

THE JOURNAL

A RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

Vol. 35 | Issue One 2018

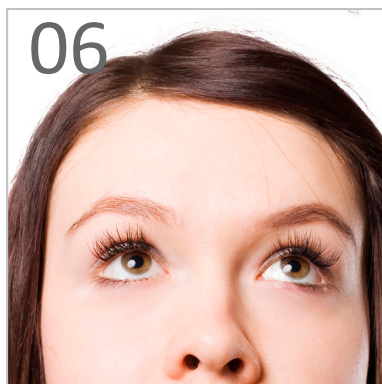
Bouncing Back





ON THE COVER

How do we relate to challenges in life and ministry? We can choose to let circumstances overwhelm and discourage us, or we can allow God to grow us through the trying times. In this issue, we'll focus on finding faith in the midst of life's storms.



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The Journal: A Shepherdess International Resource for Ministry Spouses is a quarterly publication produced by Shepherdess International, an entity of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Ministerial Association.

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Printed in the U.S.A.
www.ministerialassociation.org/spouses/

PHOTO CREDITS: dreamstime.com, freepik
COVER PHOTO: freelyphotos.com | D. Simupande

Stand on the Memories



WHEN PROBLEMS ONLY MULTIPLY and crises are exploding, what do you do? Let me share a few of my failed remedies through the years. For endless frustration: Scream. For depression: Eat ice cream, a large bag of chips, a box of chocolates—maybe all three. Or watch movies on TV. For fear: Accept it's hopeless and stay in bed as long and often as possible. When crying out for help: Call a friend, daily if needed, to bemoan my constant torment.

None of the remedies lasted. The best I could hope for was maybe a day of comfort. Yet, somewhere inside, I kept searching for answers. And one day while reading God's Word, I found something amazingly powerful in Psalm 77.

"I cried out to God with my voice—to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained and my spirit was overwhelmed. You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak" (verses 1-4, NKJV).

Through many experiences, I have learned that when I am desperate and immersed in fear, meditating on God's Word can give me space to listen. Quiet can comfort and help me see the path ahead.

"I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. I call to remem-

"We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer."

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 317

brance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search. Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore? Has God forgotten to be gracious?" (verses 7-9a).

I have felt like this too many times . . . wondering, *Is God angry at me? Has He rejected me? Does He exist?* In verses 10-14, I could finally hear His words. They answer what to do when we are overwhelmed with problems in our lives!

"And I said, 'This is my anguish; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.' I will remember the

works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds. Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples" (verses 10-14).

The answer is to remember! Something amazing and powerful happens when we start remembering and thanking God for how He has worked in the past. Writing down my prayer requests and the answers has helped me. Then, when I am really troubled over a problem or crisis, I take out my prayer notebook and start thanking and praising God for the ways I have seen Him work in my life and in other lives.

I love this quote, and I remind God of it often: "When we are humble and contrite we stand where God can and will manifest Himself to us. He is well pleased when we urge past mercies and blessings as a reason why He should bestow on us greater blessings. He will more than fulfill the expectations of those who trust fully in Him" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 513).

In this issue you'll find several stories about how people learned to handle impossible problems. Praying it will bless you!

Janet Page serves as associate ministerial secretary for pastoral spouses, families, and prayer.



Leaning Hard

THE PHONE RANG AROUND 2:00 a.m. We had been asleep for only an hour or two. The police officer on the other end of the line said, "We have your car, and it's drivable."

Not wanting to pay impound fees, we ignored our desire for sleep, got up, and drove 40 minutes to pick up our precious car. It didn't look too bad from the outside, but the thief did. The police had handcuffed him, and he exuded utter misery. When the police had located the car and started following him, he had attempted to evade them, going 90 miles per hour on city streets. Eventually he hit a speed bump, the chassis bent, and the airbags deployed, so he abandoned the car in someone's front yard. In a desperate attempt to escape, he jumped a fence. The police, in hot pursuit, released a dog that also jumped the fence and caught and bit the fugitive.

HOW IT STARTED

At 8:00 p.m. the previous night, our children and I had arrived home and noticed that our second car was gone. *Strange*, we thought. The garage door also stood open. Our girls walked inside and realized the stereo was missing. We had been robbed.

My husband works all over the conference during the summer, so he could have been anywhere, but that night I thanked God that he was working in the city closest to us. He was home in an hour. We didn't have the guns or jewelry for which the thieves were obviously looking, but aside from the car, they did get away with three violins, two guitars, and other items.

This was the second incident at our house in three weeks, in a supposedly safe neighborhood, out in the country, in an area that is not subject to dangers like floods, earthquakes, or tornadoes. Two Friday afternoons before the theft we were preparing for Sabbath when we heard a loud bang as our electricity went off. My husband looked out the front door and shouted for us to get out. The tall, dry grass on our property was on fire near an electrical pylon about 100 feet from our house.

I grabbed my cell phone and desperately asked my sister to pray. The fire truck showed up in about seven minutes, which seemed like an eternity. "Lord, save our house!" I cried out as we used hoses to stop the fire from coming closer.

God heard. The wind blew away from our house, and we started thanking Him aloud as rain poured for about ten minutes and helped to contain all seven fires around our neighborhood that had been ignited by dry lightning. After things settled down, I called and told my sister that the Lord had sent rain. She simply said, “That’s what we were praying for.”

Through this experience I heard God calling to my heart, saying “Trust me.” I felt ashamed that I, a Christian of many years, felt so afraid during that fire. Here was a chance to “lean hard on Jesus Christ” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, p. 305) like I had never leaned before.

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER

A year later God provided another test, perhaps because He “brings his children over the same ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility fills the mind, and the character is transformed” (*My Life Today*, p. 92).

It was a Friday afternoon again. Our 13-year-old daughter’s yell of “Fire!” brought us all running to the living room. There it was—a huge pillar of smoke, just a couple of properties away from us. We knew what we wanted to grab this time and quickly dropped a few valuable items into the trunk of one car before we pulled out and parked beyond the driveway. Hastily, we laid down a line of water on our property with the garden hose. Flames shot high as the fire torched trees that had endured years of drought. The smoke blew our way. Again, we prayed hard.

