

The Journal



A SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

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O Lord, help me be willing—
To receive what You give,
To lack what You withhold,
To relinquish what You take,
To surrender what You claim,
To suffer what You ordain,
To do what You command,
To wait until You say “Go.”

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Editor's Musings

"Dress up" day at my middle school was the highlight of our history class. Students were encouraged to come with an outfit portraying their favorite personality—past or present. I debated being a chic Jackie Kennedy or dedicated Madam Curie but finally decided on my real heroine—a "prairie woman" crossing America in a covered wagon. Mawmaw helped me sew a gingham bonnet and calico dress. We were so proud of our creation.

I stood to give a speech on my choice of attire and what it represented. Betty, who was sitting behind me, leaned over and murmured, "Your dress is ugly!" I was devastated. The rest of the day seemed a blur. That night my mom said the girl was probably just jealous but that didn't make me feel much better.

You see, the seed of pleasing had already taken root in my young mind. What other people thought about me was very important. In the years following that unfortunate day, vast amounts of my time and energy were spent on being pretty enough, nice enough and smart enough. Becoming a pastor's wife just gave me a whole new venue for pleasing people. But it is exhausting work. And, it is impossible! It is a difficult mindset for us people-pleasers to embrace but if somebody doesn't like you, it is probably about them, not about you! So, stop carrying their load on your shoulders. Simply put, it really doesn't matter who likes your dress, if you like your dress! And, if Jesus likes what He sees in our hearts, that is what is truly important!

Happy New Year!



The Journal A SHEPHERDESS

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Angels Without Haloes

John Rhodes

John Rhodes served as a ministerial secretary for many years before retiring. He and his wife, Jo, live in California. They have two grown children. John has been responsible for the successful ministry of countless clergy families.



Every minister's wife is a very special person! Behind every great minister there is a wonderful, supportive wife. She does not get a halo for her faithfulness or call to duty, but really, she deserves one. She must live a "fish-bowl" existence. She must live in the shadow of her husband and his call as a minister. I would advise every woman thinking of joining a man in ministry to think very seriously about the consequences of being a pastor's wife.

Like many pastors' wives, my wife felt she had to be a super woman. Since she knew that was impossible, she feared what lay ahead of her. My wife was not musical; she could not play the piano. She hated being up front and was terrified when asked to speak before an audience. She just wanted to be herself and that is exactly what I wanted her to be. I assured her of that and told her I did not want a wife who would put on a pious front that was not her natural self.

I will never forget my first assignment in ministry. I was to assist a pastor evangelist in a tent crusade. My wife and I sought an

appointment with the conference president. She wanted to set up housekeeping and so she asked him where we were to stay and what kind of house we could rent. He said, "You and your husband can be tent masters and live in the back of the tent." This was to be right on one of the busiest boulevards in the Los Angeles area. My wife then asked, "Where do we go to the bathroom? Where do we wash our clothes and bathe?" His only response was that there was an oil station down the street and we could use its bathroom. Well, this was just about the end of our marriage and my ministry. Fortunately, God had other plans. The city would not allow our tent to be erected on the busy boulevard and the meeting had to be held in an auditorium. Consequently, we were able to rent a modest little house.

From that day forward to the present, some 55 years later, my wife has been the ideal pastor's wife. She never forged ahead of me. She was willing to bask in the shadow of whatever praise I received in ministry. Her modest humility was the secret of my success. I have seen

too many churches where one had to ask, "Who is in charge here, the pastor or the pastor's wife?" Some pastors' wives have ruined their husband's ministry by pushing ahead of them.

When you look back over many years of ministry, many of you have asked yourselves, "How have I done?" Others in the throws of ministry are asking, "How am I doing?" and some of you young ministry brides are asking, "How will I ever do it?" Well, don't worry, for I want to share with you six secrets of successful, supportive ministry for ministers' wives.

I know all of you have, at times, had fear and trembling regarding your roles as ministers' wives. Your role is truly a ministry. Without you, the pastor would fail. You are important to us. We know and sympathize with some of the unreasonableness of your calling.

You must, on a very modest budget, dress appropriately. Conservatively, yet not be so stuffy the younger members can't relate to you. Your home must be warm and inviting. In our last year in college, we had a little attic apartment. Our bedside tables were orange crates covered with curtains. Our bed was made from four-by-four posts held together with slats. Our mattress was a hand-me-down. The springs came from a dump. We had two little pine chests held together with a connecting board covered with a scarf. My wife took some sheer curtains and tied them back at the windows. We stored a friend's used organ and, with a few pieces of furniture furnished by the landlord, had a tidy little home and those who visited us said, "Your wife has a knack for hominess." And she did.

We both look back at the years between 1944 and the present with fondness and gratitude. I can truly say that our best friends today are

those we made in the churches we pastored. We continue to maintain those friendships.

I. A Wife's Duty to Her Husband

I thank God my wife made me first and foremost in her life. When I hurt, she hurt; when I rejoiced, she rejoiced. Ours was a team ministry. My wife wanted us to have healthy bodies, so early on she read good books on nutrition and prepared healthful meals. I attribute my good health for my age to our years of careful diet and good living. We were fortunate to always have a garden which provided us with fresh fruits and vegetables.

During the early years of our ministry, we took nighttime walks around the neighborhood and shared the events of the day. Now-a-days, we can't do that due to crime on the streets, but now that we are retired, we go to a gymnasium two or three times a week, walk on the treadmill and ride bikes. We also take care of our emotional needs by planning a weekly date. On that evening we share our concerns and joys. My wife and I work hard to live balanced lives.

All ministers are thrown into situations where they are vulnerable to the wiles of Satan. Unfortunately, there are scheming women who try to allure pastors away from their wives. Husband and wife should cleave one to another. After a difficult board meeting or a busy week of travel, it is comforting to come home to a loving and supportive spouse.

II. Responsibility to Her Family

Though a minister's wife often has the lion share of training and nurturing the children, they should not take precedence over her husband. There were many nights when I had meetings at the church. I was comforted by the knowledge

that my wife read Bible stories to our children, prayed with them and tucked them in for the night. She planned wonderful outings for our family and organized our day-to-day events. Though her responsibilities made it impossible for her to attend every church meeting, her diligence in the role of motherhood made for a happy family.

