

The Journal



A SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

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*I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about much, I'm happy anyhow
And as I go along life's journey,
I'm reaping better than I sowed
And I'm drinking from my saucer because
my cup is overflowed.*

*Don't have a lot of riches and sometimes the going's tough,
But I have family and friends that love me and
make me rich enough.
I just thank God for his blessings and mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer because my cup is overflowed.*

*Oh, I remember times when things went wrong
and my faith got a little thin.
But then all at once the dark clouds broke
and that old sun peeped through again.
So, Lord, help me not to gripe about the tough rows I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer because my cup has overflowed.*

*And if God gives me strength and courage when the way is
steep and rough,
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.
And may I never be too busy to help another bear his load.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer because
my cup has overflowed.*

—Anonymous

Compliments of Iowa-Missouri Shepherdess Newsletter

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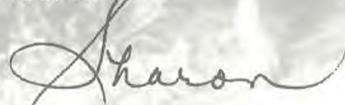
Editor's Musings

"Don't hit a cracked ball." In golfing, this is common sense. Cracked and damaged balls are loose cannons when approached by a driving force. While I know this mentally, I couldn't resist hitting ALL of the balls at the driving range that had bounced into my bucket. And, sure enough, when the club made contact, the cracked ball went out of control. First, it went straight up, hitting the ceiling of the driving range cover, then it whizzed past the heads of other golfers as they ducked for cover. Ricocheting off the side wall it never slowed as it headed back the way it came. By now the lineup of practicers were running for safety. Every contact with a solid surface sent it off again. When the ball finally came to rest, Jim looked at me and calmly asked, "How did you do that?" "I hit a cracked ball," I lamented. "You could have killed somebody," he scolded. And, he was right.

Unfortunately, we have some emotionally damaged people who have landed in our church. They bounce right in with the rest of the crowd until we make contact with them. Then, they spin out of control. Maybe we asked them to manage a project, teach a class, make food for a family in need, etc. But the contact that was meant to put them into action, put them out of control. And, their out-of-control life endangered the spiritual life of others.

As ministry spouses it is so important for us to recognize these people before we send them careening into others. It is difficult because, unlike the golf ball, many emotionally handicapped people look like everybody else from the outside. Only God knows the inside. I believe God can give us the wisdom to sort out just how to approach each person. May each of us have that wisdom, courtesy of the Holy Spirit, right now.

God bless.



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Adventist Woman to Muslim Woman

Børge Schantz

Towards Evangelistic Approaches

Borge Schantz served the SDA Church on four continents as pastor, evangelist, teacher and administrator. At the time of his retirement he was director of the SDA Global Centre for Islamic Studies. He is now active as an adjunct professor at Loma Linda University, Andrews University and Newbold College. He also presents seminars on Missiology, Church Growth and Islamics and writes on various topics. He and his wife, Iris, live in Denmark. This article appeared in the Adventist-Muslim Review.



One person out of ten in the world is a Muslim woman. Three-fourths of these live in restricted areas where direct approaches with the Christians message are forbidden by Islam laws enforced by various Muslim governments.

The other one-fourth are in theory within the reach of the Christians. They live in secular (Christian) countries with religious liberty and personal freedom of choice for all people who are of age. However, although they officially have personal freedom and in theory can choose religion and politics in the area where they live, often Islamic laws and regulations guide their lives and choices. For them there is freedom on the streets but Shariah laws in the homes.

However, they are not beyond the saving grace of God. They are always a responsibility of the church and ways and means to reach them must be found. For this reason, their world view must be understood and appreciated and avenues to reach them must be found.

Three characteristics

There are three dominant characteristics of Muslim women. First, they live *life in fear*. They fear the spirit world, ill health, and death.

They fear the black angels whom they are told will visit the corpse after it has been buried and ask them questions on their religious life. They have also been told that whereas hell is a place with the most horrific torments, heaven is a delightful place depicted in extreme materialistic terms. However, they are also warned that in paradise, men have preferential treatment. Although some of these beliefs originate in a confusing mass of traditions rather than in ideal Islam, they are still, for many Muslim women, realities of their personal religion.

They also fear beating by their husband, and the easy way he can get a divorce. The authority of the mother-in-law is also dreaded by married Muslim women. To this must be added the gossip that, in a society where women have no voice or say, can lead to the loss of honor, a factor of paramount importance in most Muslim cultures.

Secondly, there is *domination of Muslim men*. This begins with the fathers, uncles, and brothers. Later their husband takes over command. Always there is a male who is superior, in command and the center of her attention. She is naturally expected to serve that person. Males are the decision makers in even the smallest and most trivial matters.

Having elaborated the somewhat negative status of many Muslim women in various cultures it must also be mentioned, that many even in their inferior positions, may wield in a quiet way some power and influence and act as opinion makers in the family.

The third characteristic of Muslim women is the *awe* they live in. This awe is of the unseen spirit world, the respect for the religious leaders in the Islamic community, the observance of religious rituals, the honor they pay to saints and pirs.¹

Inferior role in religious life

In Islamic religious life, women are allocated much less than even a secondary position and role. This no doubt causes many of them severe apprehension and leaves a vacuum in their lives.

She is expected to believe in the Five Beliefs and practice the Five Pillars of Islam. However, the Muslim woman is not allowed to pray together with her family in the main mosque. When they go to the mosque, they worship in a separate room and only together with other women. A woman can only be "imam" (prayer leader) for other women.