Soon the flames jumped onto the lower part of our property and threatened to cut off our only escape route. With no firetrucks in sight, we evacuated. I remember thinking, *God has come through before and saved our house. If He chooses, He will do it.*

The next morning when authorities allowed us to return, a bright, almost neon pink house greeted us. One of the six air attack planes called in to fight the blaze had dropped fire retardant directly on our house—but it was unharmed. The fire had burned to within eight feet of our living room.

I wondered why our family had experienced two fires and a burglary within 13 months, and why all this happened during the summer when my

husband is so busy running the student literature evangelism programs. I am not sure why, but I know this: “The Father’s presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. . . . Nothing can touch him [the one abiding in Christ] except by our Lord’s permission, and ‘all things’ that are permitted ‘work together for good to them that love God’ (Romans 8:28)” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 71).

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

I love the attitude of faith expressed in Habakkuk: “Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; . . . and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God . . . will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills” (Habakkuk 3:17-19, NKJV). In modern language we might say it this way: if there is no food in the grocery store, no way to get any, no prospect of income—yet, I will rejoice in the Lord.

Being familiar with Jerusalem and the nearby hillsides, Habakkuk would have seen the female red deer about which he wrote. Her well-known surefootedness provides her only defense from predators. Evidently, she can place her back feet precisely where her front feet stepped, without making a mistake, thus running securely over difficult terrain.

Likewise, through the events He allows in my life, God is carefully shaping my spiritual feet so that I will be able to run with security and abandonment despite obstacles. I may be afraid or suffering from disease. I may wake up feeling like the day is not worth living. I may feel that circumstances are too hard. God wants to give me deer feet and take me to high places with Him.

Through it all, our family has seen God unmistakably watching out for us—and more than making up for the losses. Two months after the burglary, friends felt led to raise funds to help replace our stolen goods. The Lord’s provision and the love and concern people showed us blew us away. The two fires burned close enough to destroy some old sheds on our property, but our house was untouched.

And what about the young man who robbed us? For the nine months he was incarcerated, we sent literature, cards, and GLOW tracts, praying often for him. What if God permitted this burglary so that this man could have a chance to be in heaven, and so we could learn to lean hard on Him? I hope so. Looking back, I am humbly grateful for these unexpected trials—His workmen that bring me a little closer to having those spiritual deer’s feet. J

Heather Krick, originally from South Africa, is wife to Bill, who directs literature ministries, and mother to Savannah and Heidi.

When Dreams Die

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ONE with a lot of dreams—everything from changing the world for Jesus, to traveling the globe, to the million-and-one projects I'd love to do, to deeper things like wanting to be loved, secure, and fulfilled. I'd love to have it all in the idealistic world of Michelle.

But maybe you, like me, have realized that not all of our dreams come true in this life. Maybe it's the career you'll never have due to an injury. Maybe it's the future that's not to be due to the death of a loved one. Maybe it's the romance that ended in spite of the bright hope it seemed to hold. Maybe it's the poor choices you've made, and now you're paying the price. Maybe it's just realizing that God's plans for you are different from the ones *you* had in mind.

Whatever the case, the death of a dream isn't easy. It can be anywhere from slightly disappointing to earth-shatteringly devastating. It's hard to keep faith in the face of it. It's hard to trust when I can't understand what in the world God is doing.

Sometimes there's a sacrifice. And *sacrifice* isn't an easy word. It makes me think of the patriarch Abraham, trekking up the mountain with his only son and a bundle of wood. God had promised him a legacy—through Isaac! And now that dream was about to die. Isaac was about to die! Why would God ask this?

Why does God seem to ask us to lay even good dreams on the altar at times? Here are my ponderings.

TO TEST US:

"Michelle, maybe God just wants you to be willing." It wasn't what I wanted to hear. I was sick of where I was and what I was doing. I didn't see how it was good for me. I wanted out. I felt like I *needed* out! Yet here was my mentor, telling me to be willing? It was a sacrifice I didn't want to make.

Maybe you've been there. The circumstances don't make sense. It goes against everything you want. And God says, "Are you willing?" In the instance above, the Lord finally did bring me to the point of being willing. And interestingly, He *then* provided a way out. I didn't end up having to go through with it. The doors opened, and the exit came. And I took it—but actually with a lot more thought and prayer than I dreamed I would.



We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God.

Looking back, I realize that sometimes God tests us this way. At the last minute He steps in and holds back the knife as with Abraham and Isaac, but He's asking for our trust first. Am I willing?

TO "ALTER" OUR PLANS FOR SOMETHING BETTER:

As I was studying about laying things on the "altar," I at first had trouble finding what I was looking for due to what I thought were my superlative spelling skills. Yup, there's a difference between "altar" and "alter." The latter means to adjust something, make it different, or, according to Google, "to change or cause to change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way."

It struck me that sometimes God may ask us to put our dreams on the "altar" because He's about to "alter" them. Maybe God's about to take your plastic pearls and give you real ones. Maybe His ways are higher—He wants to do more than we ever dreamed—but He can't do it until we let go of the inferior dreams we cling to. As C.S. Lewis said in his sermon "The Weight of Glory":

"It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. *We are far too easily pleased*" ("The Weight of Glory," available online, emphasis supplied).

Or, to put it another way: "We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. . . . Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good" (*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 473, 474).

The tricky part is that in the process, we can't always see that! They may say that when God closes a door, He opens a window, but at the moment the door closes, nothing else may be visible. I don't see what the finished alteration will look like. So again, I am challenged to trust.

TO RESURRECT WHAT WE LAID DOWN:

Have you ever stopped to think, *What if Abraham had actually killed Isaac?* We don't necessarily think about it because we already know the end of the story. But to Abraham, this was for real. He was killing his son. So how could he still trust God's promise as he was in the act of killing it? How could God's word be fulfilled like this?

While teaching the Sabbath School lesson, a friend of mine made a statement I'm still pondering: "Faith equals friendship." Hmm . . .

James 2:23 says that "'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God" (NKJV). Abraham had such a friendship with God that, somehow, he trusted the goodness of his friend, even in the face of a complete loss that made no sense. How? Hebrews 11:17-19 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac . . . of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead" (NKJV). Abraham's friendship with God was so deep that he believed his God would *still* keep the promise—even if it took raising the dead, something that up to this point in world history had never happened.