III. Responsibility to the Church

I advise ministers' wives to never take a position in the church if a lay person can do the task as well or nearly as well. Be an assistant, yes, but refrain from doing something that takes away the service and talent of a church member. I think back to one church I previously pastored. My successor's wife was an accomplished organist. It was natural for her to share her talents by becoming the church organist. But in no time, other organists dropped out and in due time the pastor's wife was the only one who played the organ. My new church assignment was but a few miles from my former church, and I noticed that if this pastor's wife needed to have a day off or be on vacation, she had to come to my church to import organists.

My wife became the church greeter. This gave her a chance to become acquainted with people. She could welcome strangers as well as members. She was able to direct people to the correct Sabbath School classes. She was also a good committee person. She was full of ideas, especially when it came to church socials and decorating, and she worked with the church members to create events that were memorable.

IV. Responsibility to Church Members

Once our children were older, my wife joined me on pastoral calls. She

was always appreciated. She often wrapped up little gifts like a bar of soap, a can of powder or a jar of hand lotion to take to shut-ins. She could make a simple plant look attractive with ribbons and bows. Several times when visiting shut-ins our family went. It was good for the children and certainly appreciated by the members.

Church members often seek counsel from pastors' wives. It is especially important not to allow others to confide secrets that are to be kept from the pastor. It is important for the wife to be involved, but her loyalty is to her husband and his interests.

Most pastor's wives must have outside employment to balance the family budget. When my wife took up nursing, we did not want the housework to overburden her so much that she could not enter into the church work, so we hired a lady to clean house for us on Friday so we always had the joy of a clean home for the Sabbath. It was a good tradeoff.

Wives can learn to be good listeners. Sometimes that means stirring the cake while engaging in a phone conversation. The caller wants to feel she is being listened to. Pastors' wives can learn patience when church members call in the midst of the family dinner routine only to ask for another member's phone number (instead of looking it up in the church directory).

We found that the pastor's home always remained a mystery to the members. It was too costly to entertain constantly, so frequently my wife invited some group from the church to our home for a potluck meal. She provided the bread and drink. This took little work. Members brought the rest. A visit always included a tour of our home, modest as it was. Usually we benefitted by the leftovers the members insisted we keep!

A pastor's wife can endear herself to the members in many little acts of kindness. My last church was a church full of senior citizens. The community around the church reflected this kind of population, so at Christmas time my wife suggested we have the senior citizens' club we called the Evergreens (meaning that they were evergreen and vital despite their ages) over to our home for a Christmas treat. We took the school bus and drove them to see the Christmas lights and decorations in the area. You should have heard the "Ohs" and "Awe"s of appreciation, but the highlight was a stop at our home. The house was decorated and my wife had made a big batch of gingerbread and whipped cream. With this, she served Wassail, a special apple cider drink. Some other church members helped her serve the refreshments. A memorable evening was had by all.

V. Responsibility to Herself

Each pastor's wife is, first, an individual. She has to be herself, not what someone else wants her to be. I wanted my wife to be the greatest person she could be. She stayed with our little family till they were of school age. Then she decided to return to school. The children and I pitched in with the housework and the church members did not overburden her with church tasks. My wife found a career that gave her great satisfaction and one that was of service to others.

Being financially solvent helps a pastor's wife have a healthy self-image. It is important to budget both time and money. This means planning ahead and looking for bargains. A pastor's wife must be frugal and learn to save just a little bit each payday. I recall the wise counsel of a conference treasurer who said, "First pay God, then pay yourself." My wife insisted we

systematically save just a little each month. We began a tiny savings of just \$20.00 a month. In about five years we had saved \$1,000.00. We were so proud of this achievement. Finally we had enough to invest in a small rental income home. It's nearly paid for now and brings us income for retirement. I urge you ladies to insist on this plan in your household. Someone once wisely said, "Don't work for your money, let it work for you." It is amazing how compound interest builds up. I don't believe in sidelines in the ministry, but to save and properly invest what you save is prudent living. Your money will work for you. This is a practical application of the parable of the talents.

VI. Responsibility to God

Though this is mentioned last, it is the most important responsibility a person has. Each pastor's wife must find time for spiritual nurture. Personal devotions and prayer are a must. Today there are many women's prayer groups to help bolster this part of your life. Compare notes with other ladies and see how they work this most important phase of life into their ministry. Pick a portion of Scripture, read and reread it, let it speak to your life. Put memory cards around the house to cue you to learn passages of Scripture. Share what God is teaching you with your husband. Enter into intercessory prayer, not only for your family, but for those in the parish. This spiritual formation can become the very foundation of your life and ministry to your husband, your church members, the church at large and to yourself.

Though pastors' wives don't wear haloes, many deserve them. Their influence, care and love brighten the lives of those around them. They truly are our "angels" on earth.



Until the Lost Be Found



Marija Trajkovska

Remember the phrase “Until the lost be found”? That was the motto of the Trans-European Division presentation at the GC session 2000 in Toronto. I wasn’t thinking of the motto when I was preparing to attend the GC session. Actually, I was thinking of achieving two of my biggest dreams—to fly on an airplane and to attend a GC Session.

Prior to the trip, my husband and I, along with our congregation, were busy building the new church in the Gypsy settlement near the Macedonian capital, Skopje. We were preoccupied with our task and didn’t have much time to prepare for the trip.

Two days before our flight we bought our suitcases and packed our things. Since it was an international flight, I decided to purchase reliable, durable bags. I chose two silver-gray, hard-shell Crown suitcases, sizes large and extra-large.

I assumed there would be lots of meetings at the GC session and I wanted to attend as many as possible. I did not want to worry about clothes so I packed both suitcases full of our casual and sport clothes as well as our best and most valuable church clothes. After all, we were going to a special meeting . . . a celebration . . . a solemn encounter with our God and our large church family.

Since I had no flying experience, I did not know it is best not to pack everything in our big bags. In went our Bibles, reports about our church and ADRA work, photos and videotapes. The only items we carried on the plane were my purse, our passports and my husband’s video camera.