The pilgrimage to Mecca is required of all male Muslims once in a lifetime. It is not obligatory for women, but should a woman succeed in taking part in this exalted experience in Islamic religious life she must be accompanied by a male Muslim from her nearest family. No doubt the spiritually-minded Muslim woman, she who is seeking a close relationship with Allah, is frustrated by these ancient restrictions that place her in a position where she not only questions her own value as a human being but also has doubts about her abilities to gain entrance into paradise. She is looking for help. How can she get close to God who seems to be too great to consider a

woman's heartache and tears? Perhaps those are the reasons that Muslim women often look outside Islam to traditions and old superstitions to find the comfort and spiritual guidance the religion of their husband seems not to be prepared to give her.²

Visitation restrictions

Islamic rules and regulations, often influenced by local culture and customs governing Muslim women, obviously make it impossible for the male missionary, pastor or evangelist to work directly with them. They are protected from strangers and prohibited any contact with outsiders. They are generally beyond the communication reach of any man not belonging to the family circle. In the Islamic world Muslim women will in most cases be denied any opportunity to accept visitors not approved by their menfolk. Should permission—only granted in rare cases—for such contacts be made, no Christian witness will ever have the opportunity to be alone with the prospective convert. There will always be a male member of her family present. To this must be added that the literacy rate among the 600 million Muslim women is alarmingly low, so even the printed word will not be of much use.

Here is a golden opportunity for the missionary-minded Adventist Christian women to be involved. The female missionary, and the wife of the expatriate pastor no doubt has advantages over the men in this sensitive and much needed witnessing activity. However, the national Adventist Christian female church member is of paramount importance to this work. She speaks the language and knows the behavioral patterns and customs of the Muslim neighbor. In her outward appearance and national dress, she can move freely without drawing too much

attention or arousing suspicion. A national Christian will also be aware of laws dealing with cross-religious relationships and thereby know how far to go in any communication situation.

Seminars in witnessing to Muslim women

The latent witnessing potential of Adventist women in reaching their Muslim sisters should be utilized. For this reason seminars should be conducted where Christian women are encouraged and enabled to witness in a culturally acceptable way to their Muslim neighbors.

Such seminars should last four to five days and cover the following subjects in 30 sessions:

1. Devotionals, morning and evening (5 units).
2. Women in the Bible who used their talents: Miriam, the Samaritan Women, Lydia, Dorcas, etc. (3 units).
3. Islamic history, beliefs, practices (5 units).
4. National and local cultures and customs (3 units).
5. Muslim evangelism, social concern and health, personal work, witness methods, importance of dreams, relevant biblical topics, etc. (8 units).
6. The Muslim woman (6 units).

Evangelism for Muslim women

In dealing with this subject, the following points should be carefully studied:

The Muslim code for modesty in dress and their customs of segregating the sexes must be respected. At the beginning of the dialogue (Bible studies), the meetings should take place in the home of the Muslim woman; however invitations to the home of the witness should come when convenient. Finally special church events can be used as attractions.

Frequent brief visits are more valuable than few and far between extended calls. However, ample time must always be taken to develop meaningful relationships. The authority of the head of the family—usually a man—must be respected. At the same time, attempts should be made to discover which woman is the religious and community leader and opinion maker in the extended family.³

Of high priority in such visits is to discover what the felt needs of the Muslim women in the area are. It can be illiteracy, health and hygiene, or even spiritual matters such as the fear of demons. Then the witness must use all of her resources to meet these needs.

Tips for witnessing

In the witnessing process, it must be understood that the needs of the Muslim woman are often of a psychological rather than theological nature and more relational than informational. Love, understanding, and a demonstration of the love of Jesus are more important than intellectual, theological, doctrinal and apologetical approaches. Jesus Christ is a person experienced, not a doctrinal point to be elaborated, a leader of a religious system, not the main character of a book. Muslim women are more easily reached by imagery, poetry, and songs. Story telling and parables, especially those from the gospels told by Jesus (the widow's son, woman who touched His robe, Samaritan woman) are easily understood and well accepted.⁴ As Allah to them is often far away, obscure, and even a taskmaster to be feared, Jesus Christ offers them what they often lack in life, namely dignity, wholeness, peace that passes all understanding, forgiveness for sins, and the assurance that they are full members in the priesthood of all believers.⁵

Transition state

The Christian witness must also realize that Muslim women are not frequent visitors to the mosque. As mentioned, Muslim men listen to and follow the Korannic teachings, while Muslim women are the followers of traditional religious practices and Folk-Islamic beliefs. These non-Islamic beliefs and practices can be used positively, as they tend to bring people into a "transition state" where they not only are prepared to listen, but also are looking for new solutions to old problems. Demonstrate to them that Christ can meet their felt needs whether they are spiritual or physical. Also use God's healing power, signs and wonders by praying for divine intervention in their lives and those of their families. Assure them that evil spirits and demonic powers, which are present realities for them, can mightily be overcome by prayer and the power of Jesus Christ as well as by intervention of the angels.⁶

Some concerns

Witnessing activities, even when national Christian women visit the homes of their Muslim sisters, are not without stumbling blocks. In interviews with some Christian women during a women's seminar some possible objections were raised that we must seriously consider:

1. Other Christians in a small community could misunderstand the purpose of frequent visits, as the two religious groups generally have very little communication with each other. Years of enmity between the Muslims and Christians in areas where they live together are so deep rooted that contact with each other is only on the business and political level, rarely is there a social contact.
2. Christian husbands, in many cases, will be reluctant to have their wives and daughters exposed to Muslim men on their premises. The

age-old mistrust between the two communities with suspicions of immorality has made both groups extremely protective of their women. There is also the fear that the reputation of a woman who visits alone the home of a Muslim could have her reputation spoiled by gossip.

3. In some Islamic countries, witnessing to Muslims about Jesus Christ as the Son of God is forbidden. It is classified as blasphemy and therefore could invoke severe punishment.

These concerns must be taken seriously. However, careful communication over an extended period will help the Christian witness to evaluate the situation, find out who she is facing and thereby avoid the pitfalls. There should be no direct witnessing where the Bible is used until there is established a trust relationship.

The objections listed above also brought home to us that Islamic Seminars for Adventist Women to witness to their Muslim sisters will not bring results immediately. There must be in many Christian churches in Islamic areas a continuous process over some time to emphasize the responsibility we have to also witness to Muslims.

