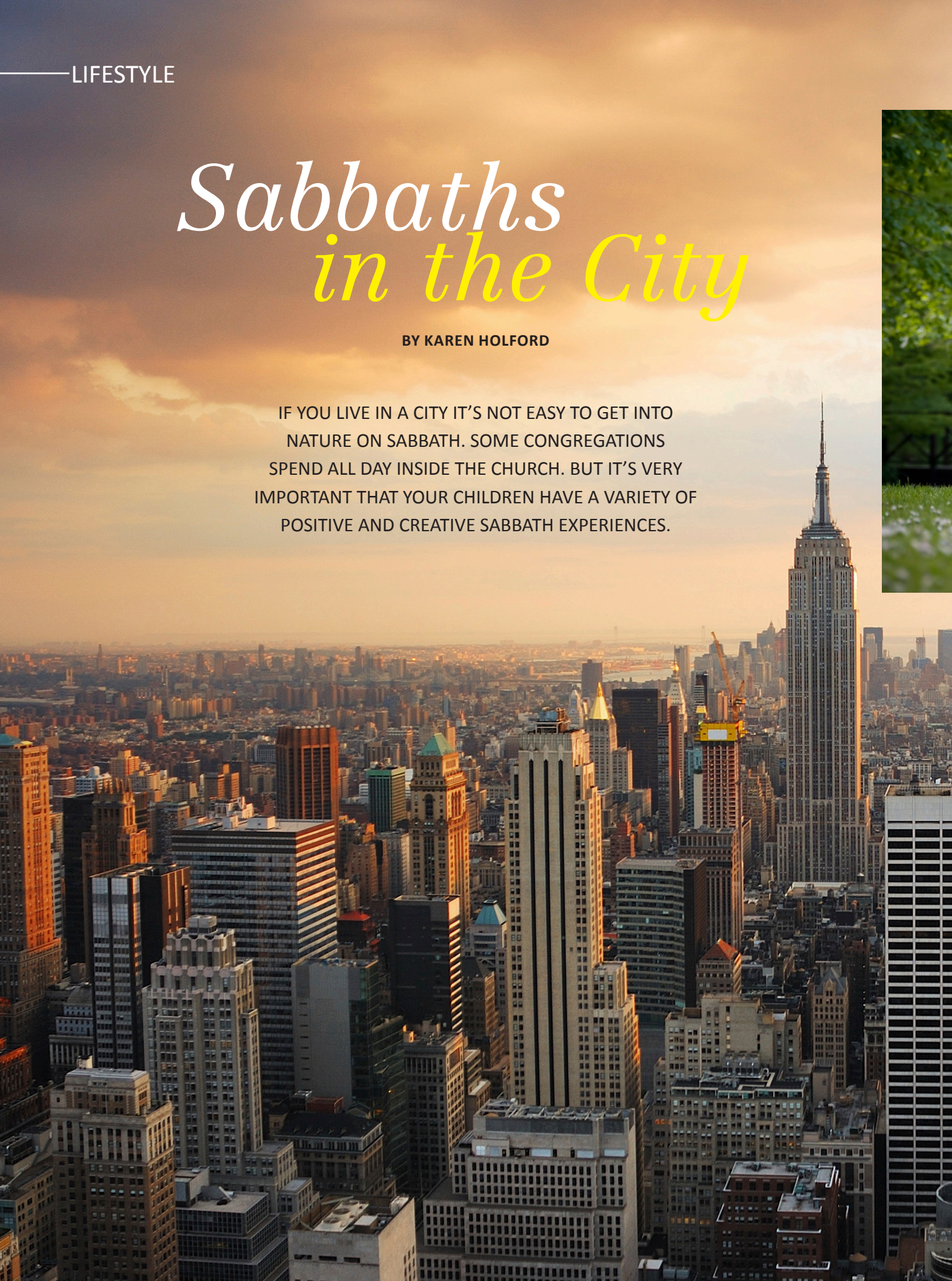
Seven times he prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud was seen. I saw that we had doubted the sure promises, and wounded the Saviour by our lack of faith. Said the angel, “Gird the armor about thee, and above all take the shield of faith; for that will guard the heart, the very life, from the fiery darts of the wicked.” If the enemy can lead the desponding to take their eyes off from Jesus, and look to themselves, and dwell upon their own unworthiness, instead of dwelling upon the worthiness of Jesus, His love, His merits, and His great mercy, he will get away their shield of faith and gain his object; they will be exposed to his fiery temptations. The weak should therefore look to Jesus, and believe in Him; they then exercise faith. ■

by Ellen G. White
Early Writings, pp. 72, 73

Sabbaths in the City

BY KAREN HOLFORD

IF YOU LIVE IN A CITY IT'S NOT EASY TO GET INTO NATURE ON SABBATH. SOME CONGREGATIONS SPEND ALL DAY INSIDE THE CHURCH. BUT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILDREN HAVE A VARIETY OF POSITIVE AND CREATIVE SABBATH EXPERIENCES.





DIFFERENT CULTURES have different ideas about appropriate Sabbath activities, so choose the ones that meet your needs or adapt the ideas to suit your context. Invite other families to join you so they have happy Sabbaths also! Pray that your city Sabbaths can be an inspiration and a witness. Here are some ideas for Sabbaths in the city:

PARKS AND PATHS

- Ask your city's information center about the best city walks. Sometimes there are pretty paths in unexpected places, like along canals or through leafy neighborhoods.
- See how many different insects you can find under the bark of a decaying branch.
- Go on a scavenger hunt. Look for anything that reminds you of God's love, His character, or any of the Bible stories.
- Do a Bible plant search: Print a list of all the plants in the Bible (try this

list: www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/plants.html) and see how many you can find. Photograph them, make leaf and bark rubbings, etc.

- If your city has a zoo or urban farm, consider an annual pass so you can visit free at any time. Then you can create appropriate Sabbath visits to experience with your children, studying animals and nature and maybe even completing requirements for Pathfinder honors.

PARACHUTE PRAISE!

- Purchase a colorful play-chute (a parachute designed for children's play). One Adventist church in England uses this to witness to children in their local parks.
- Choose a play-chute to suit the size of your group and invest in a small book of parachute game ideas to help you understand the potential of parachute play.
- With a little creativity you can turn many action songs into parachute activities (try "Jesus' Love is Very Wonderful").
- Use parachutes to tell Bible stories (such as when Jesus calmed the storm), play Bible games, pray, and learn memory verses.
- Doing parachute activities in a park usually attracts other children to come and play with you. Perhaps your stories, songs, and games will help them to learn about Jesus?
- For some basic ideas visit <http://ministry-to-children.com/parachute-games>

CHALK TALK!

- Take along your sidewalk chalk and draw lovely sidewalk "posters" or encouraging Bible verses with colorful borders.

Sabbaths in the City

- Look at Christian t-shirt designs for creative inspiration: www.religioustshirts.co.uk

HELPING

- Visit your local volunteer agency and ask them about ways you could help as a family. Some volunteer opportunities make ideal family Sabbath activities, allowing you to help your community, teach your family how to serve, and share God's love.
- Choose activities you feel comfortable doing on Sabbath. Some families clear garbage from vacant lots and plant flowers instead, walk dogs for disabled people, check the condition of local pathways, count the kinds of birds in a park, and so on.