*Why does
God ask
us to lay
even good
dreams on
the altar?*


MY TEST

So here's the question for me to ask: Do I trust God like *that*? Do I trust His Word like that?

Sure, I can accept that God may test me to see if I'm willing to sacrifice dreams, but in the end, He'll either not make me go through with it or He'll provide something better, right? I can handle those options. But what about when dreams really die? When no hand stops the knife, and no alternate door or window seems to open? Will I trust Him then? Abraham did. He trusted because he knew the power of his Friend. He believed that even out of the ashes of destroyed dreams, God could resurrect life.

Personally, I feel as if I've had to lay some dreams on the altar recently, and I can't say I've done it entirely with the heart of Abraham. In fact, I feel I should be writing this later—when I have a wonderful success story to report! Instead, I sit here today staring at some lifeless dreams, wondering what happens next.

Maybe you can relate. But this is faith: when things *aren't* seen, yet we believe anyway. It's when we trust that He will yet do something. It's trusting that—whether we sacrificed the dreams at His request or through our own mistakes and failings—He is still able.

He will still fulfill His Word. He can still bring life out of death. And someday I will write the rest of this testimony. But today, I must trust the Resurrector of dreams. *Lord, help me be Your friend.* 



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Dear Deborah,

My husband and I have reached the golden years! And while there have been many joys, there have also been many bumps on our journey together. One of the most significant challenges in recent years is finding the courage and commitment to remain positive about our youngest son's departure from his walk with Christ.

Like many of our colleagues and friends, we feel we did everything "by the book." We do realize we could have done some things differently, but honestly . . . we did our very best. Our hearts are broken, and we have come to a place (despite our strong faith in God) where we may have to accept that our son will not return to biblical truth. To put it simply, we are terribly discouraged and struggle some days to put one foot in front of the other. The scars on our hearts are many—words spoken, actions taken, etc., have taken their toll on us. This presents a huge dilemma when we know so many of our church members and community friends need our encouragement.

*Sincerely,
Trying to Carry On*

Dear Trying to Carry On,

First, you can be assured that you are not alone in this situation. Our children are precious to our hearts, and it is devastating to see them not walking in the light that was shown to them by faithful parents like you and your husband.

But while the statistics are alarming, take heart in knowing that this does not take Jesus by surprise. He is faithfully doing His part alongside many praying parents and church members!

Yes, we face struggles. But we are reminded of this precious promise: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, NKJV).

As for the scars on your hearts, Jesus offers this encouragement: "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4, 5, NKJV).

To say that you have cried many tears accompanied by lots of sleepless nights would be an understatement. But you can rejoice in the fact that Jesus sees those tears and frustrations as we give them to Him in the form of prayers, and we can be assured that He not only hears but answers, in His very perfect way and timing. "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26, ESV).

I have found that when I give the Holy Spirit full permission to take anything in my life that is troubling, He is faithful and makes a road when it seems that there is only a ditch. I have also benefited by concentrating my efforts on helping others during these times. It shifts my focus and enables me to bless other families who indeed need encouragement in these times.

This past year, a colleague of mine invited six other pastors' wives to join a weekly prayer and fasting group. We each committed one day to pray for each of our children. A few months later, the pastors decided that they too would pick one day each week to pray for each other's children. These weren't all matched couples, so our children were getting prayed for by many people! It turned out that my husband and I share the same day each week, which works perfectly. This allows us special time as a couple to claim promises together for our boys and our friends' children as well. Have we seen results? Absolutely! Approximately six months into this prayer group, one of our boys, who had been silent in regard to God, texted one day to ask for prayer. I sent him a devotion via text message, and his immediate response was to ask me to send them every day! We praise God for his renewed spiritual interest.

The exciting part is that when the victory comes, you can rejoice in the fact that God answered according to His perfect will and plan. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5, NIV).

He will fulfill His purpose for you!

Prayerfully,
Deborah



An Unwanted Move—to Asia!

LIVING IN NORTHERN ASIA was not what I expected at this point in our ministry. Our church was thriving with new ministries and effectively reaching out in witness to our capital city. The new church building was almost completed. Our children and grandchildren lived either in Austin or a short trip away in Keene, Texas. Now this call from an unknown president in a faraway church division. How could God ask us to take such a huge leap of faith?

“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head” (Psalm 139:1-5, NLT).

So God began to make His calling clear. Soon I was in the garage packing for a move to an entirely new area of the world, and to a new way to minister. I was complying but still struggling with my thoughts.

God is always so good. While I was deep in the process of deciding what to take to South Korea and what to store, God interjected a hymn into my thoughts: “Peace, Perfect Peace.” It is found in the Adventist hymnal on page 463, but here are the verses that came specifically to my mind (as they were originally written by Edward H. Bickersteth, Jr., in 1875).

*Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?
In Jesus’ keeping we are safe, and they.
Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.*

“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.”

As these words played in my mind, I remembered this passage from Isaiah 26:3: “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” (NLT).

MOVING AHEAD

As we took steps forward toward Asia, God continued to repeat His call and remind us of His presence during our transition. It happened through people, His Word, and our devotional reading.

We met with our elders for a Sabbath lunch at our home. There were tears and kind affirmations. Most of all, they encouraged us that active ministry would go on. “We have experienced what it is like to interact with our Austin community. We will continue!” one elder said with deep conviction.

The comment that most cheered our hearts and freed us for this new calling came from our head elder, Fawn Escalante. “In the past I have sometimes let the pressures of life get me down. But we must remember that as Christians

we know how it ends. God wins, and He wins us. Why do we live like we are in retreat or defeat? Bring it on!”

Our children were distressed at our leaving. We had brand new grandbabies in two of our daughters’ families. But our family courageously admonished us to move forward. Our son spoke strength into our hearts: “Dad and Mom, God made you to do this. It is the right thing to do. We will miss you terribly, but there is Skype. And we will always be connected by prayer.”

GOD CONFIRMED HIS CALLING

Thoughts and encouragements further cemented our resolve. It turned out that my husband, David, was struggling too. Although he had been called to a new position, ministerial secretary, he felt his work in Austin was not complete. David had been harassed for some time by a heel that made him hobble, especially in the morning. Our pastor daughter, Heather, encouraged him to ask for a sign. So he went to God with this need: “If I can’t walk from the house to the car, how will I walk everywhere in Asia?”