Witnessing guidelines

In all you do be honest and uncomplicated in your attitude and behavior. Be yourself. Be sensitive to the fact that the status of Muslim women varies greatly. No doubt some are unjustly treated and despised. However, others are admired and protected. Generally all Muslim women have an inner strength that is seen in their ability to adapt to the social structure, even when they emigrate to the West. They also have an innate ability to influence and control their family in their own quiet and subtle way. Show interest

to their family and kinship relationships. Pay special attention to names, kinship terms and numbers. The Christian witness must always be a good listener and even be prepared to hear the same story repeated again and again, having in mind that what is told can tactfully be used to open up witnessing possibilities. As a person from outside the family circle there is a great possibility that family secrets will be revealed in confidence. However, such matters must be kept confidential.

This could be the year when Adventist women accept their responsibility to bring the everlasting gospel to the Muslim women in their various cultural and geographic settings.

Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952), perhaps the greatest modern missionary to the Muslims once declared:

What the women of the Muslim world need supremely is the sacrificial service of their Christian sisters.

Can Adventist Christian women who have received the priceless gift of the knowledge of Jesus withhold it from them? 

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3. Hoffman, *Approach*, pp. 589, 590.
4. Alberta Standish, "With Women in the West," in *Muslims and Christians on the Emmaus Road*, ed. J. Dudley Woodberry (Monrovia: MARC, 1989), p. 205.
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Hospitality in the Home



Chayedza M. Bundo

*M*y husband and I had just returned home from an errand when our maid met us at the door. She told us we had received an important message from Mr. Zeiza, a University lecturer. He and his wife were coming to visit us in two weeks.

I looked at my husband in panic. I had never even met these people and I had so many questions running through my mind. As a pastor's wife, I was used to having people visit and I welcomed them gladly. But my guests were always local people. These people were strangers and I was concerned about the visit. My husband simply said, "The Lord will provide."

During the two weeks prior to the visit, I fretted over everything. I

agonized over the bedroom, wondering if it was large enough to accommodate them. I debated over what kind of food to prepare. I worried about how to entertain them. Quite simply, I was a nervous wreck!

On the day of their arrival, I was busy doing last minute chores. As I was folding my laundry, I looked out the window and saw this magnificent car pass by. Our visitors had arrived. I quickly ran to the front door to greet them.

After welcoming them, I asked Mrs. Zeiza if she was vegetarian. She smiled, then said, "We are prepared to eat anything you eat." With that statement, I felt a load lift off my shoulders. I sensed our important visitors were people just like us. I realized we are all God's children and I had worried needlessly.

Hebrews 13:1,2 tells us to love one another as brothers in Christ. As pastors' wives, we need to open our homes and hearts to all. We are to cheerfully entertain strangers. Who knows, we may be entertaining angels in disguise! 

Chayedza M. Bundo is a full-time homemaker in Zimbabwe. She and her husband have two daughters and one son. Her hobbies include gardening, sewing, cooking and witnessing.



Into the Light

Kamala Jesu Dass



Ngamma—whose name means “the god of serpents”—was a Hindu ritual woman in India, a land of varied religious customs where the people worship gods of many different forms as well as gods without any particular shape at all. And Ngamma knew all about the worship of the various Hindu gods.

In time, she married a young man named Pannasayya, whose family also practiced the Hindu customs and traditions. They had married according to the Hindu practices and they performed all the rituals to their gods. Ngamma and Pannasayya went here and there to make pilgrimages to get “Moksha,” or salvation.

One day in 1925, they saw a Christian preacher beside the road preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. They stood and listened for a little while. However, they believed that if

they worshiped another god, their snake god would cause them to die, so they did not want to accept any other god.

Another day, this preacher conducted gospel meetings in their own village. Without letting anyone know that he was attending, Pannasayya went to the meetings. Having been adopted after his mother died in childbirth, his adoptive parents forbade him to attend the meetings. The young man decided to go anyway to the meetings along with his wife, Ngamma. The family cast them out, but they accepted Jesus as their Savior and were baptized into the Christian church. They started living their new-found faith. Every Sunday they would go to church, so happy for their new God and entirely different life.

One Sunday, however, they saw the two teachers who cared for the church fighting over the offerings. One man said, “The offerings belong to me because I am the one who established this church.”

The other man got angry and told him, “You wait and see. I will bring another church and establish it in our village.” And he did. Soon he found a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and persuaded him to come to the village of Mandapeta. The new

pastor began holding seminars. Ngamma and Pannasayya wanted to attend the Adventist meetings. This time it was their pastor who forbade them to go, but this did not stop them. They regularly attended the meetings. After six months of Bible studies and learning about the Sabbath truth, they and 14 other members of their church were baptized. Finally Pannasayya gave up his smoking habit and Ngamma took off handfuls of jewelry and sold it. At the baptismal service, Pannasayya took the name Moses, and Ngamma changed her name to Rachel.

From then on, these two lived a life of witnessing unto the Lord. Mr. Moses was chosen as the first elder of the church and served in that capacity for 55 long years. He established many churches around the village of Mandapeta. The couple were blessed with four children, and two of their sons served as ordained ministers. Once they came out of darkness to the marvelous light, this couple witnessed for the great and true God.

This story really happened about 100 years ago, for it was my father-in-law whose life was totally changed by the gospel message. I am happy to tell you about him and how until his death he stood for Jesus and lived a life of witness for his Lord. 

Kamala Jesudass became a pastor's wife at age 16 and has worked with her husband in establishing many churches in their native India. Kamala has three children and works as a teacher. Her hobbies are singing, reading, painting, cooking and housekeeping.

Lessons From My Checkbook



Delores Elaine Bius

As my husband has pointed out to me innumerable times, our checkbook balance is not unlimited. Although spiritually I'm the daughter of the King of kings, I am also a working man's wife.

One day while balancing my checkbook, I realized it had some stories to tell.

For example, there was the check to our family physician for my annual checkup. Here I was going into middle age and had never had any serious illnesses or surgeries. An occasional ache of arthritis or bout with the flu only served to underscore my general good health.