ART GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Before Sabbath, visit a gallery and locate paintings and pictures that are based on Bible stories, then:

- Make a picture treasure hunt, using Bible clues and a map of the galleries to help the children find the best Bible story paintings.
- Write down titles of the paintings so that each letter in the title is on a different numbered dash/line. Use these numbers to make a code that spells out a Bible verse.
- Choose one painting from a familiar Bible story. Visit the painting with your family, read the Bible story together, and look at the picture.
 - How true is the picture to the story?
 - What might each person in the picture be thinking?
 - What does this picture tell you about God?
 - What do you like best about the picture?
 - What do you think is the most important message the artist is trying to say?
 - Invite everyone to draw their own picture of the Bible story. How are they different from or similar to the artist's painting?
- Some museums have appropriate sections for Sabbath activities. Check your local natural history museums and use their children's activity trail sheets. See if you can find an animal, stone, insect, etc., beginning with each letter of the alphabet. Marvel at the way God created each of them.



- Visit churches and chapels in your city. Some are open for visitors, and you can learn a lot by visiting old churches. Find the interesting features in each church and explore them together. Discuss what each church tells you about God's love.

WORD SEARCH

- Choose a verse or passage from the Bible that you or your family want to learn. Write or print out the passage on a small card that you can carry with you as you walk.
- Go for a walk anywhere in the city that is safe and look for the different words in your verse. They may be on billboards or on street signs and names. For difficult words just find the letters or groups of letters to form the words you need. You can also photograph any objects in your verse, such as trees, homes, or hearts.



*Visit your local
volunteer agency
and ask them about
ways you could help
as a family.*



- Either tick off the words and letters as you find them or photograph the words and letters so you can make a collage poster of the Bible verse.

PRAYER WALK

- Walk around a neighborhood close to your home. Pray for each house or apartment as you pass.
- You can keep on walking and pray a sentence or two aloud with your eyes open.
- Be friendly and chat with people you meet.
- Use clues from around each house or neighborhood to inspire your prayers for the people who live there: are there children, older people, disabled people? What do they need?

CITY PRAYER

- Create a thank you prayer for your town or city. Thank God for all the things you're thankful for in your city that begin with each letter of the alphabet in turn.

For more creative Sabbath activities you might enjoy *100 Creative Activities for Sabbath* by Karen Holford, Pacific Press, 2004. **7**

Many of Karen's ideas come from the time her husband was pastoring a church in downtown London—while they had three young and lively children!

Sure it Looks Good, But What About the Motor?

BY RAE LEE COOPER

*God and the doctor we alike adore
But only when in danger, not before;
The danger o'er, both are alike requited,
God is forgotten, and the Doctor slighted.*

—Robert Owen



LET'S FACE IT: we rely heavily on our cars. We want a vehicle that runs well, starts when the key is turned, and gets us where we need to go. One that is large enough to haul kids, friends, and stuff. And preferably one that looks good too!

Many of us know some car upkeep basics. We may be able to keep it clean, pump the fuel, see when the tires are going flat, put water in the radiator, and recognize that the battery is going dead. We lock it securely and do our best to protect it from damage. But when we look at the engine, we may be intimidated.

When the car starts to squeak or grind, we quickly tell our mechanic. Granted, some are better than others at scheduling regular checks and changing the oil. The rest of us are just happy when the car runs well.

It's so inconvenient when the car suddenly breaks down, and it so often happens at the most inopportune moment. If the engine gets regular maintenance, many problems will be found early

and can be fixed before becoming a complete disaster. Responsibly doing all we can to maintain a vehicle inside and out can keep us relatively free of unpleasant surprises—saving us time, inconvenience, and money.

Just as we are aware of the basic principles of keeping a car operating well, we should know at least a few important basics for a well-functioning, healthy body:



Maybe you're doing a fairly good job with lifestyle habits. You know they are a huge part of feeling well and in protecting against disease. But just as cars require maintenance, our bodies also need regular, *complete* physical evaluations—checking our internal systems and functions. Lots of us procrastinate or simply avoid these exams. As long as we look good and feel good, who needs a doctor, right? Wrong!

Getting regular internal checkups (including lab tests, x-rays, etc.) is the only way to be alerted early when subtle changes start. Catching these potentially detrimental changes early—and treating them with

lifestyle modifications or medications—can be significantly beneficial to our quality of life, to our financial resources, and, most importantly, to our longevity.

Checkups under our “hoods” can reveal emerging problems, such as:

1. **Blood Pressure:** High levels can quietly perform irreversible damage before symptoms develop.
2. **Cholesterol:** This is one of the best predictors of heart disease and potential heart attack.
3. **Blood Sugar:** This affects blood vessels and nerves. In diabetes, unhealthy blood sugar levels can cause multiple problems with the heart, brain, kidneys, eyes, and entire circulatory system.
4. **Cancers:** Breast, cervical, prostate, colorectal, and skin cancers are largely treatable with good prognoses, *if caught early!*



Sure it Looks Good, But What About the Motor?



You are as important to your health as it is to you.

—Terri Guillemets

5. **Osteoporosis:** This is a real concern in many countries; an estimated 10 million Americans are currently affected. Early detection offers opportunity for good treatment.
6. **Hearing and Vision:** These should be checked every two to four years: eyes for glaucoma/retinal problems and cataracts after age 40, and ears for hearing loss.
7. **Immunizations:** These can include vaccines for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, flu, pneumococcal pneumonia, meningitis, hepatitis A & B, measles, polio, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, and shingles. Your doctor can help you know which are most important in your part of the world to avoid debilitating illnesses.

Family history and environmental and lifestyle components play important and unavoidable roles in our risk for some diseases. Being as healthy as possible doesn't guarantee we will never become ill. But doing nothing in order to avoid discovering a problem—or waiting until something is obviously wrong before going to the doctor—can cost more in treatment expenses, quality of life, and the ability to work and care for the family.

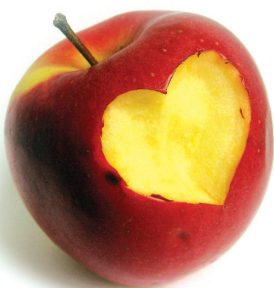
It's good sense to maintain our cars, and it is also a wise investment (and positive witness!) to be responsible stewards of our health, doing all we can to take care of the amazing bodies God has given us.

Have you had a good physical check-up lately? Call your doctor and make an appointment soon. **L**

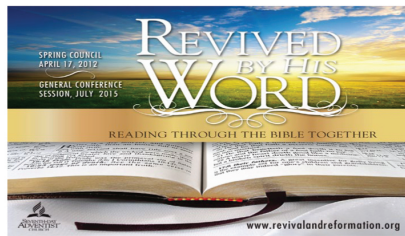
Information Sources:

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www.cdc.gov/family/checkup/;
www.doctornow.org/the-importance-of-medical-health-checks

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.



2013 Reading Calendar



January 2013

1 - 1 Sam. 24 16 - 2 Sam. 8
 2 - 1 Sam. 25 17 - 2 Sam. 9
 3 - 1 Sam. 26 18 - 2 Sam. 10
 4 - 1 Sam. 27 19 - 2 Sam. 11
 5 - 1 Sam. 28 20 - 2 Sam. 12
 6 - 1 Sam. 29 21 - 2 Sam. 13
 7 - 1 Sam. 30 22 - 2 Sam. 14
 8 - 1 Sam. 31 23 - 2 Sam. 15
 9 - 2 Sam. 1 24 - 2 Sam. 16
 10 - 2 Sam. 2 25 - 2 Sam. 17
 11 - 2 Sam. 3 26 - 2 Sam. 18
 12 - 2 Sam. 4 27 - 2 Sam. 19
 13 - 2 Sam. 5 28 - 2 Sam. 20
 14 - 2 Sam. 6 29 - 2 Sam. 21
 15 - 2 Sam. 7 30 - 2 Sam. 22
 31 - 2 Sam. 23