Both my husband and I thoroughly enjoyed our flight. We switched planes in Amsterdam and London and finally arrived in Toronto. After leaving the airplane, we went to get our luggage. Of course, you guessed it, our luggage was delayed!

Can you imagine our disappointment and embarrassment? We had nothing with us but our passports and a video camera and we were to be in Canada for three weeks! Our calls to the toll free delayed baggage claim number proved futile.

I was distressed. I am very particular about my clothes; I had packed my best summer and autumn outfits. My shoes and purses were in those suitcases along with all my wardrobe accessories. What a disaster!

Two days after arriving, we were told our luggage had been found. Unfortunately, the statement never proved true. To this day, we still have not had our luggage returned.

Our stay in Canada lasted 22 days. Every night we would wash the clothes we wore during the day and

Marija Trajkovska is married to George Trajkovski, president of the Macedonian Mission. They have a twelve-year-old son, Pavle. Marija volunteers as the Mission secretary and ADRA Director in the Macedonian Mission. Her hobbies include reading, writing and walking.



dry them with a hair dryer and iron. What an ordeal.

Though we wrote more than 20 letters to Air Canada, we never received an explanation as to where our luggage went. We did receive a very modest reimbursement; it did not even cover a third of our lost valuables. We were unable to replace the quality clothes we had lost.

This unpleasant experience did, however, teach me several important spiritual lessons. Just as I painstakingly searched for our lost bags, God searches for the lost me. Never does He tire and give up. Whenever I checked the internet to find the status of our bags, the words “search in progress” popped up. The same can be said of God. He continually searches for us whenever we get lost in the valleys of our sorrows, troubles, doubts and disappointments.

Though our names were removed from the Air Canada internet list six months after our luggage was lost, God never removes our names from Heaven’s internet site. God never tires of our prayers and petitions to Him.

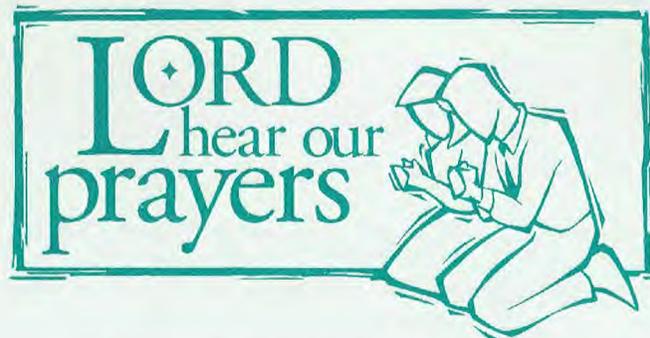
Though the airline left me high and dry with no answers to my questions, God never leaves me without an answer. It is not always the answer I expect, but it is an answer—God’s answer given in God’s time and in God’s way.

I also learned never to be so attached to my earthly treasures, even my church clothes. The time is coming when earthly treasures will not be needed. Jesus is coming to take me home.

And when I go home with Jesus, there will be clothes I have never seen waiting for me. The clothes will be made on the “heavenly looms”—the white robe of Christ’s righteousness. These clothes will be given to me as a gift and the color white will suit me just fine. The lost will be found.



When God does not immediately respond to the cries of His children, it is because He wants to accomplish some gracious purpose in their lives. If you are waiting for an answer of some heartfelt petition, don’t become impatient. Commit the matter into the hands of your loving heavenly Father and trust His wisdom.



The Lord always hears our prayers,
But He does not always say, “Yes!”
Sometimes He says, “Wait”
Sometimes He says, “No”
For He has something better for us.

God’s delays are not denials,
He has heard your prayer,
He knows all about your trials,
Knows your every care.

God’s delays are not denials,
Help is on the way,
He is watching o’er life’s dials,
Bringing forth that day.

God’s delays are not denials,
You will find Him true,
Working through the darkest trials,
What is best for you.

A Blessing Granted in Japan

Jimwha Park

Jimwha Park and her husband, Pastor Sung Seon Jae, moved to Japan 12 years ago. They, along with their three children, engage in mission work for Koreans in Japan. They rented a small house and began their church with only 14 members. Currently they have 60 members and are planning to build their own church soon. This article is Jimwha's testimony.



What shall I return to the Lord for His bounty to me?" Psalm 116:2

This verse seems to accurately express my current feelings. All of us will experience some sort of frustration when we encounter something that is unexpected. When I look back to my past, I can recall those times of trials more than those times of joy. However, I can now see that my experiences did not always turn out to be negative ones. Through such experiences, God taught me how to pray and He also let me discover my weaknesses. The trials I have experienced in Japan have helped me to grow as a person.

When I first moved to Japan, I could not speak Japanese. Communicating was very stressful. Now I can speak well enough so I no longer am inconvenienced by the language barrier. Though I was frustrated at first, I can now proudly speak another language.

My family did struggle with some Sabbath problems when my eldest was attending the Tokyo International High School. It seemed there was no solution to our Sabbath dilemma. God, however, heard our prayers and He provided a way for her to attend Andrews University. But tuition presented a problem. I made no money being a partner in the ministry with my husband and

our church was still young and weak. The burden on my family was intense. But through God's guidance, the church became stable and the members found great joy in helping us send our children to Adventist schools.

During my years in Japan, I have learned to lean on the Lord. I have realized that my prayers will be answered as God sees fit and in His own time. I have learned to be thankful even in hard times, for in those hard times, great learning takes place.

I live in a foreign country but I am no longer lonely. Though I have not had many opportunities to deepen my relationships with many pastors' wives, I am so grateful for those friendships I have made. I have been blessed with a wonderful family and the love of a gracious God.

I praise God for His support and I thank the conference for supporting my family and my church. The vision to build a church and continue on with God's ministries is a vision that looms large. I know God will guide our church in this mission.

I have a great desire to learn more about the word of God and I feel a great need to share the Gospel with others. I have realized that God's blessings are abundant in our lives. We only have to look and we will clearly see the wonderful bounty He gives us all.