Then there was the check for the flowers ordered for a friend whose husband had died. She was widowed at a young age, whereas I still had my husband. Having observed how difficult life as a widow was, with the attendant loneliness, decisions, and added duties, I appreciated my husband all the more. Better to cheerfully accept his cluttering up the place and have his companionship, than to have an immaculate but silent house. And how odd it is that one tends to remember only the good qualities of someone who has died. Perhaps that illustrates how insignificant their faults really are.

Further on was a check I'd written

for Christian books. For a few dollars I could enjoy the companionship of such giants of the faith as Spurgeon, Moody, Martin Luther, and more contemporary writers such as C. S. Lewis, James Johnson, and Joyce Landorf.

Here was the check for my new glasses. Getting used to bifocals was such a bit of an adjustment at first, as well as a blow to my ego. Then I realized with shame my silliness. For one of my dearest Christian friends was a blind woman. In the five years I had known her I never once heard her complain about not being able to see the sun rise or set. She always used the term "I saw," for she had learned to see with her mind's eye. I had enjoyed helping her in various ways, but vowed to do even more for her in the future. I realized anew that having sight, even with bifocals, was a priceless blessing.

I was embarrassed as I reviewed the checks I wrote for groceries for my own family in comparison to the ones I wrote for the organization which sent food to the hungry of the world.

The utility bills were getting bigger every month. Yet we had missionary friends in the sweltering jungles of Kenya and Surinam who would be grateful for the air conditioning and lights afforded us at the flick of a switch.

Delores E. Bius, mother of five sons, is a freelance writer from Chicago, Illinois.



There was the check for the special missionary offering at church. The amount was small compared to the next one, which paid for our new living room furniture and drapes. Was the redecorating of my home on earth more important than winning souls for the Lord? What kind of furniture and drapes would be in my heavenly mansion if the Lord had to rely on what I was sending on ahead?

All in all, by the time I finished balancing my checkbook I felt as though I had heard two sermons, one on counting my blessings and the other on stewardship.

Now I do not believe God is calling me to a vow of poverty. Not that He expects me to live in a shack, wear rags, and live on bread and water. I believe we should live according to our station in life with gratitude for His material blessings. But, on the other hand, haven't I come a long way from the song I used to sing, "I'm satisfied with a cottage below. . . ." Truly I might now seem to be saying ". . . Just a two-bathroom ranch house with central air conditioning, built-in dishwasher, and two cars in the attached garage."

Was I becoming like Lot's wife, so enamored by my earthly home that when God's call came, I would look back with regret at that home? Shouldn't I rather be looking forward with anticipation to Christ's return? God had richly blessed me with a home, but my newly balanced checkbook reminded me He wants me to love Him, the Giver, more than His gifts.

Truly, I feel richly blessed now that I have surveyed my wealth through new eyes. I want to count my blessings regularly, letting my checkbook reflect more accurately what I really consider important, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21).

Top Ten Indicators It's Time to Call the Ministry Care Line



Karina Fordham

10. The shepherdess colors her hair red and the pastor doesn't notice.
9. The only place he takes her out to eat is the church potluck.
8. The wife has to call the church secretary for an appointment with her pastor husband.
7. The pastor brings home unexpected visitors to a menu of last week's soup, and the wife refuses to add more water to the pot.
6. The Fall Ministers' Retreat is the pastoral family's only vacation.
5. The pastor doesn't consider his wife his favorite critic.
4. The parishioners secretly enjoy watching the pastoral couple "exchange words" in the church foyer.
3. The shepherdess has to go to church to receive hugs and affirmation.
2. He thinks the remedy for her headache is Tylenol.®
1. The only time they make love is on their wedding anniversary. 

Karina Fordham was a delightful woman and example of a true Christian. She served her church admirably as a pastor's wife. Karina is asleep in Jesus now but her infectious smile will be remembered by all those who knew her. This was one of her last editorials for Seasonings, the Georgia Cumberland Conference Shepherdess newsletter.

What Helps Keep Your Spiritual Life Vibrant?

*Joyce Moore and
Jeanene Preast*

*Two pastors' wives
share keys to their
own spiritual walk*

*Joyce Moore's husband, Bob, pastors the
Everson, Ferndale, and Lummi Districts.
Jeanene Preast's husband pastors Cedar View
and is a Washington Conference evangelist.*

Music—Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Celebrate His abundant goodness and joyfully sing of His Righteousness.

One of the things that helps me in my spiritual walk is music. It always seems to revive me. Anytime I'm down and out a good Negro Spiritual will pick me up. Most songs that I sing and listen to are my gifts to the Lord through praise and prayer (and He inhabits praise). I enjoy listening to music (hymns) and meditating upon the words. Some of the most inspiring songs are the children's songs, expressing simple belief and trust. The Lord has given me a very special gift in my daughter. She too loves to sing and I often hear her singing throughout the day, even at the close of the day while in bed singing, "I Love You, Lord." Most nights she won't even go to sleep without her music. Like her, I would have no peace and rest without my music. As a matter of fact, is there peace without music? I pray I never have to find out. I praise God daily for His gifts but especially music. I think that it is also ironic that most of the hymns are born out of pain, suffering, and difficulties. Until Jesus comes, I no doubt will continue to sing and praise God through music.

—Joyce Moore

God has directed me to several studies and activities to keep me spiritually charged:

1. Bible study fellowship, a worldwide interdenominational Bible Study, has been a large part of my life. I have grown spiritually through this ministry because it has challenged me to be in God's Word daily as I relate His Word to my everyday life and wait on Him to direct me through His Word. I benefit from the small group that I'm assigned to be a part of, holding me accountable, sharing with each other what God has revealed each week, and praying for each other and the situations we go through in our lives.

The six-year study includes one year each of: Genesis, The Life of Moses, Minor Prophets, Matthew, John, The Life and Letters of Paul

I have gained so much from the general session (a 45-minute sermon), learning principles from the Bible and applying them to my life. I have gained great joy from fellowship and working along side these wonderful Christian women leaders and have been able to help break down the walls of prejudice against Seventh-day Adventists as we seek to find the common thread in our spiritual walk, that of Jesus Christ. I praise God that I have had

the opportunity to not only fill my spiritual cup, but also be able to have a ministry all my own through BSF.