An Unwanted Move—to Asia!

The next day we had a painting bee at the new church building. He was on his feet, and up and down ladders, all day—without pain!

“We need to know of an almighty arm that will hold us up, of an infinite Friend that pities us. We need to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. And even so God has in His Word revealed Himself” (*Education*, p. 133).

When the call first came through, it was clear that David had a place to serve. But I was not sure where I might fit. Our first Skype call with the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) administrative team removed that uncertainty. Dr. Lee, NSD president, pointed out the need for pastors—men and women

(especially in China, where 60 percent of our pastors are women). He asked me to serve as the assistant ministerial secretary!

“Each has [his/her] place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 326, 327).

When we got on the plane to fly to Seoul, South Korea, we still struggled emotionally. It was so hard to leave our children, grandchildren, and church family. Yet, a foundation of certainty and anticipation supported us. God had a work for us to do, and He would—and did—lead the way. **7**

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TIPS TO ~~SURVIVE~~ THRIVE

DO YOU CRAVE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP? Maybe you feel alone, discouraged, or like you have too much to carry on your own. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you had someone who would consistently pray for you and encourage you? One of the most encouraging and enriching friendships you can have is a prayer partner. How can you find one?

Start praying that God will bring you someone to pray with on a regular basis. Ask Him for a safe, confidential, faithful person as a prayer partner. As God leads you to someone who might be a good option, start by just asking if the person would be willing to pray with you once a week.

You can meet in person or pray together over the phone. If the commitment seems overwhelming because the timeframe is indefinite, you could ask if they might be willing to pray with you for a month, or a quarter, or the rest of the year. If your time is limited, maybe commit to praying together once a week during your lunch hour or over the phone after dropping your kids off at school.

When you get together, spend some time catching up and connecting with each other, but be sure to leave plenty of time to pray. Too often all the time is spent talking, and we run out of time for the most essential thing—prayer.

If you've never prayed with this person before, you might want to suggest praying short prayers back and forth for the duration of your time (instead of each of you praying one long prayer). This method makes the time more interesting and allows you to agree with each other in prayer and to pray for more concerns as they come to mind.

Start your prayer time with praise and thanksgiving, then move into praying for each other and the things that concern you. Take time to pray for your ministry and the needs of your church. You will be excited and encouraged to see the answers to prayer as you continue to meet and pray together. You might be surprised also by the close friendship that develops as you pray with your prayer partner.

Even when you aren't meeting to pray, make it your practice to send an encouraging text message to share a Bible promise or let the person know you are praying for them. Your prayer partner will likely become a priceless treasure!

Have a survival tip that someone shared with you once upon a time, or that you have learned along the way? Send it in to share here at: spouses@ministerialassociation.org

Special Quotes

"In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings."

The Ministry of Healing, p. 474

"Could Christians realize how many times the Lord has ordered their way, that the purposes of the enemy concerning them might not be accomplished, they would not stumble along complainingly. Their faith would be stayed on God, and no trial would have power to move them."

Prophets and Kings, p. 576

"The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us."

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 488, 489

Something for Nothing



NEILLY WAS BORN in the northern part of Lewis and Harris, the largest island of the Outer Hebrides (an archipelago in Scotland). He was the oldest child of a harsh, drunken father and a mother who took her own life after the birth of her severely malformed fourth child.

Neilly tolerated being the “whipping boy” of the family in order to protect his siblings from their father’s brutality. He was beaten and cruelly mistreated for just about anything that angered his father. His father was frequently in and out of prison, so it was Neilly, although only a boy himself initially, who raised the three younger children. There was very little money and often very little to no food, and none of the children had much schooling. But eventually, they did grow up and leave home to make their way in life.

Neilly joined the army and fought in the Second World War. He became a prisoner of war and was starved and tortured, receiving many scars. When the war ended, he traveled to the United States and joined the police force in a large city. He married and became the proud father of a son. Several years later, his wife and child were shot and killed in a drive-by shooting. Neilly was devastated and blamed himself, believing it was because he had helped bring some big-time gangsters to justice.

He returned to the Hebrides Islands and moved into his deceased uncle’s empty, run-down house on the island of Papavray. He was bitter and resolved never to love anyone or trust another soul as long as he lived. The town folk, not knowing his sad history, only knew him as a grumpy person, unfriendly and unwelcoming, and they soon left him alone in his miserable, hermit-like lifestyle. He had no interest in keeping his house or himself clean and would only slip out of his house to gather dried peat or coal to provide some heat in the cold winters.

“Wherever there is an impulse of love and sympathy, wherever the heart reaches out to bless and uplift others, there is revealed the working of God’s Holy Spirit.”

Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 385

It was Maggie who refused to give up on the gruff old man. Daily, in spite of his rebuffs, she would leave a bit of food on his front porch. In time she would find a few small coins in the old bucket by the front door for her.

Neilly eventually became terminally ill with cancer. In spite of his surly ways, many tried to help, but he refused any assistance, even medication and treatment from the island’s kindly doctor.

It was still Maggie who faithfully kept up her daily visits, bringing a bit of food even when there was no more money left in the old bucket. During those terrible final days of his life, Maggie would brave the horrible smells in the house, and Neilly’s tantrums, to leave glasses of milk or soup by his bed. And it was Maggie who eventually found old Neilly passed away in death.

SOMETHING FOR SOMETHING

When we buy or sell, we are very exacting in calculating the best deals. If we make a less than desirable trade for our money, we usually have only ourselves to blame.

In most of our relationships with others, trading can also be involved. We give gifts either because we get gifts, or expect to get gifts. We trade kindness and favors with each other. Because of our human nature we sometimes even trade unkindness and neglect.



However, when we invest in a gift or favor for someone, only we know how much time, effort, and emotion goes into our efforts. The receiver, though, evaluates the gesture on an entirely different scale. Thus the reaction of the receiver may be very different from what the giver expected. We expect gratitude and recognition, and if reciprocation is not as we expected, we can feel hurt, angry, and undervalued. This kind of giving is not giving—it’s still just trading.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Another kind of giving was demonstrated by Maggie in the story above, and that is *heart-giving*. It has no strings attached, no expectation of returns. Maggie, as in the story of the Good Samaritan, demonstrated compassion and disinterested kindness to one who was of lowly status in society, yet in the greatest of desperate need.