A New Way to View Yourself

*Jerry and Judy
Schreur*

Do you have the winter blahs? This exercise will enable you to look at yourself differently and possibly make you a more interesting person, which will in turn enrich your relationships. The key to completing this exercise is the courage to act differently, even if it feels a bit awkward and uncomfortable for you.

- ❁ Try a new look (outward) for yourself. A new hairstyle, some new and different clothes. Have a creative friend or one of your children help you make these choices.
- ❁ Be less predictable and more spontaneous. When your husband, wife, or friend makes a suggestion, don't even think about it, do it. When you think of something, jump into it with both feet (unless it causes you to go bankrupt, of course).
- ❁ Be more playful, laugh more. Determine not to be so serious about everything. Start with not taking yourself so seriously. Read joke books.
- ❁ Surprise your husband or wife with a weekend away or a special night together at a nice place. Don't ask them, just do it. If you are on the receiving end, go for it and enjoy the experience.

Don't pour cold water on innovation and creativity.

- ❁ Do something totally out of character for you. Don't worry what others will think. Just do it. If you know someone else who does this, don't rebuke him or her, just enjoy the experience.
- ❁ Be open to new experiences. This may involve a little risk, but usually it is worth it and will give you something to talk about and remember for years to come. Example: Go snorkeling or parasailing, or learn a new hobby.
- ❁ If you are bored with your job, look for another one, or if your career is going nowhere, think about going a different direction, a direction that you always wanted to take.
- ❁ Treat yourself on a regular basis. Celebrate small things. Reward yourself for a job well done.
- ❁ Serve others. Get involved in a ministry at your place of worship. Do something significant for another person, without looking for anything in return.
- ❁ Make a fresh commitment to love Jesus with your whole heart. Determine to live for him every day. (After all, He died for you). ☺

Excerpt from When Prince Charming Falls Off His Horse, Jerry and Judy Schreur, Cook Communication Ministries.

The Joys and Sorrows of Ministry

Olive Greene

Joys and sorrows. Your attitude generally makes a big difference as to whether you are happy or miserable.

I am one of those ministers' wives who always wanted to be a missionary. As a small child, I enjoyed Ingathering. I must admit that Ingathering is more challenging now, but it is still a great opportunity for spreading the Gospel. Once I get started, I hardly want to stop! I've always found a way to talk about the Bible to my schoolmates, even when I was a child and throughout my teenage years.

As a youth, I had a lot of difficulty making up my mind about a profession. During the sixties, there was heavy emphasis on the imminence of the Second Advent. I was sure I did not have the time to spend seven to ten years in a university like my colleagues were planning. I knew God had a special task for me. I was thrilled to preach in the *Voice of Youth* programs. I was on the Sabbath School and the Advent Youth executive committees. I was the Pathfinder director, a choir-member, an usher and much more. I enjoyed all my jobs. Had I been male, I probably would have been a minister. But back in those days, it

was unheard of for a woman to register for theology at our Union college.

As a teenager, I never thought of marrying a minister. Yet, it happened. With no conniving or planning on my part, I did fall in love and marry a minister.

Though my main focus was on ministering, I used my talent of teaching and began a teaching career. I taught mathematics for ten years, then because of voice problems, began working in the research field. Though my husband's career has caused us to move from place to place, I have always found gainful employment. However, it should be noted that women who believe their careers should take precedence over their husbands' ministry are in for some trouble. Those women probably should not marry ministers! Ministry is a team effort; when it is not, it is not likely to succeed.

The greatest joy of our ministry has been service—working—for the Lord. Working with other shepherdesses has been enriching and rewarding. In one area where we resided for many years, eighty percent of the shepherdesses participated in club activities. We

Olive Greene is a pseudonym.

had such wonderful times. We became famous for conducting Family Life Seminars. We went on picnics, had surprise parties for the men, conducted children's Sabbath School workshops, taught cooking classes, the list goes on and on. What fun fellowship we had.

Our families were enriched as we shared our research on family life materials. Our children were involved in our activities—ushering, singing, distributing handouts. As a result, many of our children have grown up to be workers in God's church. My daughter, who is now a physician, shared that because of her past performance as Sabbath School superintendent, she was asked to be the superintendent at the regional Kings' Daughters celebrations. One of our sons is having thrilling experiences as a pastor and musician, while our other son is a part-time colporteur, church pianist and occasional preacher.

My greatest sorrow in ministry has been in negative encounters with other pastors' wives. Satan works overtime sowing seeds of doubt, criticism, jealousy, malice and back-biting among women. Once, when a minister was not re-elected to a position he had held for six years, he and his wife became very bitter. His wife, whom I had regarded as a close friend, withdrew herself from even conversing with me! I went out of my way to be kind to her. I sent her cards and letters letting her know I was thinking of her. After two months, I received a card from her saying she would pray for me. I understood she still needed space and though I was mystified as to why a minister's wife would become so bitter when her husband was not re-elected, I refused to become angry at her actions toward me.

Ministers and their wives need to be fully aware that no one is elected to an office for life, not in the church, not in the Senate, not as president

of any corporation or democratic country. It is critical that we prepare ourselves and our children for the possibility of being moved to another office, another pastorate, another conference, another division or even from an office to a pastorate. If we realize that, we will be less likely to become discouraged, dissatisfied and disgruntled.

Though the joys of ministry certainly outweigh the sorrows, we, as pastors' wives, can make sure we are not the cause of sorrow in another's life. I look forward to the day when all in God's church are filled with the spirit of love, unity and sacrifice. Then we shall all have joy; there will be no sorrow in our service.



Give us, O Lord,

Steadfast hearts,

which no unworthy thought can drag downwards;

Unconquered hearts,

which no tribulation can wear out;

Upright hearts,

which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,

Understanding to know Thee,

Diligence to seek Thee,

Wisdom to find Thee,

And a faithfulness that may finally embrace Thee.

—Thomas Aquinas



Hopes for the Millennium

Clotilde Georges

At the beginning of each new millennium, human beings ask questions regarding their destiny. Unfortunately, we can't go back in a time machine and know what happened in 1001. We can, however, refer to books and immerse ourselves in history. Let's forget for a moment our world today and put ourselves in the shoes of the people in the last millennium; let's become part of the civilization of the Middle Ages.