February 2013

1 - 2 Sam. 24 15 - 1 Kgs. 14
 2 - 1 Kgs. 1 16 - 1 Kgs. 15
 3 - 1 Kgs. 2 17 - 1 Kgs. 16
 4 - 1 Kgs. 3 18 - 1 Kgs. 17
 5 - 1 Kgs. 4 19 - 1 Kgs. 18
 6 - 1 Kgs. 5 20 - 1 Kgs. 19
 7 - 1 Kgs. 6 21 - 1 Kgs. 20
 8 - 1 Kgs. 7 22 - 1 Kgs. 21
 9 - 1 Kgs. 8 23 - 1 Kgs. 22
 10 - 1 Kgs. 9 24 - 2 Kgs. 1
 11 - 1 Kgs. 10 25 - 2 Kgs. 2
 12 - 1 Kgs. 11 26 - 2 Kgs. 3
 13 - 1 Kgs. 12 27 - 2 Kgs. 4
 14 - 1 Kgs. 13 28 - 2 Kgs. 5

March 2013

1 - 2 Kgs. 6 16 - 2 Kgs. 21
 2 - 2 Kgs. 7 17 - 2 Kgs. 22
 3 - 2 Kgs. 8 18 - 2 Kgs. 23
 4 - 2 Kgs. 9 19 - 2 Kgs. 24
 5 - 2 Kgs. 10 20 - 2 Kgs. 25
 6 - 2 Kgs. 11 21 - 1 Chr. 1
 7 - 2 Kgs. 12 22 - 1 Chr. 2
 8 - 2 Kgs. 13 23 - 1 Chr. 3
 9 - 2 Kgs. 14 24 - 1 Chr. 4
 10 - 2 Kgs. 15 25 - 1 Chr. 5
 11 - 2 Kgs. 16 26 - 1 Chr. 6
 12 - 2 Kgs. 17 27 - 1 Chr. 7
 13 - 2 Kgs. 18 28 - 1 Chr. 8
 14 - 2 Kgs. 19 29 - 1 Chr. 9
 15 - 2 Kgs. 20 30 - 1 Chr. 10
 31 - 1 Chr. 11

April 2013

1 - 1 Chr. 12 16 - 1 Chr. 27
 2 - 1 Chr. 13 17 - 1 Chr. 28
 3 - 1 Chr. 14 18 - 1 Chr. 29
 4 - 1 Chr. 15 19 - 2 Chr. 1
 5 - 1 Chr. 16 20 - 2 Chr. 2
 6 - 1 Chr. 17 21 - 2 Chr. 3
 7 - 1 Chr. 18 22 - 2 Chr. 4
 8 - 1 Chr. 19 23 - 2 Chr. 5
 9 - 1 Chr. 20 24 - 2 Chr. 6
 10 - 1 Chr. 21 25 - 2 Chr. 7
 11 - 1 Chr. 22 26 - 2 Chr. 8
 12 - 1 Chr. 23 27 - 2 Chr. 9
 13 - 1 Chr. 24 28 - 2 Chr. 10
 14 - 1 Chr. 25 29 - 2 Chr. 11
 15 - 1 Chr. 26 30 - 2 Chr. 12

May 2013

1 - 2 Chr. 13 16 - 2 Chr. 28
 2 - 2 Chr. 14 17 - 2 Chr. 29
 3 - 2 Chr. 15 18 - 2 Chr. 30
 4 - 2 Chr. 16 19 - 2 Chr. 31
 5 - 2 Chr. 17 20 - 2 Chr. 32
 6 - 2 Chr. 18 21 - 2 Chr. 33
 7 - 2 Chr. 19 22 - 2 Chr. 34
 8 - 2 Chr. 20 23 - 2 Chr. 35
 9 - 2 Chr. 21 24 - 2 Chr. 36
 10 - 2 Chr. 22 25 - Ezr. 1
 11 - 2 Chr. 23 26 - Ezr. 2
 12 - 2 Chr. 24 27 - Ezr. 3
 13 - 2 Chr. 25 28 - Ezr. 4
 14 - 2 Chr. 26 29 - Ezr. 5
 15 - 2 Chr. 27 30 - Ezr. 6
 31 - Ezr. 7

June 2013

1 - Ezr. 8 16 - Neh. 13
 2 - Ezr. 9 17 - Esth. 1
 3 - Ezr. 10 18 - Esth. 2
 4 - Neh. 1 19 - Esth. 3
 5 - Neh. 2 20 - Esth. 4
 6 - Neh. 3 21 - Esth. 5
 7 - Neh. 4 22 - Esth. 6
 8 - Neh. 5 23 - Esth. 7
 9 - Neh. 6 24 - Esth. 8
 10 - Neh. 7 25 - Esth. 9
 11 - Neh. 8 26 - Esth. 10
 12 - Neh. 9 27 - Job 1
 13 - Neh. 10 28 - Job 2
 14 - Neh. 11 29 - Job 3
 15 - Neh. 12 30 - Job 4

July 2013

1 - Job 5 16 - Job 20
 2 - Job 6 17 - Job 21
 3 - Job 7 18 - Job 22
 4 - Job 8 19 - Job 23
 5 - Job 9 20 - Job 24
 6 - Job 10 21 - Job 25
 7 - Job 11 22 - Job 26
 8 - Job 12 23 - Job 27
 9 - Job 13 24 - Job 28
 10 - Job 14 25 - Job 29
 11 - Job 15 26 - Job 30
 12 - Job 16 27 - Job 31
 13 - Job 17 28 - Job 32
 14 - Job 18 29 - Job 33
 15 - Job 19 30 - Job 34
 31 - Job 35

August 2013

1 - Job 36 16 - Pslm. 9
 2 - Job 37 17 - Pslm. 10
 3 - Job 38 18 - Pslm. 11
 4 - Job 39 19 - Pslm. 12
 5 - Job 40 20 - Pslm. 13
 6 - Job 41 21 - Pslm. 14
 7 - Job 42 22 - Pslm. 15
 8 - Pslm. 1 23 - Pslm. 16
 9 - Pslm. 2 24 - Pslm. 17
 10 - Pslm. 3 25 - Pslm. 18
 11 - Pslm. 4 26 - Pslm. 19
 12 - Pslm. 5 27 - Pslm. 20
 13 - Pslm. 6 28 - Pslm. 21
 14 - Pslm. 7 29 - Pslm. 22
 15 - Pslm. 8 30 - Pslm. 23
 31 - Pslm. 24

September 2013

1 - Pslm. 25 16 - Pslm. 40
 2 - Pslm. 26 17 - Pslm. 41
 3 - Pslm. 27 18 - Pslm. 42
 4 - Pslm. 28 19 - Pslm. 43
 5 - Pslm. 29 20 - Pslm. 44
 6 - Pslm. 30 21 - Pslm. 45
 7 - Pslm. 31 22 - Pslm. 46
 8 - Pslm. 32 23 - Pslm. 47
 9 - Pslm. 33 24 - Pslm. 48
 10 - Pslm. 34 25 - Pslm. 49
 11 - Pslm. 35 26 - Pslm. 50
 12 - Pslm. 36 27 - Pslm. 51
 13 - Pslm. 37 28 - Pslm. 52
 14 - Pslm. 38 29 - Pslm. 53
 15 - Pslm. 39 30 - Pslm. 54

October 2013

1 - Pslm. 55 16 - Pslm. 70
 2 - Pslm. 56 17 - Pslm. 71
 3 - Pslm. 57 18 - Pslm. 72
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 5 - Pslm. 59 20 - Pslm. 74
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 13 - Pslm. 67 28 - Pslm. 82
 14 - Pslm. 68 29 - Pslm. 83
 15 - Pslm. 69 30 - Pslm. 84
 31 - Pslm. 85