2. **Mom's In Touch**, a prayer ministry for the purpose of praying for local schools, teachers, and especially for bringing Moms together weekly to pray for their children. Through this ministry I have gained a new aspect toward praying, Scriptural Praying. Praying back to God His Words as I intercede in prayer for myself, husband, children, family, and friends. My prayer time has been energized and I find God directing me to specific verses/chapters of scripture as needs arise in either my life or my family/friend's life that I know nothing



*I'm learning to watch
to see where God is working
in my life and join Him.*



about ahead of time, yet God had directed me to be specifically praying for a future need He alone knew. I find I hit the mark every time as I pray back His promises, because He says: "[My words will] not return to me void" (Isa. 55:11).

3. **Experiencing God**, by Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King. This is a book and small group workbook study focusing knowing and doing the will of God. I'm just into the first chapter of both book and workbook, but I'm discovering wonderful truths about how to experience God through a love relationship with Him through which He accomplishes His purposes in my life. I'm learning to watch to see where God is working in my life and join Him. I'll let you know more as He grows me.

—Jeanene Preast 

Some Important Lessons Life Teaches You. . .

First important lesson—value everyone

During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.



Second important lesson—kindness

One night, at 11:30 PM, an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

When the Spark Is Gone

Lillian Rosa Correa

It's not a sin to be ordinary

Lillian Rosa Correa lives in Oslo, Norway, and is married to a minister. Together they do team ministry. Reprinted from the Adventist Review.



I was 16 years old when I decided to give my heart to Jesus. But I was exposed to the truth several years before that. It came through a cousin who had been studying with an Adventist she had met.

Being young herself, my cousin was fascinated with last-day events. In her excitement, she shared them with me.

The tender age of 12 is hardly an age at which one could intellectually decipher those frightening events and somehow connect them with a loving God.

I was, however, captivated by the explosive power of these messages I had never heard before—even though I had been raised in a Christian home.

My emotions were stirred, and I entered the exciting world of sensationalism. But before long the emotions died down, the sensationalism faded away, and I was back where I started.

Some years passed, and God called me again. This time it was through a Bible teacher who patiently and lovingly guided me on a fascinating journey through the Bible that took nearly two years.

He introduced me to a Saviour who was planning a mansion for me, and who would return, with all the residents of heaven, to take me to a place where a tremendous welcome

celebration awaited me. And all I had to do was believe.

Once again I was overwhelmed with emotions. I was filled with a peace and joy that 16-year-olds rarely experience. I decided to unite with God's family. What a wonderful feeling! I now felt a part of those people who continually walk on clouds of exuberance. I remember so well leaving the church building after my baptism. I felt as if all eyes were upon me, marvelling over the angelic glow that surrounded me.

On a roller coaster

Some years passed, and life quickly turned into a series of routines. Weekdays filled with work and weekends filled with church activities—everything from teaching the Sabbath school lesson to collecting the offering.

I faithfully attended most meetings at the church—especially the evangelistic meetings. Testimonies of fantastic miracles that occurred in people's lives always thrilled me. Some told of bright beings appearing in the middle of robberies and protecting them from gunfire. Others talked of mysterious ways in which God spoke to them and saved them from imminent danger. Still others shared the spectacular events that led up to their encounter with God.

It wasn't long before I began asking myself why God hadn't done something really miraculous in my life, something truly unexplainable, something . . . something *sensational*.

What's wrong with me?

Wasn't I worth the trouble of sending a bright being to me in a moment of danger? Was I so mediocre that God didn't want to bother "wasting" a miracle on me? My questions led to doubts. And my doubts led to despair. Before long I was out of the church and back to where I started when I was 12, and wanting nothing to do with this so-called good news.

After a few years of empty days, lonely nights, and bitter emotions (not to mention the classic rebellion of one who has turned away from God). I began to ask myself why I felt worse than before. Why couldn't I be exuberant and happy outside the church?

Again and again my mind traveled back to that time in my life when I had "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

My misery and emptiness brought me to my knees and I cried out to God, "Lord, remember that wonderful peace I felt when I first met You? May I please have it back?"

Just the facts

My life changed once again. But this time I resolved I would not allow my feelings to dictate my emotions. I determined not to travel here and there in search of the sensational, because I realized that all along something sensational had been knocking at the door of my heart.

If my story is boring to some, it's no wonder. My experience is not one that brings tears to the eyes or makes one's hair stand on end. It actually falls short of the ordinary. Yet I dare say it is an experience shared by

thousands, and one I feel compelled to share.

You see God showed me that I was worth His persistence. As long as there was life in me, there was hope. He never gave up on me.

No longer will I envy others for their fantastic and miraculous testimonies. Because I know that God touched my life with the greatest miracle of all—the miracle of salvation. 

More Important Lessons Life Teaches You. . .

Third important lesson—always remember those who serve you

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins.

"I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies— You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

Fourth important lesson—the obstacle in our path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear. But none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been.

The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

Balancing Commitments

Maxine Dodge

Maxine is a pastor's wife as well as a nurse. Her husband is Pathfinder/Adventure Director, Children's Ministries and Health Temperance Director for the Michigan Conference.



Balancing commitments can be likened to walking a tight-wire; sometimes I become so overwhelmed I feel I might fall off! Too often my commitments are like clothes haphazardly hung on a line to dry; they are not done as thoroughly as needed because of lack of time.

There are so many tasks to accomplish. There are so many errands to run. Personal Bible study, children's needs, washing clothes, grocery shopping, meal preparations, dishes, yard work, typing, entertaining, the list never ends! Usually we are on automatic pilot and everything falls into place. But there are some days—you know, the days when nothing goes right—those are the days that make us fall off our tight ropes!