Following Neilly’s death, a crudely scrawled will revealed that he had left everything to Maggie. “Everything” really consisted of nothing of worth. He also left a detailed sketch of his life’s story. It was only at that time that the community began to understand and deeply sympathize, wishing they had tried more to help the broken man. But it was Maggie’s kindly acts, relentlessly ministered to his needs, even in the face of harsh rebuffs, which revealed that in some way his wounded heart was touched.

IT'S AN IMPOSSIBILITY

Giving something for nothing is impossible, regardless of how the recipient responds. Giving always brings us returns. It uplifts the spirit, takes our thoughts off ourselves, brings joy to our hearts, *and* can even improve health.

Consider these little-recognized physical and mental benefits of ministering to others:

1. Can bring out those “feel-good” endorphins, which promote happiness
2. Can decrease blood-pressure
3. Can help alleviate depression, stress, and anxiety
4. Can contribute to living longer
5. Can help lessen chronic pain
6. Can give one a sense of purpose and satisfaction
7. Can promote better sleep
8. Can add new interest and enthusiasm in life
9. Can improve one’s self-image
10. Can reduce loneliness and a sense of isolation as one becomes more engaged in the community

ASSIGNMENT: GIVE SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Here are some possibilities for the impossible task of trying to give something for nothing:

- Give a flower, or flowers, to someone who never receives any
- See someone’s need and take care of it (following Maggie’s example)

- Send a “Thank-You” card to someone who faithfully provides a service
- Give a thoughtful compliment to someone
- Visit a shut-in or phone a lonely person
- Cook someone their favorite dish or meal
- Take someone out for a meal or for ice-cream
- Gather some friends and engage together in a community service project such as:
 - a. Cleaning up a yard
 - b. Taking a meal to the local fire station personnel
 - c. Delivering some surprise packages of basic groceries to a low-income neighborhood
- Insert your own ideas here: 7

INFORMATION SOURCES:

1. *Christ’s Object Lessons*, Ellen G. White.
2. *Call the Nurse*, Mary J. MacLeod, pp. 286-288.
3. *You Are Not the Target*, Laura Archera, pp.152-154.
4. <http://mentalfloss.com/article/71964/7-scientific-benefits-helping-others>

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Gratitude, My Attitude



OK, I'LL BE QUICK to confess that my attitude is not always full of gratitude.

- Gratitude for being a pastor's spouse.
- Gratitude to God for allowing me to serve others and my husband.
- Gratitude for mixed-up schedules, long evangelism meetings, one more board meeting, and another funeral.
- Gratitude for the sometimes endless and often unfair expectations of others.

I could go on listing the "perks" of being a pastor's spouse that you know only too well. Instead, I would like to list some of the *real* perks and challenge us all to examine our attitude in regard to gratitude.

I am amazed at all the times that gratitude has come to us through our church members.

- Fresh garden produce.
- Every once in a while—a dinner voucher for a much-needed get-away meal.
- Notes of encouragement and appreciation.
- Tears of joy from someone who received healing or truth or freedom—because of the vessel that my husband or I was for Christ.

There is no joy like it!

"[She] who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; and to [her] who orders [her] way aright I shall show the salvation of God" (Psalms 50:23, NASB). Having

an attitude of gratitude is a sacrifice. No wonder it sometimes feels like hard work! As God shows His salvation, we will see the salvation of God. I don't know about you, but I need to see His salvation—in my own life, in my husband's and my children's lives, in my church members' lives, in my co-workers' lives—a salvation that is demonstrated in realized hopes, in fulfilled expectations, in answered prayer.

When I stop and really think about it, I believe living out the sacrifice of an attitude of gratitude is a *choice*, not always an easy one, but one that returns more benefits to the giver than we even realize.

I will choose to give the sacrifice of an attitude of gratitude this week, and I am anxious to see what God will show me. Gratitude is a gift worth asking for.

How about you? Will you join the group Facebook chat* and tell us what God reveals? We would love to hear from you. 7

* www.facebook.com/groups/ministerialspouses

Malinda Haley is a pastor's wife, the mother of three grown children, a maternal/infant care nurse, and—above all—His humble servant. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband, Steve, who is president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Praising God for No Electricity

“MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN PUT IN PRISON for five years for embezzling money from a family! I only earn minimum wage!” Lorie* cried. “How will I make my house payments? Or survive?”

We often prayed together about her marriage problems, and for healing from childhood abuse. We claimed the promise in Romans 8:28: “All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28, NKJV).

I was speechless, my mind asking God for words. The words that came out of my mouth were for us to praise God that her husband was in prison. “You are crazy!” she exploded. I agreed I was crazy enough to believe that God would turn this around for good. As Philippians 4:3 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always.”

“But I earn very little money. I don’t know how I will survive.” Her voice was filled with anxiety and tears. I knew firsthand what she was feeling. My first husband died when he was 30, leaving me with our two-year-old son. I discovered that God promised to be a husband for widows, and I believed it included abandoned or divorced women.

Ellen White sent an encouraging message to a recent young widow: “God, your heavenly Father, will be your husband at hand to counsel, to direct and comfort as you need” (*This Day With God*, p. 194).

We prayed (actually I did, while she listened), and I thanked God for being Lorie’s husband, adding that when she called on God, she should ask Him to reveal how He would take care of her. I also thanked God that Lorie’s husband was in prison.

WAITING ON HIM

The very next morning, Lorie called sounding desperate. “My hot water tank broke! What am I going to do? I need hot water!” I told her the only answer possible—to call on her husband in heaven and ask Him what He was going to do. (I confess I was silently praying that God would come through.)

What a shock that by the next afternoon a neighbor asked if Lorie could use a hot water tank. It was new and still in the box. And he installed it, too. All for free! We praised God for the miracle.

I counseled her to keep a prayer journal of requests and answers so she wouldn’t forget. And to spend at least 30 minutes every day with God.



For two years, serious problems came and went, such as no food and overdue bills, and God always provided, usually at the last minute. Money from anonymous donors paid her bills many times. Lorie's daily 30 minutes became an hour and more as she fell in love with Jesus.