November 2013

1 - Pslm. 86 16 - Pslm. 101
 2 - Pslm. 87 17 - Pslm. 102
 3 - Pslm. 88 18 - Pslm. 103
 4 - Pslm. 89 19 - Pslm. 104
 5 - Pslm. 90 20 - Pslm. 105
 6 - Pslm. 91 21 - Pslm. 106
 7 - Pslm. 92 22 - Pslm. 107
 8 - Pslm. 93 23 - Pslm. 108
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 10 - Pslm. 95 25 - Pslm. 110
 11 - Pslm. 96 26 - Pslm. 111
 12 - Pslm. 97 27 - Pslm. 112
 13 - Pslm. 98 28 - Pslm. 113
 14 - Pslm. 99 29 - Pslm. 114
 15 - Pslm. 100 30 - Pslm. 115

December 2013

1 - Pslm. 116 16 - Pslm. 131
 2 - Pslm. 117 17 - Pslm. 132
 3 - Pslm. 118 18 - Pslm. 133
 4 - Pslm. 119 19 - Pslm. 134
 5 - Pslm. 120 20 - Pslm. 135
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 31 - Pslm. 146

A Moving Experience

BY KAREN HOLFORD



ONE THING THAT'S guaranteed when you work for God? Moving regularly! On top of spiritual tasks like praying about your move; and practical tasks like sorting, packing, and finding a house; there's also the relational job of caring for the family's emotions. Moving can be almost as stressful as getting a divorce or being seriously ill!

In our last move, our teenager was reluctant to move to a new culture, new school, and completely different study program. My chances of finding new employment were about as good as building an igloo in the Sahara.

UNTANGLING EMOTIONS

If you're facing a move, give every family member a sheet of paper with four headings that will help them express their emotions:

1. My fears and concerns
2. What I'll miss the most
3. What I may need help with
4. What I'm looking forward to

1. Soothe fears: 1 John 4:18

Invite each person to share what they're afraid of. What answers will calm anxieties about new schools, work, friends, cultures?

Accept their fears as real, stop what you're doing, make eye contact, explore what helps them feel hopeful, and then do what you can to reduce their fears. Pray together and encourage each other to trust in God's loving care.

2. Comfort losses: Rom. 12:15

Be honest about what you'll miss. Comfort each other: "I'm sorry you're feeling sad. What can I do to help you feel better?" Listen to their sadness and validate their feelings before trying to cheer them up.

3. Offer help: Gal. 6:2

Ask each other how stressful the day has been. "How could I help lower your stress level?" Leaving each other (especially young children) alone to struggle with difficult tasks can bring sadness, fear, stress, and resentment (of you, the move, and sometimes even of God).

4. Celebrate the new place: Jer. 29:11

Balance feelings of loss with the fun of moving. What do you like most about your new home? What is fun about exploring a new area or making new friends? What opportunities does your new place have for skills, education, interests, and hobbies?

PRIORITIZE PEOPLE OVER PACKING

Strive to be understanding, especially when someone is feeling overwhelmed. Everyone has different emotions, and it's okay to talk about them. Make time to listen to each other even though you're busy.

RELOCATING TEENAGERS

The teen years are an extra hard time to move. Teens are so tightly linked to their social network, and making new friends can be intimidating. When educational goals are disrupted, teens may feel frustrations very deeply. They need to know you've heard their concerns and validated their feelings. Planning a future trip to visit old friends may be helpful.

Let teens feel somewhat in control of their lives by giving them choices and a limited budget for decorating their new bedrooms. Find out what your new city offers for young people with their skills, hobbies, and interests, and help them to access these opportunities.

ACCEPT HELP

When moving leaves you overwhelmed and exhausted, church members are often glad to help. Make a list of things other people can do, so you know which jobs to assign when they come. Or allow them to make meals for you while you clean and pack.

SORTED!

Divide packing into smaller steps and tick off each task as you complete it. Pack boxes tightly to use minimum space, wrap fragile things carefully, and label boxes clearly on every side to make unpacking easier.

We once found a restaurant giving away large, square plastic ice-cream boxes. They were perfect for packing fragile items and for sorting toys, sewing things, tools, packets of food, and so on. We took two hundred boxes and filled, labeled, and packed them into bigger boxes—and it was much easier to find our things once we arrived! We didn't have to unpack every little thing from every plastic box since they fitted nicely onto our shelves. Hopefully our ice-cream box organization system will make our next move much easier.

HOME SWEET HOME

It's comforting to have familiar things you can set up quickly to make a new house feel more like home. I collect old candlesticks and vintage quilts, which I arrange as soon as the big furniture is in place. Then we light the candles every evening to make it cozy.

Once everything is unpacked, hide treats in drawers and closets and send the family on a treasure hunt. Everyone will discover where things are kept, and you won't have to spend the next year finding things for everyone!

CELEBRATE—MARK 6:31

You've moved! You've survived! Now be kind to yourself.

Unpack the most important things immediately and leave the rest for later. Take a break together and have a short vacation or spend a few days exploring your new city. Happy activities can help soothe the emotional stress of moving.

Have a thanksgiving worship to celebrate a safe move and a new home. Thank God for taking caring of you every step of the way. **7**

Karen and Bernie Holford have moved 11 times in 26 years of ministry, and they are currently in the middle of yet another move.





Money and Marriage

BY HEATHER SHURLIFF

MONEY—IT IS A “BIG DEAL.” If it’s not to you, then chances are it is to your spouse. Let me clarify: a “Big Deal” does not necessarily mean you have a lot of money. If that were the case, you probably would not have married a pastor. It just means that it is important to you how it is used.

Many studies list finances as the number one trigger for fights in marriage. So what makes money such a “Big Deal”? I would suggest that your choices on how to use money are some of the most personal and revealing decisions you make. Way before getting married you developed your views on the value, importance, and proper use of money. Once you are married those beliefs do not automatically align with those of your spouse. In fact, you may not even be aware of every aspect of your financial views. If you are still finding money to be a “Big Deal” in your marriage, here are five steps to help both of you get on the same page:

To start, ask yourself whom your income belongs to. Is it yours, your spouse’s, or something you share as a couple? If you look at money as something that you own, then fighting over it is inevitable. Recognizing that as a Christian everything you have belongs to God and acknowledging that even your finances are

a tool on loan from Him will have a dramatic impact on how you look at money.

Lay your income before God on a regular basis. Ask Him to direct you as a couple in how you use your resources. Review your spending to see if it is in line with God’s values. He is not a harsh taskmaster who grudgingly gives only what is necessary. God loves to bless His children in the ways He knows will be for their best good. Surrendering your finances to God and allowing Him to direct in their use will eliminate the stress that comes with tight budgets or conflicting interests.

Step two is to take time individually to evaluate and identify your feelings and values as they relate to money. As you try to pinpoint your views, think about how your family life growing up might have affected your perspective. For example, if there never seemed to be enough money growing up, you may feel stressed when it is spent in what you perceive as a frivolous manner.

It is also important to get an idea of the financial patterns you formed before getting

How to Make a Budget

married. Did you carefully save every extra bit, or did you buy a drink with the spare change in your pocket? Everyday decisions say a lot about the values we have in relation to money!

Think about what financial categories you feel should get top priority. I hate spending money on vehicles, but having a good car is important to my husband. His vehicle standards are very reasonable, but I still dislike spending money on cars. On the other hand, I appreciate a comfortable and attractive home, something that is not as big a deal to Andrew. Identifying our different financial priorities has given us the opportunity to communicate through our differences and get on the same page about how to handle them.


Once you have identified your financial values and views, take some time to share with each other what you have discovered. You do not have to reconcile all your ideas right away, but this information will be helpful next time you run into a situation where you disagree.