There are ways to prevent those “crazy” days from occurring too often. Following are some suggestions to help balance those ever-present commitments:

1. Make a list of weekly things to do.
2. Add monthly commitments to the list.
3. Schedule all commitments (children's activities, meetings, socials, etc.) on a calendar so you can see your month at a glance.
4. Learn to say “no” if your calendar gets too full.
5. Prioritize lists and cross out projects when they are completed.
6. Set routine times to get up in the

morning and go to sleep at night. You will be able to get more done the next day if you have the proper rest.

7. Exercise on a regular schedule. You will have more energy and a decreased need for sleep.

Though making a schedule is important, don't seal it in iron. As ministers' wives, we need to be as flexible as possible. Unexpected events like funerals or sickness happen and our day may be changed.

One of life's most important commitments is to our children. We did not have a television in our home when our children were small. Instead my time was spent reading stories to them and hiking with them. We camped, played in the park and bought crafts of their choice to encourage them to use their creativity.

The most important commitment a person can make is the commitment to spend uninterrupted devotional time with God. I get out of bed 30 minutes before the rest of my family so I can have time for my devotions. I know if I don't have my worship in the morning, too many “things” come into the day and blank out any thought of Bible study. When I take time to study and pray every morning my day always goes better. I know the Lord is with me and He will help me organize my commitments and accomplish my tasks. 



Reaching Stability in This Unstable World

*Ludmila
Krushenitskaya*

We live in a period of long-lasting world financial crisis. Such crisis are especially seen in Common Independent State countries. The results of this crisis are felt in every family, whether they live in villages or big cities.

Not long ago, an acquaintance phoned me at my office. A non-Adventist, she asked me a familiar question. "And how are you?"

"Wonderful! Praise the Lord!" I answered sincerely. I could hear the surprise in her voice. She began to ask about the latest financial crisis and wondered if the crisis had hurt me personally or the church in general. At the time, my salary had dwindled to less than half its original amount due to inflation. But my feeling of gratitude to the Lord for His daily blessings, peace, love and care didn't leave me.

Of course, the Church is influenced by the finances of its members. It is hard to remain financially stable in disturbing times. Even the best economists wrestle with keeping financial stability in a time of financial uncertainty.

As Christians, people of God's Word, we should search the Scriptures to find God's counsel on finances. Our inner spiritual condition influences not only our financial situation but how we use our material blessings. If we continually worry

about money, either having too little or too much, our problem is not financial but rather spiritual. The Lord says to His people through David, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5). The Lord wants to teach us to trust Him in all circumstances. We need not worry, for everything belongs to Him. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1).

We read about God's servants in the Bible. Again and again, we are given examples of people trusting in God. Among these heroes of faith, the life and ministry of the apostle Paul is very bright. In full faith, Paul says to the young minister Timothy, "But godliness with contentment is great gain . . . And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation . . . For the love of money is the root of all evil . . . But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:6-12).

The advice given to Timothy by Paul is universal and relevant to all times, especially today! If Paul

Ludmila has worked for many years in women's ministries and most recently as the former Shepherdess coordinator for the Euro-Asia Division.



visited a pastor's family today, he would repeat the same advice. Such counsel is good for both the pastor and his wife.

Living in times of financial hardship has made my faith in God grow even stronger. Along the way, I have learned some valuable ways to stretch the money our family does have. I'd like to share some of my ideas with you.

- Never spend more than you earn.
- Buy fruits and vegetables in season when they are inexpensive; can them for future use.
- Exchange clothes with other families.
- Buy classical clothes; the style will be fashionable and beautiful for a long time.
- Buy several pairs of the same socks. If one sock wears out, you won't lose the whole pair.
- Don't go shopping for food when you are hungry; you will be less likely to over buy.
- Make a list whenever you shop. Stick to the list and refrain from impulse shopping.
Ellen White, in her book *Counsels on Stewardship* gives advice on how not to borrow money.
- Make a budget, listing your tithe and offering first (Mal. 3:10-12).
- Take stock of your spending during the month. Count every nickel you spend. List expenses in categories: housing, food, clothing, recreation, entertainment, medical, etc.
- Make a covenant with God. Agree to pay off your debts and stay out of debt.
- Stop borrowing money. Stop purchasing things with borrowed money.
- Commit yourself to living on what you make.

God blesses those who are good stewards. We have benefitted from God's blessings and our neighbors

have witnessed God at work in our lives. One summer we were invited to participate in a camp meeting organized by the youth department of our conference. My husband, Victor, was in charge of the program. The camp meeting coincided with the time scheduled for digging our potatoes. The potatoes have to be dug every day because any ones left in the ground will be stolen by the night soldiers. When it was time to leave for the camp meeting, our potatoes still were not ready to be dug. We decided to give back to the Lord the tithe of potatoes according to the results of harvest for the last three years. We left for camp meeting and returned two weeks later. Though many of our neighbors' potatoes had been taken by night guards, our rows of potatoes were untouched. When we dug our potatoes, our harvest was beyond expectation. We praised God for His protection and blessings.

Stewardship does not apply only to adults. Let your children be present when discussing financial plans for the family. Help them to understand the importance of good stewardship. Children need to understand why they can't have every new toy or the newest fad. By exposing them at an early age to the advantages of financial planning, they will form a foundation for careful spending that will last a lifetime.

There may be times when a financial crisis occurs even to those who are frugal and good stewards. If this happens, go to the Lord. Tell Him your problems, give yourselves to His care. In every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. His will shall be done in your lives and you can rest assured that God is looking after you.

Rejoice in the Lord always and be good stewards of the blessings He bestows upon you. 

One More Important Lesson Life Teaches You. . .

Fifth important lesson—giving when it counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her. You see understanding and attitude, after all, is everything.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt,
Dance like you do when nobody's watching.

To the God Who Listens and Leads



Beth Halvorsen

*“Since you are my rock and fortress,
for the sake of Your name lead and
guide me” Psalm 31:3 NIV.*

When we married we vowed, “God, we give up all our own plans and purposes, all our own desires and hopes. We accept Your will for our lives. We give ourselves, our lives, our all utterly to You, to be Yours forever. Fill us and seal us with Your Holy Spirit. Use us as You will. Send us where You will. Work Your will in our lives at any cost, now and forever.”