The people lived in constant fear of misery and hunger. They had trouble harvesting food from the ground; their tools were primitive and the bad weather and droughts added to their misfortune. The workers were crushed by warriors. Fortunately, theirs was not an existence of complete misery thanks to the solidarity and brotherhood of each small community.

Everyone belonged to a group, a family, a village. If there was a famine, the lords would open their wheat lofts and help feed the poor. Consequently, the people of the village stuck together for they learned to take care of one another. Lonesomeness was very rare. Lonesomeness was actually suspicious.

The people in these communities were afraid of invaders. During this

time, the Vikings and Saracens were taking over the Carolingian Europe. The mistrust toward a stranger was great. Thanks to the mobility that France created, people were able to travel a lot in the Middle Ages. Christians were well-treated, but Jews, Muslims and heathens had to be converted or killed. Intolerance ruled.

The down-side of the mobility was that many epidemics from the West came with the travelers. People lived in fear of epidemics. In the year 1000, the disease most feared was the "glowing pain, the fire from Saint Antoine." This disease attacked one part of the body at a time. Most people, once they contracted the disease, died within 24 hours. We now know the disease as a deficiency disease. For centuries, Europe battled with this plague and many communities were destroyed.

During the Middle Ages, death, as well as physical pain, was of little importance. The medieval society amused itself with brutality. Farmers preferred to see knights fighting in crusades or killing one another in tournaments rather than see them plunder their harvest and ransom villages.

No one doubted the existence of a life beyond the earthly one. Death was believed to be a temporary stage

Clotilde Georges has been a pastor's wife for many years and serves as a Shepherdess Coordinator in France.



between life and demise. People were convinced they were not going to disappear completely. Though many felt helpless in their worldly existence, they did not lose confidence in God.

People considered a disturbance in nature to be a sign from God announcing tribulations that preceded the end of times. The people feared judgement. The church leaders scared the believers with threats of punishment and fear of hell.

The church marked the destiny of women. The ambition of the church during the Middle Ages was to impose the idea of superiority of the monogamous marriage and its indissolubility. The church sought to eliminate repudiations, divorces and polygamy. The Council of Paris prohibited every man from marrying a second woman, which was an amelioration of life for women.

The result, however, was the opposite. An anti-feminist movement started to propagate through the clerics. In reference to Eve, the woman was held responsible for the Fall. She became the instigator of evil. Roger de Caen in *Carmen du mundi contempu* wrote: "The woman is the worst danger in this world, the task of each Christian is to shun her, her beautiful body is only filled with rot." Saint Thomas considered the woman a "deficiency in nature" and granted the man a greater intelligence.

We can assume, without doubt, that in this context, women's voices were suppressed before they could even express themselves. The woman was excluded from any official practice of worship. Young girls were under guardianship, with only the possibilities of marrying very young or joining a cloister.

Education was kept for church people who had the power of knowledge and justice. Few noble women were educated. However, those single women in convents did

have the opportunity to study. The poor women known as "servers" were forced to work two jobs and do the most difficult tasks.

Now, let's return to the present. What a different world! Science and technology have revolutionized our world. Progress has been made though other serious problems are still present.

The feeling of misery is still with us. Homeless people in big cities are excluded from growth; they have been so beaten down they expect nothing from life anymore. Individualism has taken over solidarity. Families shattered by our way of life are left to isolation. Poverty equals solidarity; wealth equals isolation.

The anxiety of welfare lingers in France. The anguish of not knowing what tomorrow will bring causes fear. We live with the fear of AIDS, nuclear plant explosions, atomic bombs and everyday violence. We tremble when we think of the trials our children must face.

But what about religious feelings in this century? Because so many technological and scientific advancements have been made, many have turned away from religion. Also, many have replaced God with psychoanalysis.

The role of women has also changed. Fortunately, that change, for the most part, has been positive. We can thank God for that. Jesus Christ was the great craftsman for the liberation of women. During His time on this earth He showed women respect and valued them. Today's woman has full autonomy.

The man today, like the man of yesteryear, desires peace. Every time there are conflicts, he wants to negotiate peace with alliances and create treaties. But the only true peace can come from God, the great craftsman of peace and love. The people of the Middle Ages lived for

the glorious day when the Almighty Lord would heal their wounds. You and I are waiting for the beautiful day when the Lord will come and take us to our eternal home.

My desire is that the next millennium will be the final one and we will soon be together with the Lord. This is the deepest objective of all believers of all times. May the peace of God be established now and forever! Lord Jesus, come! 

*Men may
spurn our appeals,
reject our message,
oppose our arguments,
despise our persons,
but they are helpless
against our prayers.*

—Sidlow Baxter



*I have
so much to do (today)
that I shall spend
the first three hours
in prayer.*

—Martin Luther

“Married—Single Mothers . . .”



Stephanie Elzy

The words *married* and *single* don't seem to fit in the same sentence together, do they? Nevertheless the scenario happens more often than one may realize. You see, if you're married to a Pastor or an Evangelist and have young children, then you know right from the beginning what I'm speaking of.

Many times the Pastor/ Husband/ Father is called away from home to minister, leaving the wife to be the super glue, the adhesive that holds things together until he returns. Often he is gone not just days, but weeks at a time. How is the wife to keep her sanity until he returns?

It's not that she cannot live or breathe without the love of her life there with her at all times. But there are a number of things that can cause her to be stretched to the limit and threaten her sanity.

One of the first conditions she must deal with is loneliness. Missing the companionship of her mate is trying within itself without adding the burdens of caring for the home and children alone.

Another concern she must deal with is being there to answer the telephone when members call with questions, issues or concerns that only the pastor can deal with.

Yet another worry, and I think one of the major stresses she faces, is that of exhaustion. Consider this. The mother wakes the children, cleans

and dresses them for the day, prepares their breakfast and gets them off to school. If she works outside the home, then she too must be off to work. After a long day at the office, she picks up the children, possibly makes a stop to the grocery store, gets home, cooks the meal, feeds the children, washes the dishes and stops to take a breath. Having caught her breath, she gears up to give the children their baths, help them brush their teeth and tucks them in the bed. If her eyes are not crossed by now, she may be able to read a bedtime story before *she* falls asleep. Can you see the exhaustion factor here? And there's still the laundry, the lawn, the mail. The list goes on.