The third step to eliminating the “Big Deal” in your finances is to create a budget. This is something I strongly encourage you to do together. Agree to hold each other accountable to this budget but feel free to readjust it, as a couple, when you identify areas that need a second look. Having a budget you both created helps ensure that your individual financial priorities are addressed. This cuts down on the frustrations of seeing money used in a way that may not be your first choice.

Step four is to create a list of “big ticket” items that both of you want to purchase during the next year or so. By “big ticket” I mean things that you will probably have to save for, such as

a special vacation or a car. Once you have your list, number each one in order of importance, with consideration to both of your desires. Having this list gives you concrete goals that you can work toward together.

Finally, make sure you include personal allowances in your budget. Even if you can only afford a five- or ten-dollar allowance, do it! Having money that you can use at your own discretion allows you both to have some freedom of expression. Make it a rule not to comment on how the other uses this allowance.

Marriage is a beautiful depiction of how two people can become one in every aspect of life. It is also a commentary on how this “oneness” gives each partner the freedom to express their individuality. If money has been a “Big Deal” in your marriage, I challenge you to lay it first before God and then, with His guidance, to tackle it as a team. Take time to work through your differences in an understanding way, and keep in mind the financial priorities of your spouse. You will be richly rewarded! 

Heather has had a lifetime of experience with making small budgets stretch. Raised as a pastor's daughter, she now writes from south Georgia, where her husband pastors two churches. They have three children under the age of four.

1. Track your spending. This is the key to setting a realistic budget. It takes a little time, but it's the best way to know where your money is going. Record all your spending for at least two months. Make sure to include all small purchases (drinks, snacks, etc.), not just big costs.
2. Categorize your expenses. List utilities, rent/mortgage, groceries, clothing, savings, etc., based on the information you've tracked. Try to be as specific as possible so you don't have a miscellaneous category that accounts for a third of your spending.
3. Compare income with outflow. Add up the costs of each category for each month. Look at your total income and compare it to the amount of money going out each month.
4. Evaluate your goals. Are you satisfied with the spending in your various categories? What financial goals do you have? How well are you meeting those goals?
5. Set realistic budgets for each category. Discuss each category together and decide what amount is realistic, based on what you've tracked. Add up all the categories and compare the total budgeted outflow with your total income to make sure it is compatible.
6. Start an emergency fund. You'll need this to cover surprise expenses as they arise.
7. Stick to the budget. The key is to spend no more than what you've allotted for each category. A good way is to put cash in an envelope for each category at the beginning of the month. When the cash runs out, you have no more to spend. If you live in a country where it is possible, you can also purchase gift cards to stores where you usually shop (such as Walmart) instead of carrying cash for every category.

Willing to Go Where God Wants Me to Go

BY GINA WAHLEN

JOSEPHINE WARI is a woman of many talents: in addition to serving as the Shepherdess coordinator for the West-Central (WAD) she is also the associate director in the education department.

It hasn't always been that way. In the 1990s, Josephine held a high-paying and rewarding position working for the government of Cameroon as a national high school inspector. At that time, Josephine's husband, Pastor Gilbert Wari, was serving as the Central-South Mission president in Sangmelima, two hours away from the country's capital city of Yaoundé, where Josephine was serving in the national government.

With the approval of her supervisor, Josephine had arranged her schedule so that she was at the mission headquarters Friday through Monday, while she worked at her office in Yaoundé Tuesday through Thursday. However, some at the church's union office in Yaoundé felt strongly that as the mission president's wife, Josephine should stay at the mission in Sangmelima full time. "The only solution to save my husband's ministry," she recalled, "was to resign from my government position." To make up for the lost income, Josephine cultivated and sold vegetables.



However, when her husband was called to work at the union office in Yaoundé, government officials re-hired Josephine to the same position she had previously held.

In 2002, when Pastor Wari was elected division secretary for the West-Central Africa Division, located in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, Josephine once again resigned from her governmental position in order to follow and support her husband's ministry.

NO BITTERNESS

In spite of twice resigning from her work in order to support her husband's ministry, Josephine is not bitter. "I am happy to serve the Lord and His people in the remnant church, despite the challenges," she says.

"I am happy that my church is the remnant church, and as such, is actively proclaiming the good news



“I am happy to serve the Lord and His people in the remnant church, despite the challenges”

of salvation to all nations in various ways, in order to hasten the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. My church is a movement, integrating new light, such as adopting the new, twenty-eighth fundamental belief. Praise the Lord for the gift of discernment and maturity!”

COMMITTED TO GOD’S WORK

Josephine and Gilbert met at a local church during the service one Sabbath day in 1993. By the following year, they were married in a local church in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The two were dedicated church workers, serving locally as a deacon and deaconess, and Josephine as the church’s personal ministries leader. Later, Gilbert served as the pastor of two churches in Yaoundé and then as the head of a church district. They continued their service to the church when Gilbert became a departmental director at the union office and then the first academic dean of the

Cosendai Adventist University in Nanga Eboko, Cameroon. Later he went to the West-Central Africa Division as executive secretary, and now he serves as division president.

The couple have three children: Nene, who serves as an office secretary; Eric, who is pursuing studies in Canada; and Salem, who is currently in high school.

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND SERVICE

Josephine feels called to support her pastor husband in a number of ways: “By praying for him and his colleagues, and for the division, and by following him wherever he is called to serve in the world church.” She also supports him by “giving him healthy food, helping solve family challenges when he is very busy with the mission entrusted to him, and by advising him when it is needed.”



As division Shepherdess coordinator, Josephine organizes retreats and conventions for the pastoral wives and encourages them to acquire more education for better service. She also urges them to live a healthy lifestyle and to actively participate in the programs of the world church, such as the Bible reading and 777 prayer initiatives, along with the Great Controversy Project.

Josephine also encourages an active mentoring program, in which older, more experienced pastoral wives “monitor and encourage the ministry” of the younger ones. Prayer is also a part of Josephine’s ministry, as she prays with and for pastoral wives, their husbands, and children.

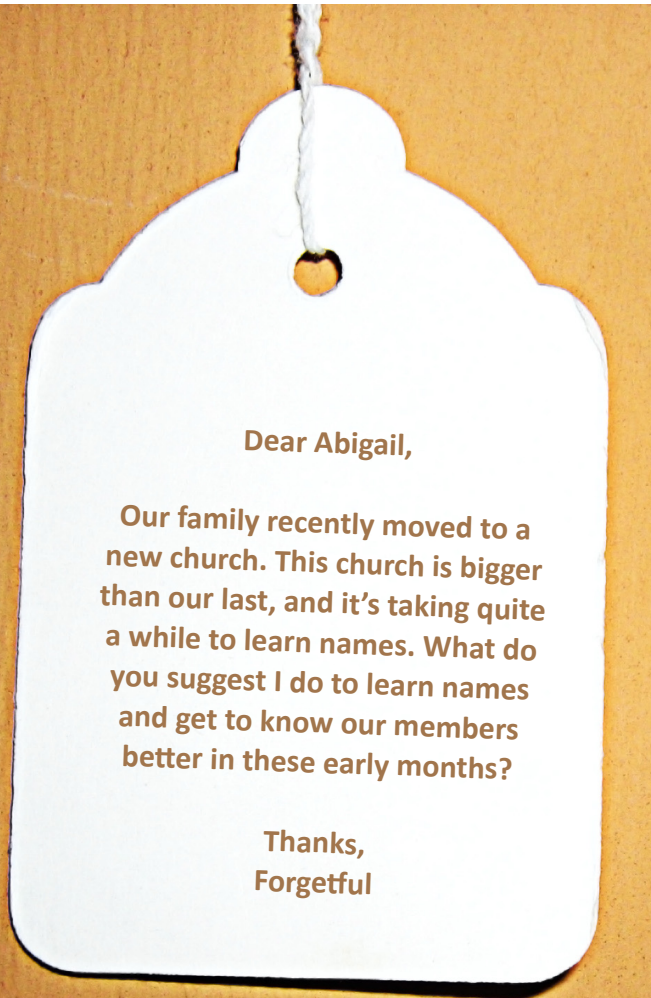
Continuing to set an example in personal ministry, Josephine enjoys sharing Christian literature; singing; witnessing to women, children, and others; and organizing evangelistic campaigns through small groups. She also enjoys planting church schools, serving as a counselor, and being a seminar facilitator.