It was easy to say. We really meant it. But Lord, do You realize what You are asking us to do? I don’t want to

move. I’ll have to leave my friends. Have You thought about how lonely I’ll be?

I have followed You from one corner of this nation to the other. You gave us the gift of three and a half years here. But I want it to be longer. It is so beautiful.

You know how deeply we love this church. What a joy it has been! We have learned what You can and will do through a church that lives Your love.

Every day You have given us here has been a gift. Friends have anticipated our needs—even our wants—and have met them. We have been through so much together—miracles, births, deaths, trials, joy, sorrow. Our love for these people is so deep.

Everything here is safe and secure and happy. We are well-loved and spoiled. These church members treat us like royalty. Maybe they won’t like us in the new church.

I don’t want to face the real world or take hard blows or criticism. We have been in a shelter, I don’t want to leave it.

Isn’t there someone else you could send? I don’t want to go. I’m sure

there are others more qualified. Find someone with a Ph.D. There are probably at least 200 other pastors who would love this chance. Could You please call one of them? We have always worked in cities where there are lots of sinners. We have never worked in a town of saints. I’m scared. What if I do or say something wrong?

My stomach is knotting in terror. I’m trembling with insecurity. My heart is broken with sorrow.

Your persistent voice follows us through our days. “Go! Go!” It haunts our nights. It torments our sleep. Our vow now plagues me. You have always worked powerfully in our lives. I must trust that You still will.

You left heaven where adoring angels treated You like royalty. You came to this dark planet for me. You foresaw the horrors that awaited You, yet You came.

Now, because Your leading is unmistakable, because any other alternative is to go against Your will, because I see no other way to have peace, I will go. Only please use our ministry to Your Greatest Glory. ☺

Beth “Buffy” is a ministerial assistant in charge of women’s ministries at her church in Keene, Texas. She and her pastor husband have two children Ronnie and Stephanie. Buffy’s favorite things are her family, friends, reading and learning.

When God's Answer Is a Long Silence



*Margot Elizabeth
Luiz de Narge*

Margot grew up a PK and enjoyed sharing her talents in the work of the Lord. She studied at River Plate College, where she obtained her degree in Economic Sciences. She worked two years at the Florida Adventist Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the department of administration and later held the same position at River Plate Sanitarium. Right now she does not work professionally; instead, she accompanies her husband through his vast territory helping and supporting him in his many responsibilities.



When I think back, I thank God for the wonderful home He gave me. My childhood was as happy as any little girl could wish for. My daddy was the pastor and my mommy, the teacher. Together, in a happy way, they taught my brother and I how to live, love, and serve God.

My happiest hours were spending time together each day, having family worship, and learning to trust Jesus with every little thing. The years passed, the moves added up, and the school years finished.

My parents home motivated in us their consecration to God's work and gave us the desire to finish the work that they loved so much. I wished with my whole heart to someday become a pastor's wife. God granted my wish and made it become a beautiful reality.

About six years have gone by since our lives were united before God. Many dreams and illusions intermingled as we heard my father praying a blessing on our home. Soon we began to weave the golden dream of our lives, to have our own little girl. We believed God would give us the petition of our heart, even as we were certain of our love for each other. Days and months passed and our hoped for daughter did not come. We started medical analysis and long studies and waited

for the results. The exams were painful and each time more frustrating and distressful.

Where was God when we prayed? Why did we not sense His answer? It was just a long, painful silence.

When I opened my Bible and read that those who loved God, in everything, He would help them. I asked myself what good was it to be frustrated in not being able to give my loving husband a little daughter. I saw all my married friends with their children healthy and happy. I envied the hugs they received while I hid and cried out my pain.

Among the various medicines I took, my biggest frustration was that I was gaining weight and I couldn't remedy my condition. In a little over a year, I weighed 16 kilos more and was unable to accept myself. How could my husband love and accept me if I was unable to do it?

We prayed long hours, but the only reply was silence. Where had we slipped up?

My situation worsened, as my body rejected the medicine. I spent a lot of time fighting the idea of stopping the treatment, I knew what that implied and I was unable to accept it. Bitterness began to invade me.

After three tearful years went by, one night I made a decision. We had just spent several hours going back

and forth to the bathroom. My husband carried me in his arms as my legs could no longer support me. This condition was the reaction of a new medicine. That night I cried and told God I could not live this way, crippling the joy and vitality of our young home. What was the most important to me? My husband had begun his second year as an aspiring pastor. I knew perfectly well the importance of being a suitable helper to him. Thus it was that I breathed deeply, went to the bathroom and threw the pills in the garbage.

I knew I was doing the right thing, but I did not feel happy or even at peace toward the impossibilities in my life. Why was God silent? What plans did He have for us?

Each morning I began the day by asking God to restore my joy and assurance that everything in this situation was under His control and that one day I would understand His plans—maybe here, maybe in heaven. I humbly asked that I would learn to happily accept His will and praise Him for everything He gave me.

It was a slow change in learning to thank God for denying me the thing I longed for the most—asking Him to do His will and not what I wanted done. Another year went by before my body was free of the hormonal effects and I was able to maintain my regular weight. This brought me great rejoicing.

We considered the possibility of adopting a baby. Our families were hopeful, but even in this I did not feel very happy.

The day came. It was a Monday, my husband's day off. We had planned every detail so that nothing would spoil it. (The week before, I cleaned every room of the house and the house seem to sparkle everywhere the eye looked.) The night before we had each surrendered ourselves to God, confessed our known and

unknown sins to Him—nothing was to interrupt our communion with heaven. It was a beautiful day of prayer. We didn't ask God why, we didn't ask for what we wanted, but we thanked Him for knowing our requests. We also prayed for peace and happiness to know that His hand was guiding us even in the refusals and privations of this life.

Together, as never before, we were convinced that God would answer above and beyond what we could ever ask or hope for. We felt joyful that He had heard our cry, and we felt the peace of heaven fill us completely that we could come into the presence of God with humbleness of heart. These thoughts counteracted Satan's ideas that God was not interested in us or that He was far away.