Then include the extracurricular activities. There's soccer, baseball and swimming practice. And don't forget to include those doctor or dentist appointments, the parent-teacher conferences and those unexpected trips to the emergency room. Of course, those trips always seem to happen when daddy is away.

So, to say the least, the married-single mother is exhausted beyond measure. Handling all those tasks alone is daunting. So I'd like to share four bits of advice for the married-single mothers (I emphasize the word "bits" as I realize that's all you really have the time for).

Stephanie Elzy is a Registered Dental Hygienist and wife of Pastor/Evangelist Roderick Elzy, South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. They live in Buford, Georgia with their two children, a five-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son.



1. Realize you are human, not superhuman

Do only that which has to be done. Ask our Heavenly Father to help you eliminate that which is *not* a “must-do.” Prioritize your tasks. This will help. Those things that you find at the bottom of the list can probably wait.

2. Organize

For those things that must be done, organize them in a way that is time-efficient. Set a goal for bedtime and stick to it. Some organizing tips that may make your day go a little smoother are:

- ❖ Lay out your clothes (including the children’s clothes) the night before and, if possible, set them out for the duration of the week.
- ❖ Prepare lunches the night before.
- ❖ Fill your car with gas on Sunday.
- ❖ Grocery shop before the week begins.

3. Be nice to yourself

Though you may realize you’re doing double duty as a mom and dad, remember, don’t forget to take care of yourself. Pamper yourself. Spend ten minutes enjoying your favorite dessert. Relax at the end of the day in a foaming bath of your favorite fragrance or take time out to watch your favorite television program. Spending some time on yourself will help with your sanity.

4. Keep Christ before you

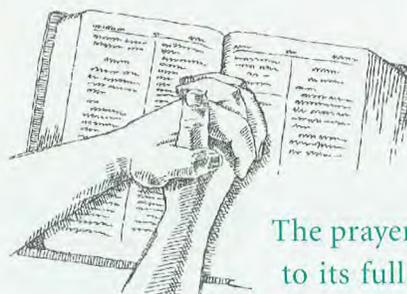
Remember God’s promise that He is there for you. Ask Him for His help and accept His aid. “But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19).

In the final analysis, we must realize that we play an important role in ministry. Our being there for

our husbands and our children is an *active* part of ministry, just as active as our husbands being away preaching the gospel. The Lord sees our services and He blesses our efforts. One day we will beam with a

smile as we hear our Saviour say, “Well done thy good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of the Lord.”

May God continue to bless us all until that day comes. 



The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity . . . If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God’s standing challenge, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!”

—J. Hudson Taylor

My Prayer

Teach me, Lord, to keep sweet and gentle in all the events of life—in disappointments, in thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

Help me to put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes to me. Help me to use it that it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me; that it may make me broad in my forgiveness; kindly, sympathetic, and helpful. Amen.

Unemployed Employee: The Dilemma of an SDA Pastor's Wife

Part 2

Maria Buwa

Maria Buwa is a pastor's wife. She has been doing full-time team ministry with her husband for 18 years. They have three children—Mbulelo, Nwabisa and Ayanda. Presently they are facing the challenge of opening a new district at Humansdorp near Port Elizabeth, South Africa. She is also a coordinator for Women's Ministries in Southern Hope Conference Eastern Region, and a literature evangelist as well. Maria enjoys reading, preaching and teaching.



No other profession places spouses under a greater load in respect to actions, than does the ministry. Many women in the congregations see the pastor's wife as a role and not a person. Often she is valued for what she can give rather than for what she is. Expectations cannot be wished away. The pastor's spouse is expected to play many roles—advisor to her husband, counselor to her children as well as everything else to the church members.

She is to be a comforter of her husband when he bears stressful challenges and sleepless nights because of confrontations. This also affects her but she is expected to cherish a pleasant mood and never share it with anybody. She is not expected to make friends within the congregations and if she does, she may be accused of playing favorite.

She is to greet and welcome the pastor's visitors. She is the receiver and deliverer of messages. In the absence of her husband she is expected to assist. Church members

sometimes see her as they see a pastor.

The "pastor's" wife is forced to make a painful decision to either renounce her own uniqueness and identity by conforming to the image of an exemplary minister's wife or to stiffen her back and assert her individuality to free choice that makes her different from all others. She is expected to minister to her children, help them in their school work and in turn the kids are to live an exemplary life, too. She is expected to be a counselor to the church members. A comforter to the bereaved. A listening ear to the complaining members. A teacher to all age groups in the church—welfare, youth, Pathfinders, Adventurers, Sabbath School, A.W.M. etc.

Whatever is done in the church she is expected to be a page ahead of the church members. She is expected to conduct Bible Studies and attend every function of the church. Members want her to be ever willing to provide hospitality and food and

do this on a very tight budget without complaining—after all this is the Lord's work.

The conference as well as church members want to see her with her spouse doing team ministry. However, let her be involved in a car accident and she is expected to accept the fact that she *is not employed* and therefore *no benefits*. "God Bless Her" will suffice.

The above mentioned expectations are just a drop in an ocean of expectations which are so high and sometimes so unrealistic that seeking to cope is difficult or at times impossible.

The Pastoral Call and Moving

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church pastors do not choose their own congregations and districts. The Conference Executive Committee, which is the employing body, assigns them. The decision to relocate a minister is referred to as a call and is usually considered to be mandatory. On the average every three years, a minister may be moved to a new pastorate. What if the call seems right for the pastor and not for the wife? The church implies that the wife is bound to follow the husband.

If she is working, she has to resign. Failing which the pastor will be released to go and look for another job. Sometimes she is at the peak of her career when the husband receives the call to relocate but she has to resign and resigning means forfeiting all her benefits.

The wife forfeited education. She assisted the pastor with his advance education and when it was her turn she was not allowed to leave the pastor alone to finish hers or the pastor is released from his work.