Although she continues to lead a busy life, Josephine keeps her balance by:

1. Asking God to help her plan and keep a balanced life.
2. Setting an order of priorities.
3. Planning activities properly.
4. Being disciplined and keeping to her planned schedule.

But for Josephine, serving the Lord is more than just a checklist—it’s a joy! It’s the “joy of sharing with others, the joy of service to others, and the joy of leading people to Christ.” 7

Gina Wahlen has served as a writer, editor and teacher in Russia, the Philippines, and the United States. She and her husband, Clinton have a son, Daniel, and daughter, Heather.



Dear Forgetful,

There are many ways to get to know your new church members. If it's a smallish congregation and you have the time, you can invite the families over for a game night or for Friday night supper and sundown worship.

If your church is bigger, host an "open house" in your home and invite your congregation to a come-and-go event. Provide light finger foods and drinks (and if it's acceptable in your culture, ask your elders' wives to bring snacks also) and let everyone mingle at their leisure. As guests arrive, snap a polaroid or cell phone picture of each person or family and have them sign their names on a small piece of paper to go with their picture. After the dinner you can put the photos and signatures in a scrapbook to help you remember names and to create a keepsake of your early days in the congregation.

For learning names, here are a few tricks:

- When you meet for the first time, ask the person's name and repeat it several times during the conversation: "It's nice to meet you, Susan! So, Susan, how long have you lived here?" Repeating the name several times while looking at the person's face helps your memory.
- If it's a difficult or unusual name, ask how it's spelled.
- If it's a common or easy name, try to figure out an association to go with it: Jack Smith with black hair (Jack rhymes with black), and so on.
- If you can, keep a pack of 3x5 cards handy, with one card per family. Write names and details about the family members: church roles, kids' ages, shared hobbies, etc.

And don't be afraid to admit when you forget. Remind people, in good humor, that while they have only two or three new names to learn from your family, you have 150 (or however many people are in your new church). Tell people how much you want to know them. Ask them to remind you of their names whenever you see them.

Just knowing that you're trying is enough to make people feel loved and cared for!

Blessings in your district,

Abigail

When God Says “Go!” (but you really don’t want to)

BY SARAH K. ASAFTEI



SEVERAL MONTHS AGO God told us it was time to move. And I was NOT happy about it.

I loved our district. Loved the people and the area. Loved my new prayer partner and other budding friendships. I appreciated the quality Sabbath Schools and vibrant family atmosphere. Our families lived within driving distance, and I was content.

Funny, how God likes to take contentment and turn it upside down sometimes!

Just before the new year, my husband got a call asking him to consider pastoring a district three days (and more than a thousand miles) away. He graciously declined, saying that he too was content where God had already placed him. One week later, he got a second call—about a church just on the opposite side of our city. That position was filled internally. Maybe two weeks after that, he got a third call—from a church in Florida.

“God, are You trying to tell us something?” he asked. “Are You hinting that You have another place for us?” He decided that we should honor the process of interviewing, even if it only meant we could freely say “No” at the end. So we accepted the interview. Or rather, *he* accepted the interview. I wasn’t thrilled.

Yes, I know. Good wives always support their husbands. We are supposed to follow them wherever God calls them to go. We are never supposed to complain. But my heart still wasn’t happy about this possible transition. I *wanted* to be supportive and delighted for my husband. But I didn’t want to leave a place where I felt safe and loved and secure.

When we traveled to the interview, I thought of every reason why this transition was probably a terrible idea. We were just starting several creative ministries at our current church, I had just accepted a work contract that would be intensely demanding even without the added stress of packing and moving—and I could see no good reason to leave.

Even though I didn't feel like it, I promised my husband that I would keep an open mind and engage with the process. I agreed to give God a chance to change my heart if this was something we were really supposed to do.

After a two-hour interview, we stepped out to allow the 26 church leaders and board members to talk. We knelt together in the church office and prayed aloud. "Lord, we ask for You to show us what we should do," my husband prayed. "We ask for absolute unity between our current conference and this new one, for unity among the church board members, and for unity on this decision in our marriage."

I knew that the first part of his prayer had already been answered. We'd been with our current conference for nearly a decade. It felt like family. But just before we'd left for this interview, our ministerial director had approached my husband and given his blessing, should we decide to move away.

After praying together, we sat down to wait. Not five minutes passed before the conference representative and the church's head elder walked in.

"I've never seen this happen before," the ministerial director said. "The church board just voted *unanimously* to ask you to be their new senior pastor. Not one dissension, not one hesitation!" My husband and I looked at each other, feeling the significance of the prayer we had just finished. Here was the second answer to our prayer for unity.

We agreed to prayerfully consider the call and give our answer soon. And then we went back to the hotel, driving in silence as we pondered the implications of the evening.

The next morning, we prayed aloud together again. As my husband poured his heart out to God, I still wrestled with my feelings about it all. "Why do we have to move *now*, God? Do we *really* have to?" And there, in the quiet of the morning, listening to my husband's voice, I heard another voice—the inaudible, yet unavoidable, kind—resounding powerfully in my mind.

"Go."

Just once. I couldn't get it to come back. I knew, as you know when you've heard the Holy Spirit before, that it was the sound of God telling me that this was right. I was wrong. My attitude was wrong. My worries were unfounded. Because if it was His plan, then He was big enough to work out the details.

And He has. We've been in this new church for a year now. God has done some amazing things here, and we see evidence that He's preparing for many more. There have been challenges, but that's nothing new.

I'm just hoping I don't forget. So that whenever He calls us next time, maybe I can get on board with the idea a little faster. Because honestly, He knows exactly what He's doing. ■

Sarah K. Asaftei is a pastor's wife and mother of two, currently serving in Tampa, Florida. She works as development specialist for the General Conference Ministerial Association and has a marketing and film production company, skaMEDIA productions. Sarah grew up a missionary kid and loves international travel, languages, and photography.

Powerful, Even Without Recognition

BY LUCIA MAPIYE GWAZE



JESUS HAD TWELVE DISCIPLES, and each of their stories can teach us powerful lessons. But I have found the story of Andrew especially interesting. *Andrew* means “manly,” which definitely describes his character. The Bible doesn’t mention much about him compared to Peter, John, and James, but his contribution was still great. Just like the pastor’s wife today, our contribution to the pastoral ministry is great but often very little recognition is given to our work.

He was a fisherman from the city of Bethsaida and was called by Jesus to be a “fisher of men.” Fishing was core business in that area and probably Andrew’s primary means of survival, but he left that job to follow Jesus. How many of us have left our businesses, jobs, and “profitable” professions to join our husbands in the ministry? Countless. I have learned that Jesus does not look for any special qualifications for a minister’s wife; He looks at the heart. Are you willing to serve Him? I say “hats off” to my fellow pastors’ wives for sacrificing everything in our lives to work alongside the pastor and complete God’s work.

He was the first disciple called by Jesus, and he responded positively. Before our husbands extend the call to the congregation to follow Christ, we should be the first ones to respond. Noah spent 120 years preaching, and his wife and kids were his first (and only) converts. Imagine yourself standing alongside your husband and family, listening to the call of God’s trumpet when Jesus breaks through the clouds. I’m sure our spouses will be more than happy to say to the Lord when we get to Heaven, “Here is the wife you gave me!” even before they point to the flock. The most powerful pastors succeed because of the support of powerful shepherdesses (Matt. 4:18, 19; Mark 1:16, 17).