I had been out of town for several weeks and stopped by to check in. I was eager to hear the new miracle stories. Instead, out of her mouth came disturbing words. "I can't handle it anymore! I want to die!"

I was stunned and felt so sorry for her! She went on, "I could not pay my electricity bill, but someone anonymously paid it, and my electricity was turned back on. Then the electrical company realized I was five dollars short and turned it off again! Do you know what it is like to be without electricity?"

"Only when I go backpacking," I said. She was not amused.

I backed up a short distance and announced that she must not need electricity or her Husband in heaven would have supplied it. She came out from behind her desk swinging, ready to punch me.

When she calmed down, we prayed together. I thanked God for no electricity and that He knew it was best. Lorie suggested that His best would be to have electricity now.

UNEXPECTED BLESSING

Her husband's embezzlement victims believed Lorie had the money to repay and were now suing her. If mediation failed, she could be in big trouble also. The following afternoon, Lorie called.

"I am so glad my electricity got turned off!" I thought she was having a nervous breakdown. All the financial problems were too much to handle! Hesitantly, I asked why.

"Well, it was taking a long time in court. The people who were going to sue me were in a room with their lawyer. I was in another room with my lawyer. The mediator was going back and forth trying to help us. I asked my lawyer, 'How long is this going to take?'"

"He said, 'Why, what do you need to do?'"

"I told him I needed to go home because the electrical man was coming to turn on my electricity. (Someone had anonymously paid the bill again.)"

"My lawyer then asked, 'Why was your electricity turned off?'"

"I told him the whole story about no money to pay the bill."

"He said, 'You mean, you really don't have any money?'"


"I replied, 'No! I don't have any money! I don't know how I am even going to pay you!'"

"My lawyer immediately went to the mediator and told him my entire story. The mediator spoke with the victims' lawyer. That lawyer then told the victims, and they gave up the whole case. They said they would never bother me again about it all. Case dismissed! I am so glad my electricity was turned off twice!" Lorie exclaimed.

Her husband was experiencing miracles, too. During the five years in prison, Tim was converted. He gave Bible studies to several prisoners and called a pastor who came and baptized them. When he was released from prison, Tim was a different man.

Recently, I saw Lorie and asked how her marriage was going. Smiling from ear to ear and with teary eyes, she answered, "It is wonderful! Tim is so sweet and loving. We are giving Bible studies all the time!"

I long to trust God with all of my everyday life, to believe that He always has a plan. What Satan means for harm, God will turn to good. "You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20, NKJV).

While things don't always turn out as wonderfully as this story, I am convinced that the more we choose to praise and thank God for our trials and problems, the more He is able to bless us. 

*not her real name

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Growing Resilience

NAOMI'S LIFE HAD NOT BEEN EASY. The names of her two sons, Mahlon ("sickly") and Chilion ("wasting"), suggest that they were born with chronic illnesses. When famine shrunk their resources, Naomi and Elimelech moved to Moab to give their sons the best chance of survival. But Elimelech died, and Naomi was left alone in a foreign land. She found the best Moabite wives for her sons and prayed for healthy grandsons who would secure the family's inheritance. Sadly, the two young men died without heirs.

Childless and widowed, Naomi was bitter and distraught. She could have let these multiple tragedies overwhelm her and break her spirit. But she kept trusting the God who cared about her, and eventually she found hope and joy again. Naomi's life is a story of resilience.

TRAGEDY HAPPENS

Ministry families also experience unexpected tragedies, broken dreams, and the challenge of living in unfamiliar places. Today we face different famines—the shortage of friends or a lack of people who are willing to walk beside us through our pain. What can we learn from the story of Naomi?



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

LOVE GOD

Keep growing your relationship with God. The more you have experienced His love, the easier it is to hold onto His reassuring hand as He walks with you through the pain. When I need to immerse myself in God’s loving character, I always turn to Psalm 103 or Psalm 145 and focus on these vibrant portraits of God’s love. Naomi didn’t have the comfort of David’s psalms, but she must have talked about God’s loving character because Ruth was so eager to accept her faith (Ruth 1:16, 17).

KEEP PRAYING

Talk to God honestly about your experiences and listen to His words of strength and comfort. He is big enough to hold all your questions and to absorb all your tears and challenging emotions.

TRUST GOD

Naomi couldn’t see what God was doing behind the scenes. But she continued to do the best she could and trusted God to do the rest. Maybe the family’s migration to Moab and connection to Ruth was God’s way of correcting a genetic weakness that had developed in Elimelech’s family? Naomi never knew that she was the “great-grandmother” of a king (Ruth 4:16, 17), or that she would play a walk-on part in the lineage of Jesus.



LOVE OTHERS

Strengthen your relationships with your friends and family. Be there for them through their hard times, and they will be more likely to support you through your challenges. Ruth, Naomi, and Orpah must have cried together when their husbands died, and Naomi must have been a very loving and caring mother-in-law. Ruth’s dedication to Naomi and willingness to follow her into a vulnerable and uncertain future demonstrates their supportive relationship (Ruth 1:16, 17 and 4:14, 15).

KEEP TALKING AND LISTENING

Talk honestly about your challenges, hopes, and fears. Naomi was not afraid to be honest about her bitter feelings (Ruth 1:20, 21). Paul tells us to mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15), and Jesus says that those who mourn will be comforted (Matthew 5:4). When your family is overwhelmed by pain, make space for each person to talk about their feelings. Take time to comfort each other.

BE PREPARED

The most resilient families anticipate future challenges and prepare for them. Naomi and her family moved to a foreign land so they could feed and care for their sons. She arranged for them to marry good local women, hoping they would produce heirs. As a widow, Naomi realized she needed to return to her family in Bethlehem and then find a husband for Ruth to give them both security.



Growing Resilience

Imagine your family life in a year, five years, or ten years. Pray for God's wisdom to help you anticipate and prepare for the needs of family members. Take a parenting course, teach your children essential life skills, or prepare wisely for retirement.