Sometimes, after forfeiting all and staying with her husband as required by the church, the pastor dies leaving her alone.

The church then kindly asks her

to return to them (the church) their accommodation (mission house).

Out she goes. She is bound to go and rent the cheapest accommodation she can afford because she is not working and usually the taverns (houses where liquor is sold) and shacks are all that is affordable for one who is not working.

Her name will remain in the church record books as well as the Conference record books but personally she will eventually be forgotten even by the working force. If there is any pension or money which was due her, it can end up somewhere lost in the banking system. She suddenly becomes a stranger, never invited to gatherings, never experiencing again the warmth of her former colleagues.

Pastor's wives are bestowed a mass of potentials, which if faithfully released may set a different picture in the ministry. Releasing of these potentials depends however, on an environment that is conducive to its development and release. Production and production capability is the master key. Effectiveness is the balance of the two.

Recommendations

1. *Remuneration* to be considered as an abling means. Especially to the pastor's wives who are dedicated and working full-time with their spouses.
2. *Training/In-Service* training should be conducted for minister's wives to prepare and equip them for the Lord's work.
3. *Sense of belonging* to the pastor's wife. Shepherdesses belong nowhere in the church. They need a budget for them. They cannot even meet for there is no budget for them. They are only thrown into their spouses' car when the spouses are going to meet. If that particular time is not convenient for them, they are to meet in the vestry. The amount of time spent together will depend on the length of their husbands' meetings.

Let's hope to see a different picture in the future. To be a pastor's wife is a wonderful blessing, with wonderful experiences that bring one nearer to God than ever. I thank God for making me a pastor's spouse. 

*Lord, help me to be —
Intensely spiritual,
Perfectly natural,
Thoroughly practical.*



Shepherdess International News

Africa -Indian Ocean Division

✿ Mary Mensah, Ghana Union Shepherdess Coordinator, gathered about 250 Shepherdesses for several days of training and fellowship in Accra, Ghana. Denise Ratsara, Division

Coordinator, co-planned the event. Sharon Cress was among the guest speakers. The highlight of the retreat was special greetings and the introduction of Elizabeth Bediako as a consultant for Shepherdess. Energetic discussion and reports made

this time together memorable.



Denise Ratsara, Africa-Indian Ocean Division Shepherdess Coordinator



Shepherdess meeting in Ghana



Above: Discussion groups during the Shepherdess meetings in Ghana

Right: Mary Mensah, Ghana Union Shepherdess Coordinator



Pastoral couples in Ghana attend meetings



Right: Three Ghana pastors' wives give their testimony



Shepherdesses in Ghana

Eastern Africa Division

✿ Nonceba Mathema, Division Shepherdess Coordinator, planned the Quinquennium Shepherdess Advisory in Nairobi, Kenya. Karen Flowers and Sharon Cress participated in training for ten regional Shepherdess Coordinators during the event. Judith Mwansa, Division Sponsor and wife of Division President, Pardon Mwansa, supported the meetings through hands-on participation and encouragement. Reports from the local fields as well as challenges were discussed. --- ☞ --- ☞ --- ☞

✿ Malawi Union Shepherdess Coordinator, Mrs. Witness Kasambara conducted a good fellowship in the Lilongwe Central Church. In the North Malawi Field a group of Shepherdess leaders met and are planning evangelistic efforts. They are also very keen on visiting the retired Shepherdesses and those who are ill. CMF Shepherdesses met around Lake View Seminar School. For three days they worshipped, prayed and drew closer together in fellowship. Special emphasis was on Pastoral Children. Their motto was "God Our Mighty Warrior". --- ☞ --- ☞ --- ☞

✿ Eritrea Mission has a new coordinator, Mrs. Constance Chifamba. She has inaugurated the Shepherdess program in this field for the first time. They have enthusiastically embraced the idea of a new chapter and we wish them all God's blessings.

✿ Mrs. Dorothy Dorcas Kwase-Vuma reports members suffering from demons. The Shepherdesses prayed and God gave these women the victory.

✿ Mrs. Mary Dube reports a Maranatha Orphan Care Club. It is now registered with the government and is currently caring for the needs of 52 orphans of all faiths.

Euro-Africa Division



Union President, Adrian Bocaneanu and his wife, Adrianna, Union Shepherdess Coordinator



Left: Maeve Maurer presents a devotional to pastors' wives in Romania. Adrianna Bocaneanu translates.

Below: Shepherdess mascot in Romania who attended the seminar (although not always attentively)!



✿ Mrs. Maeve Maurer was the honored guest in Romania for a Shepherdess Retreat in conjunction with the Bible School Continuing Education program for pastors. Maeve and Sharon Cress met with local pastors wives from the Bucharest area and then joined together with regional Shepherdess Coordinators for reports and discussion. The Romania Union is looking forward to extensive

training with Dr. Alan Handysides in the near future to certify pastors wives as Birth Companions.

✿ Portugal in 2003 will be the site for the Euro-Africa Division Shepherdess Coordinator planning session.



Romanian Shepherdess Coordinators in discussion.



Maeve Maurer and Sharon Cress with Romanian coordinators



Romanian pastors' wives who attended the retreat.

✿ Kishinev, Moldova was the location for a special Congress of Pastors Wives conducted by the local Shepherdess group. "Revival Starts With Me" was the theme for the 180 people who attended two days of seminars. Valuable time was spent clarifying their goals for the future. Shepherdess Union Coordinators

Euro-Asia Division

✿ Galina Stele, Shepherdess Coordinator brings us the following news in pictures:



Special program presented by pastors' wives for their children and husbands in Ekaterinburg.



Shepherdess Advisory for union coordinators in Petergov.

from Ukraine, Caucasus and Belorussia Conference were special guests and shared seminars with the participants. Spiritual revival was given special emphasis when everyone participated in a Lord's Supper dedication service. See photo below of participants at communion table.



Shepherdess Meetings in Ural Conference in Ekaterinburg.



Participants of Moldova Union Congress around the table for communion.