He liked introducing people to Jesus. Andrew brought his brother Peter to Christ. Are we introducing

our relatives and friends to Jesus? Have you experienced the joy when one of your family members accepts Jesus and starts walking with Him? I was born in a non-Adventist family and was the first to know Jesus and be baptized. I cannot explain how happy I was when my eldest sister and brother received Jesus into their lives. A year later, two more of my sisters were baptized. Introducing your family to a friend is simple!

Andrew was not jealous when his brother became one of Jesus' favorites. Do you get green with envy when your sister or even a younger pastor's wife starts manifesting the fruits of the Holy Spirit? When people we have mentored start growing and working, let us encourage them instead of envying them. We are there to help, not compete.

Andrew also told Jesus that the Greeks wanted to see Him (John 12:20-22). Are you introducing unbelievers to Christ? Often members will approach wives first before they see the pastor. How are you treating them? A true disciple has passion to draw members closer to Christ.

He was a visionary. As Jesus preached to the multitude, the crowds got hungry. It was Andrew who noticed the little boy with two fish and five loaves of bread (John 6:8, 9). It was Andrew who brought the boy to Jesus hoping for a miracle. He was more than willing to operate behind the scenes. Along with Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Olives, he asked Jesus when the destruction of the temple would occur. The pastor's wife can help her husband by giving him insight. We see so many things that our husbands may never see. Are you helping him see it through your eyes?

He was in the upper room and received the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:12; 2-4). Often church members invite us to prayer meetings, but we turn them down. They give us prayer requests, and we promise to pray for them but never do. Prayer challenges keep us closed up in the upper room with our Savior. Andrew was filled with the Holy Spirit because he was there in the upper room. In my experience, when I accept such challenges, I find myself drawing closer to God. My spirituality has grown from strength to strength. It is also a powerful

tool to draw me closer to the congregation. Being a prayer warrior not only benefits the members but also myself.

He was loyal. Andrew was there when Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons. He was there at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. And he is one of the disciples who was crucified. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to say with Paul, "I have fought the good fight . . . I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, . . . and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim 4:7, 8, NKJV).

Like Andrew, many of us are obedient, resourceful, caring, loving, zealous, humble, and filled with great faith. May God be our daily source of power as we work, often unnoticed, in His vineyard. You may not get recognition now, but how powerful it will be when Jesus ushers us into His Father's house and says, "Come in, my faithful servant!" ■

Lucia Mapiye Gwaze is a sales and marketing manager for a household and body care manufacturing company in Zimbabwe. Lucia and her pastor-husband, Danford, are pastoring in Glen Norah District in Harare and have been blessed with two children, Anotida and Desire. As a family they enjoy taking nature walks, game viewing, and sailing on the lake, especially the sunset cruise. Lucia enjoys reading, writing, cooking, and baking. She became Shepherdess president for the East Zimbabwe Conference in June 2010.

HAVE YOU EVER SACRIFICED A GREAT CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN ORDER TO FOLLOW YOUR PASTOR-SPOUSE'S CALLING?

CYNTHIA BURRILL

I missed many opportunities to work and follow my career, and my certification to teach ran out because of our constant moving due to the pastorate and evangelism. It was very difficult to make ends meet because of our one salary and the extra expenses entailed in evangelism. And then it took more schooling to get my certification back when I finally got a chance to go to school. On top of it all, I had a difficult time finding a job. Yet it really wasn't as bad as it sounds. The conference did hire me on a small stipend for the work I was already doing in assisting my husband with evangelism. It was enough to keep us solvent, and I thoroughly loved that involvement with the ministry. And when we settled in a church, I learned much from other teachers on how to handle any type of classroom. I knew each one of our children in our grade school well because of substituting in our school. To me they were not just our members' children but my children in the church. I got to visit members with my husband and learned what it felt like to be out of work and searching for a job. It was a lesson that enabled me to be more compassionate to those without jobs in our churches. Then we moved again. This time I was hired full time to teach and assist my husband. All these experiences prepared me for a job that became the joy of my life—teaching student spouses in the seminary.

LATONIA SCHMIDT

This is a great question! I am presently struggling with this and would love to see more comments about this. . . . My whole experience being married to my pastor-husband (at the beginning he taught academy) was always one of finding my niche at each move and sensing that God had always kept a role in mind for me, but this last move has been quite different.

We like to hear your answers to questions like this. To participate, join our Facebook group online at www.facebook.com/groups/ministerialspouses/. Your answer could be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Journal*. Responses may be edited to fit the space.

JODINE AZZOPARDI

Being a stay-at-home mum at this point, I did not sacrifice my career of teaching when my husband changed careers and went into ministry. . . . However, I have sacrificed friends, family, and living in my home country of Australia for us to go to Andrews and re-train. Now we work in the ministry in Canada. There have been great sacrifices and great blessings. . . . I do feel we are walking in the center of God's will, and when homesick I cling to that!



East-Central Africa Division

Antoinette Mwangachuchu, ECD Shepherdess coordinator, shared a report about the Kajjado Adventist Education and Rehabilitation Center, which is located in Central Kenya Conference in Maasai territory. The center rescues Maasai girls who are destitute, orphaned, married at a young age, or victims of female genital mutilation (FGM). Most Maasai do not value education for girls; those who do enroll in school are often withdrawn from courses, subjected to FGM, and married to men who may be age 60 or older. The center has organized eight classrooms, two dormitories, and two living areas for staff. A modern dining hall/multipurpose hall is yet to be completed.



Kajjado Adventist Education and Rehabilitation Center in Kenya.



Submitted by Antoinette Mwangachuchu



Young ladies in uniform at the rehabilitation center.



Female inmates in Langata prison. They had a camp meeting and enjoyed the Lord's Supper together.



Submitted by Liliya Krupskaya



Euro-Asia Division

The Euro-Asia Division held a congress for pastors' children in Moldova in the spring of 2012. They spent three days at a summer camp enjoying a program based on the five books of Moses. The children were divided into the 12 tribes of Israel, and during the camp they reenacted moments of Israelite history, such as the time of slavery and battles for the land of Canaan.

A congress for pastors' children was also held in Siberia. Seminars, programs, and concerts focused on the theme "Children of Light." Two children were baptized in spite of the cold weather. The warm and friendly atmosphere will remain in their hearts.



Submitted by Liliya Krupskaya



The Caucasus Union held a congress for pastoral children at the Sea of Azov. Pastors' children have much in common, and the congress helped create a sense of family and unity. They discussed many topics, including principles of ministry for pastoral families, church plans, and missionary work.

Inter-American Division

Evelyn Omana, former IAD Shepherdess coordinator, presented seminars at the Shepherdess Council in Mexico in August 2012. Participants had a chance to fellowship, worship, and pray together.



submitted by Evelyn Omana

Evelyn Omana (bottom center) with Shepherdess coordinators in Mexico.

North American Division

Several of the Texico pastors' wives gathered at the home of Rita Stevens for an evening meal after attending a day conference retreat on August 18th at the Albuquerque Heights Church with keynote speaker, Janet Page, sharing different aspects of prayer and her personal testimony.

Pastor David Merling on behalf of his gracious congregation welcomed 170 women. The women enjoyed the beautiful facility at Heights and the wonderful lunch prepared by the Heights congregation.



Submitted by Rita Stevens



Northern Asia-Pacific Division

One of our first Shepherdess leaders from China, Chen Ya Xian, held a couples' retreat. She was assisted by Lily S. Wu, director of CHUM Children's/ Family/Women's Ministries and Shepherdess, and her assistant, Joyce Sham.