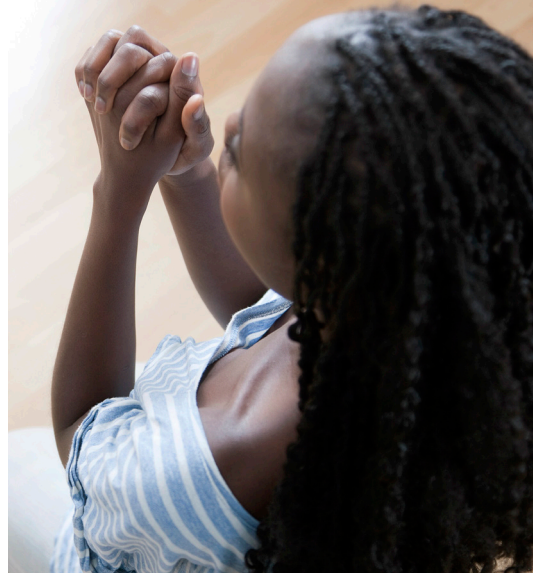
BE RESOURCEFUL AND FLEXIBLE

Naomi and Ruth had nothing. They were poor, vulnerable women. But Ruth was willing to gather the fallen stems of the barley harvest to give them something to eat. Find out if any resources, charities, support groups, or books might help your family through your current life challenges.

BE CREATIVE

Think creatively. Turn your situation upside down and look at it from every angle. Naomi's matchmaking plans seem bizarre from a 21st-century perspective! But she was searching for creative solutions to their serious problem of poverty and insecurity. Without a male relative, they would be very vulnerable in their society.

Ask God to help you see your life from His perspective and to show you creative solutions.




REMEMBER GOD'S CARE

We faced challenging situations in our own ministry—profoundly critical church members; miscarriages; unbelievable tragedies; traumatic transitions; and long-term, misdiagnosed illness. But, when the fires burned down and we sifted through the ashes, we always found some grains of gold. Now we can see how God was growing us, shaping us, refining us, and giving us unexpected gifts and experiences that developed our empathy for others and provided us with all kinds of resources.

It's hard to notice the diamonds when your life feels like dust. But God is still scattering them along the path. Become a diamond hunter. Find at least one sparkling moment in every day. Write it in your journal. Focus on every scrap of evidence of God's love for you, however small (Philippians 4:8).

Make a timeline of your life and record all the ways God has cared for you in the past. Look for the patterns of His loving presence, sometimes hidden in the tapestry of darkness, but always there in threads of gold (Deuteronomy 31:6).

KEEP GROWING

Although most of us would never choose the tragedies that tumble into our paths, God will use them to grow us in amazing and unexpected ways, if we let Him. Like Naomi, we may feel bitter for a while, but He will lovingly bring us to a place of peace and joy (Jeremiah 29:11). 

Karen Holford is director of Family Ministries for the Trans-European Division.





Bouncing Back!

WHEN TOUGH THINGS HAPPEN, we feel hurt and sad. That's normal. But we also have a choice. We can stay hurt, or we can learn from what happened and grow stronger. This is called being "resilient," which is the ability to bounce back when difficult things happen.

BOUNCY STORIES

Think of a time in your life when something tough happened, but you bounced back and grew stronger. Maybe you moved to a new home and were lonely, and then you made new friends. Perhaps your family faced a challenge, but with God's help you found a good way through. If you can't think of anything that has happened to you, then ask a parent or grandparent to tell you about a time when they bounced back. Write the story, or draw it like a cartoon. Remembering the past can help us meet challenges in the future.



BOUNCY PROMISES

God wants to help us be bouncy people. Whenever tough things happen, He can help us grow closer to Him, learn from Him, and trust Him to put things right.

- Look up these verses and match them to God's promises for us.
- Choose your favorite promise and write it on a card, poster, garland, or bookmark to remind you of God's incredible promise to you.
- Decorate the promise in your favorite way.
- Make another decorated promise and give it to a friend who needs encouragement.

BIBLE VERSE

1. Proverbs 3:5, 6
2. Isaiah 41:10
3. Psalm 34:18
4. Psalm 103:11-14
5. Isaiah 40:31
6. 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4
7. Isaiah 26:3
8. Jeremiah 29:11
9. 1 Peter 5:7
10. Psalm 23:4

GOD'S PROMISE

- ☐ I will always be with you
- ☐ I will be especially close to you when you face tough challenges
- ☐ When you hope in Me, I will make you strong
- ☐ When life is sad, I will comfort you
- ☐ I will give you peace
- ☐ Trust Me, and I will make your path smooth
- ☐ I am close to everyone whose heart is broken
- ☐ Give all your worries to Me because I care deeply about you
- ☐ I am merciful and kind, and I love you like My own child
- ☐ I have special plans for your life

BOUNCE THE BALL

- Choose one of your favorite promise verses from the list above.
- Find a bouncy ball and go outside with your family or some friends.
- Stand in a circle.
- Bounce the ball to one another. You may bounce it around the circle, or bounce it across the circle in a random pattern.
- Whenever someone catches the ball, they must say one word of the Bible verse, in order, until everyone has learned the verse.

JESUS HELPS PEOPLE BOUNCE BACK!

Jesus met many people who felt sad, lonely, and hopeless. But Jesus loved them and helped them to find hope and healing.

- Look up these Bible verses, name the person, and find out what happened.
- P.S. One of these passages is a parable. Can you find which one?

BIBLE STORY	MAIN CHARACTER OR CHARACTERS	HOW JESUS HELPED THEM TO BOUNCE BACK
John 18:15-18; 25-27; Acts 2:14-39		
John 4:1-42		
Matthew 8:1-4		
Luke 5:17-26		
Luke 19:1-10		
Luke 24:13-35		
John 11:17-44		
Luke 15:11-32		

Can you think of other people who bounced back from trouble with the help of Jesus? Who were they, and how did Jesus help them to bounce back?



BOUNCE BACK TRAINING

Here are some things you can do to bounce back from challenges.

- Circle the ones you are already doing in blue.
- Circle any others you would like to try in green.
- Add anything else you are doing, or would like to do, to the empty balls.
- Talk about these ideas with your family.