Inter-American Division

✿ Evelyn Omana, SIEMA Coordinator in Inter-America was welcomed in two of her Unions for Clergy retreats. Puerto Rico hosted a long-weekend retreat in San Juan at a magnificent historic hotel for their pastoral couples. Ivan Omana and Jim and Sharon Cress joined her as featured speakers.

Evelyn Omana conducting a seminar.



Puerto Rico clergy couples attend long weekend retreat in San Juan.

✿ Evelyn Omana gave instruction and encouragement on PK's and Pastor Omana spoke about Sexual Ethics for clergy families.

✿ Guadeloupe also hosted a weekend event for clergy. Ivan and Evelyn Omana and Jim and Sharon Cress joined the local leadership in presentations.



Above: Evelyn Omana and a pastor's wife



Clergy couples enjoying the seminars in Puerto Rico.



Shepheresses in Guadeloupe are welcomed during a special ordination service.



Elder and Mrs. Efrén Pagan at the Puerto Rico meetings.



Guadeloupe clergy spouses.

North America Division

✿ Pacific Union Conference held their great Ministerial Council in Ontario, California. Darlys Robertson, Shepherdess Coordinator from the Northern California Conference organized the meetings for the clergy spouses. Seminars and discussion with Dr. Graham Stacey were a special addition to this fellowship.

✿ Korean pastors and spouses from all over the Division gathered for four days of meetings in San Jose, California. Jim and Sharon Cress were guest speakers and seminar presenters.

✿ Walla Walla, Washington was the venue for over 300 retired pastors wives who joined their husbands at the retirees retreat. Jack and Edna Harris were the host and hostess for the event which featured about 700 retired workers. A long weekend of inspiration and seminars were appreciated by all. Elder Don Schneider was the featured Sabbath morning speaker.

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

✿ Mrs. Young-Ja Nam, Shepherdess Coordinator, was the featured guest at two Shepherdess retreats. Mrs. Nam's experience as an educator was evident in her relevant seminars and her gifts of counseling and advice were much sought after. Sharon Cress from Shepherdess International accompanied Mrs. Nam at these events. The first retreat in Hong Kong at the Conference office was a weekend event and included the pastors in a couples event. Mrs. Lily Wu, the local Shepherdess coordinator planned an extraordinary event of fellowship, food and educational seminars.

In Taiwan, Shepherdesses met at the college for three days of seminars, fellowship and discussion. Mrs. Emmeline Liu, the Union Shepherdess Coordinator, planned the event just before camp meeting. A sweet spirit was present for the meetings and the compassion these ladies demonstrated

for each others needs and challenges is to be envied. Mrs. Lily Wu was also a featured guest in Taiwan.



Mrs. Nam conducting a seminar.



Mrs. Lily Wu, Hong Kong Shepherdess Coordinator



Hong Kong discussion group



Hong Kong pastoral couple



Hong Kong couples enjoy Friday night banquet.



Taiwan pastors' wives exercising and singing.

South American Division

✿ Mrs. Evelyn Nagel and Raquel Arrais planned an AFAM advisory in Lima, Peru in conjunction with the

Ministerial Advisory. A beautifully decorated meeting room was made even more special by the little personal touches the two leaders provided their coordinators. Special emphasis on

women's health issues and planning for nurturing the clergy wives in South America rounded out the event. Saturday night brought the group a light-hearted cultural program and talent show which was enjoyed by all.



AFAM coordinators in a seminar.



Special gifts for the AFAM coordinators

Below: Raquel and Jonas Arrais



Cultural program.



Evelyn Nagel



Right: Vanira Sarli and Margarida Sarli



South Pacific Division

✿ Partners In Ministry Coordinator Debora Kent reports the exciting news that the The Pastoral Partners Certification Program recently graduated Karen Williams, Natalie Winchombe, Heather Anderson, Maree Worker, Carol Boehm and Tania Ballantyne. Congratulations to each of you for equipping yourselves to special ministries.

✿ Avondale College: PIM's have begun regular lunchtime get-togethers. They are also busily surveying members for future spiritual events.

✿ Tasmania: Donna Anderson is busy working with her husband, Rod, who is beginning his own religious radio program. Glenda Amos recently conducted a nutrition seminar in Smithton. PIM Edyta Jankiweicz is completing her MA in Family Life at Avondale College.

✿ Northern Australia: Although the clergy spouses in North Australia live vast distances apart, they were able to fellowship together at their recent camp meeting. They had a special afternoon tea and joyous times of fellowship.

✿ South Australia: Pastors wives recently enjoyed lunch at a cafe in Adelaide.

✿ Victoria: Susie Potts resigned from paid employment to assist her husband, Des, in running public evangelistic programs in Geelong.

✿ North New South Wales: PIM's enjoyed a fellowship luncheon during camp meeting and are planning to repeat the experience again this year!

✿ Western Australia: Sylvia Hernandez is the newly appointed PIM coordinator.

✿ South New South Wales Conference has two pastors wives who have Theology degrees—Lorna Arthur and Cheryl Bird. Other pastors wives have varied and most interesting careers. Grace Dumbrava is studying for a double degree in Medical Science. Leonie McGuire has recently completed a Diploma of Community Services. Julie Stefani is a teacher at Border Christian College. Lydele

Edwards is an Audio and Visual Consultant and Sandra Godfrey is a hairdresser. Maureen Dunn studies languages at Queensland University and Beth Kosmeier is a dressmaker. Helen Harper is a landscape and floral artist. What blessings these ladies are with their God-given gifts!

General Conference

✿ Annual Council 2002 brought together about 55 Administrative spouses for special meetings during the business session. Marti Schneider, North American Division Ministry to Clergy Spouses Coordinator, was the featured speaker. Her topic, "Developing a Mission Plan and Statement for Your Life" was eagerly received. Rae Lee Cooper led the physical exercise program and advised us on the rewards of a healthy life style.



Ladies from the Euro-Asia Division shared a musical number at the Annual Council Administrative spouses meetings.

Below: Annual Council attendees listen to a presentation by Marti Schneider.



The ladies enjoyed breakfast and fellowship before the Annual Council Administrative spouses meetings each morning.