The ministerial couples of the Beijing church ministries committee held a marriage camp at a resort in May 2012. Sunshine and sometimes showers came from heaven above during the two-day event. These busy men and women put aside their busy schedules and enjoyed holding hands with their spouses. The goal was to enhance their marriages through shared activities such as games and seminars. A church leader in her eighties said that they should demonstrate to the next generation that married life includes intimacy. God

blesses it. This was the first time she had held her husband's hand and had a sweet walk with him in public!

Everyone had a good time together as they recommitted themselves to each other. They read the ten commandments of marriage aloud as couples and signed their names on commitment cards. They also wrote love letters to each other on the first night of the camp and read the letters to each other the next day. This was the first marriage camp for ministerial couples in this region, and we hope for more in the future.

Southern Asia Division

Subhakar Prasad from Jharkhand, India, reported on a successful weekend of meetings. Thanks to materials from Women's Ministries and the prayers of many, the women came prepared to receive the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Reeta Ernest, a hospital medical advisor, shared how a friend was diagnosed with mammary gland cancer but was recovering as a result of her dependence on God and a change of lifestyle. She concluded with her friend's message to the church: "I'm glad I got cancer. If not for it, I wouldn't have changed my lifestyle."

Participants shared stories of how God had used them since childhood, how God had led them from Hinduism to Christianity, and how He had blessed them with supportive husbands.

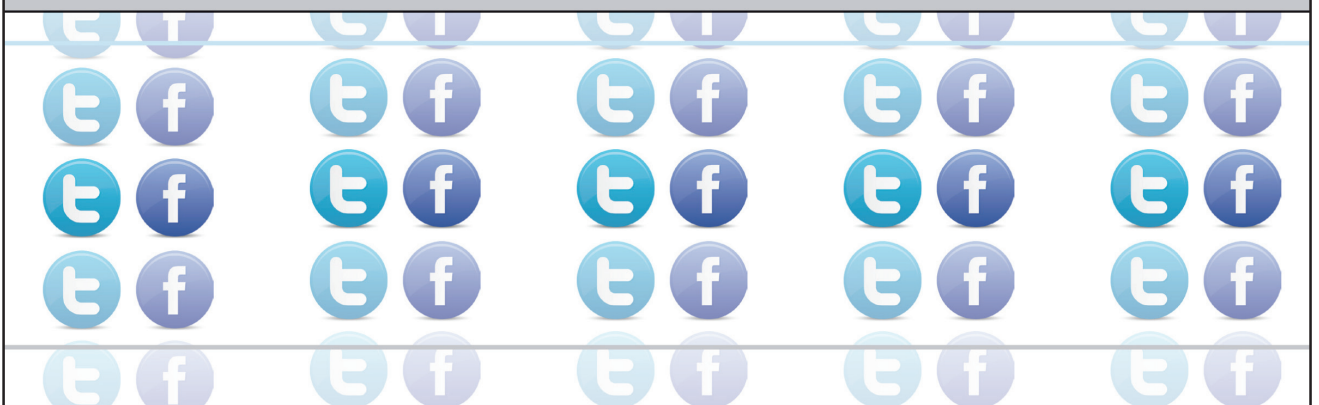
May God bless and use the women of this church in a mighty way in the days to come.



Submitted by SUD

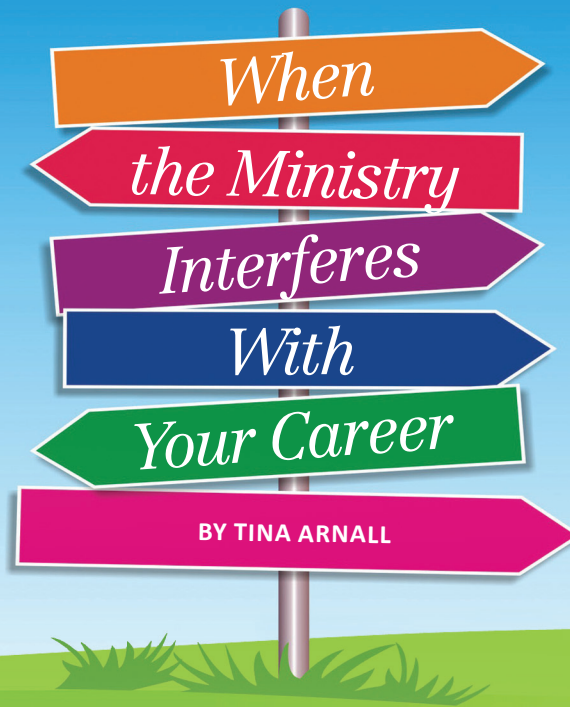
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AS I HUNG UP THE PHONE my mind reeled. We had just been asked if we could be considered to pastor the church in Crossville, Tennessee. I didn't even know where that was.

I have always been eager to go where God wants, but this could NOT be God's will for us! We had just bought a beautiful house, and I had been promoted to coordinator of day surgery at my hospital. I loved what I was doing. I loved our church. Every aspect of my life was perfect and, in my mind, couldn't get any better.

I was sitting at my desk, alone in the room. I asked myself, "Am I being selfish?" So I bowed my head and prayed. I told God I was willing to do anything He wanted me to do, but I needed to know He was leading us. I prayed that if He was leading in this that He would change my mindset from a definite "No" to a "Yes" (that seemed a stretch, so I added even "Maybe"). To me, this would be a miracle.

Oddly, by the end of the day I was finding myself eager and even excited! I couldn't describe the peace I felt about it. This shocked me so much that I told my husband. I said, "I believe we are going to take this call." He said it wasn't likely because another pastor was seriously interviewing with the church. When that

pastor in line before us refused, I knew our impending move was certain.

This gave me resolve when my manager told me that I was going to be promoted to her position as manager. I knew I would love the experience, but I also knew God was calling us elsewhere.

My life was about to be rocked to the core. Just after we moved, we went on a trip to Venezuela. My husband's twin brother, Jamie, took us to the airport, where we said hasty goodbyes. I remember thinking, "I wonder if he realizes this could be the last time he sees us?"

Our flight back from the mission trip was delayed, so we missed the November holiday of Thanksgiving that we usually spend with family. About a week later Jamie died in a plane crash. We had all grown up together and were extremely close—it was a time of deep grief. The church we had just moved to, as well as the church we had just left, lifted us up and helped us through a very hard time.

Special Quotes

What I had thought was so important for my career turned out to be far less valuable. It is a beautiful thing when we see God's hand in our lives. I'm so glad we followed God's leading!

Our new church seemed to sense when we needed support. Looking back, I can see God at work through it all. I see God's footprints trying to make it better any way He could. We cried with our church through the loss of my husband's twin brother. They celebrated my husband's ordination by giving us a beautiful painting of him and his brother. They were there to pray with us when I was facing a possible miscarriage (God worked a beautiful miracle in that situation when I was anointed!). They have also celebrated with us in the births of our two boys.

Interestingly, the job I hated to leave was completely changed when that hospital merged with another one. The nurse who took my place had a very hard time in the transition. What I had thought was so important for my career turned out to be far less valuable. It is a beautiful thing when we see God's hand in our lives. I'm so glad we followed God's leading!

Tina Arnall is a nurse and the proud mother of two active little boys. She and her husband serve in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

"We are to be laborers together with the heavenly angels in presenting Jesus to the world. With almost impatient eagerness the angels wait for our cooperation; for man must be the channel to communicate with man. And when we give ourselves to Christ in wholehearted devotion, angels rejoice that they may speak through our voices to reveal God's love."

Desire of Ages, p. 297

"Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father's heart."

Desire of Ages, p. 356

"In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the *very life of God*, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized."

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 38

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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may...glorify your Father which is in Heaven."



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