Pray
together
about your
challenge

Talk about
your
challenges
together

Remember
how much
God loves
you

Trust
God's
promises

Memorize
encouraging
Bible verses

Make a
list of your
hopes

Forgive
those who
hurt you

Help
others
who are
struggling

Remember
that God is
always with
you

Notice the
strengths
in your
character

Thank
God for
your
blessings

Celebrate
good
times
together

Learn
from every
situation

Find a good
hobby that
you really
enjoy

Comfort
each
other

BOUNCY BIBLE CHARACTERS

Here are some Bible characters who bounced back well after difficult times. They were sold as slaves, thrown into prison, forced to leave home, and chased by enemies.

Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-46)

Naomi (Book of Ruth)

Daniel (Book of Daniel)

Esther (Book of Esther)

Moses (Exodus)

David (1 and 2 Samuel)

Choose one of these characters and read some of their story. Look for the character strengths that helped them to bounce back. What else can you learn from them? Tell their story in pictures, as a play, or even by gathering a series of objects from their life that you can arrange in a long line to help tell their story. Share the story with your family. Then discuss the following questions together. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers!

- What's your favorite part of this story?
- What's the most important message for you in this story?
- Which person in the story is most like you, or which part of the story describes your experience?
- What does this story tell you about how God cares for you through all the challenges in your lives?

HELP OTHERS BOUNCE BACK!

- Read Matthew 25:31-40.
- With your family, make a list of people you know who are going through tough times.
- Pray for them as often as you can.
- Make cards to give the people and write a special prayer or verse inside.
- Think about what you can do to help them, or ask them what you could do to help.
- Whatever you do for them, you are also doing for Jesus!

Karen Holford is a family therapist and director of the Family Ministries Department for the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

East-Central Africa Division



Burundi leaders met for a ministerial couples prayer conference.

PASTORS' KIDS CONFERENCE

Pastors' children (PKs) recently gathered at the University of Arusha in Northern Tanzania for a conference themed "Rekindling PKs' Identity." The PKs held an evangelism campaign in the city of Arusha immediately following the congress.



Pastors' kids attend meetings in Tanzania.

Inter-American Division

Over 200 Jamaican Union pastoral spouses recently gathered in Montego Bay, Jamaica, for a special meeting with Pattiejean Brown, author and pastor's wife, who presented "The M&Ms of a Pastoral Spouse."



Pattiejean Brown (left) speaks to pastoral spouses in Jamaica.

FROM THE FIELD

JAMAICA UNION HOSTS PK CONFERENCE

Thirty-two pastors' kids (PKs) gathered at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica for a one-day conference entitled "Dealing with Transition." Jeffrey Brown, associate secretary for the General Conference Ministerial Association and associate editor of *Ministry*, was the guest presenter. Brown gave each participant a copy of the May 2017 edition of *Ministry* magazine, featuring an article by Elaine Oliver, associate director of the General Conference Family Ministries Department, entitled "Nurturing the Faith of Pastors' Kids: Reflections on a Pastoral Family Stress Study." Lena Brown, director, Jamaica Union Shepherdesses, gave a closing charge to the PKs, who proudly displayed the first issue of *The PK Book*, published by the East Jamaica Conference.



PKs attend a conference at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.

Inter-European Division

EUD ministerial secretaries and Shepherdess coordinators joined together for the division ministerial advisory in Prague, Czech Republic.



Shepherdess coordinators meet in EUD.



Shepherdesses pray for individual needs during EUD ministerial advisory.

North American Division

The Mountain View Conference Shepherdess Club met for a light evening meal during the 2017 camp meeting at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, West Virginia. Ernestine (Teenie) Finley gave an inspiring talk about the woman of Proverbs 31 and how to implement these same tools in the lives of pastors' wives.



Mountain View Conference pastors' wives enjoy a meal together.



Mountain View Conference pastors' wives meet with Teenie Finley.

South America Division



Pastors' spouses sing together in Belém, Brazil.

Pastors' spouses met in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to discuss the importance of prayer and Bible study and caring for the family and mission. The same themes were presented at meetings with AFAM in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia.



AFAM meet in Bolivia.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

South-Western Angola Union Shepherdesses organized a retreat and invited their husbands to join them. The weekend included worship, seminars, and a special foot-washing ceremony.



Shepherdess choir from South-Western Angola Union performs.



Ministerial couples participated in a foot-washing service during Shepherdess meetings.



Pastors' spouses gather in Southern Zambia Union for ministerial couples training.

FROM THE FIELD

NORTH-EASTERN ANGOLA UNION MISSION

Recently Shepherdesses met in Angola for meetings, fellowship, and prayer. New pastoral spouses received scarves and pins in a special ceremony.



Shepherdesses meet in North-Eastern Angola Union.



Dedicatory prayer is offered for new pastors' spouses in North-Eastern Angola Union.

Southern Asia Division

Western India Union officially launched its Shepherdess International Income Generating Tailoring Project in a special ceremony at the union office.

Sewing machines, purchased through contributions by private donors, will be used not only to help individual Shepherdesses earn income but also to train other women to learn the tailoring trade. Sofia Wilson, SUD Shepherdess coordinator, and Shakuntala Chandanshive, WIU Shepherdess coordinator, hope the ministry will be instrumental in introducing others to Jesus.



Shepherdesses in Western India receive sewing machines to provide income opportunities. The machines will be used at a center of influence where women can learn skills and become acquainted with Christians.



Shepherdesses attend advisory in Juwai, India.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division



Pastors' spouses in Kuching, Malaysia.

NORTHEAST INDIA UNION SHEPHERDESS ADVISORY

Recently Northeast India Union held a Shepherdess advisory in Juwai, India. Forty-three shepherdesses attended this advisory, themed "You Are Powerful."



Pastors and spouses meet for a prayer conference in Kuching, Malaysia.

West-Central Africa Division

Pastors and spouses from Sahel, West Africa, recently met for a ministerial couples prayer conference.



Shepherdesses gather in Sahel Union.



Shepherdesses from West-Africa Union Mission Territory sing together on Sabbath.



West-Africa Union Mission Territory Shepherdesses meet in Sierra Leone Mission during a prayer conference for pastors and spouses.

EASTERN NIGERIA UNION CONFERENCE PK MAIDEN CONVENTION

Over 250 pastors' children (PKs) from the Eastern Nigeria Conference attended a PK Convention. They resolved to re-claim those who had left the church and to remain focused for God.



PKs attend a conference in Nigeria.

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