God's silence is sometimes the tool of heaven to help us understand that we need to change our way of asking God for favors.

A few months went by and the day arrived when we received a call to get our little daughter. This was no longer the most important thing of our life. If God didn't give her to us, we would continue to be happy because we had come to trust in the unexplainable silence of God. No longer did I feel sad that our home didn't flourish with children full of life, fragrance, and happiness. God was in charge of our lives.

It is not as important to understand the whys of life as it is to grasp His hand that sustains us and leads us to a safe harbor. We receive only a little from God because we ask little from Him.

Everyone that asks believing will receive, over and above. Only Christ can give us peace and happiness.

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (Heb. 12:11). 



*The best mathematical equation
I have ever seen:*

*1 cross
+ 3 nails
4 given*

*That's the whole gospel message
simply stated.*



What God Won't Ask:

Anonymous

God won't ask what kind of fancy car you drove.
He will ask how many people you took to church
who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house.
He will ask how many people you helped who
didn't have a house.

God won't ask how many fancy clothes you had
in your closet.
He will ask how many of those clothes you gave
away to the Salvation Army.

God won't ask what social class you were in.
He will ask what kind of "class" you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had.
He will ask whether those material possessions
dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was.
He will ask if you trampled over any people to
obtain that salary.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked.
He will ask did you work overtime for your family.

God won't ask how many promotions you received.
He will ask what you did to promote others.

God won't ask what your job title was.
He will ask did you perform your job to the best of
your ability.

God won't ask how many promotions you took to
chase a dollar bill.
He will ask how many promotions you refused to
advance your family's quality of life.

God won't ask how many times you didn't run around
on your spouse.
He will ask how many times you did.

God won't ask how many degrees you had.
He will ask how many people you thanked for
helping you get those degrees.

God won't ask what your parents did to help you.
He will ask what you did to help your parents.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself.
He will ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how many friends you had.
He will ask how many people you were a friend to.

God won't ask what you did to protect your rights.
He will ask what you did to protect the rights of
others.

God won't ask what neighborhood you lived in.
He will ask what other neighborhoods you visited.

God won't ask how many times you told the truth.
He will ask how many times you told a lie.

God won't ask about the color of your skin.
He will ask about the color of your heart.

God won't ask how many times your deeds
matched your words.
He will ask how many times they didn't.

***God asks some really great questions,
doesn't He?***





Shepherdess International News

Eastern Africa Division

✿ **Zimbabwe Union Conference** Shepherdess Coordinator Mrs. R Choga held a weekend-long meeting in Gweru for all 104 Shepherdesses on the topic of HIV/AIDS. During one part of the retreat the women were divided into four groups according to geographic areas and designed posters and messages to be published and circulated.

✿ **Malawi** Shepherdesses were blessed by the following events: In the South Malawi Field the Blantyre Shepherdess chapter fed 28 orphans at the Yamikini House. Five Shepherdess meetings have been held in which the ladies were instructed on the topics of making their wills, cookery, home crafts and healthful living. Revival meetings, evangelistic

meetings, health classes and home visitation marked the Thekerani, Liwonde and Lower Shire Shepherdess activities. The women report that the people were "shook to their very roots" and decided to give their lives to God.

• **Dwanga District** conducted a Bible Marking Series. Seven joined.

• **Lizulu District** held cooking classes and sewing instruction

• **Salmia District** held a rally where Mrs. Themuka preached. Five people responded.

• **Nanyangu District** held a Dorcas rally.

• **Senzani District** spent three days visiting homes, counseling and praying.

• **Tsangano and Kasiya Districts** were blessed by Mrs. F. Mchenga and

Mrs. Juwa holding rallies in which seven people were converted.

• **Bilila District** Shepherdesses encouraged faithful tithe giving.

• In **Edingeni**, the Shepherdesses found that church members who pegged every tenth row of maize for tithing became witnesses for God when a lady said she wanted to know more about the church because they faithfully tithed.

• All night seasons of prayer in **Chitipa** resulted in the sick becoming well and family problems being resolved.

✿ **Zambia Union Conference** Zambia Union Shepherdess met in Rasungu during the Workers Camp meeting. Mrs. Musvosvi was the facilitator for the group during this gathering.

Euro-Africa Division

✿ Kveta Celplova of the **Czechoslovakian Union** Shepherdess sends the following encouraging report of the Shepherdess Healthy Lifestyle Meetings:



Healthy food preparation demonstration seminars at the Healthy Lifestyle Meetings



Delicious, nutritious food at the Czechoslovakian Union Healthy Lifestyle Meetings



Slovakian ministry wives and husbands at the Lifestyle Retreat



Exercise classes at the Czechoslovakian Union Healthy Lifestyle Meetings

Euro-Africa Division

✿ Baden-Wurttemberg Conference held a Shepherdess Retreat in a lovely setting at the Conference Retreat Center. Fellowship, music and fun were joined with seminars by Sharon Cress.



Maeve Maurer, EUD Shepherdess Coordinator (second from left) with Shepherdess officers who planned the Baden-Wurttemberg Conference retreat



Fellowship at the Baden-Wurttemberg Conference Shepherdess Retreat



Discussion groups at the Baden-Wurttemberg Conference Shepherdess Retreat



Special music at the Baden-Wurttemberg Conference Shepherdess Retreat



Singing and praise at the Retreat

Euro-Asia Division

✿ Zhena Pastora the Russian edition of the *Shepherdess International Journal* is published for the ministry wives. During the year 2000, the organization rendered aid to pastors wives who had urgent medical needs, oncology patients and mothers of large families.

South American Division

✿ A pictorial report of three events held in Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador.



Deise Reis, pastor's wife, conducts a seminar for elders' wives in Central Planalto Conference, Central Brazil Union

South American Division

✿ Central Brazil Union held a model Ministerial Council just north of Sao Paulo for all of their ministry couples. Plenary sessions, seminars, booths, fellowship and fabulous food made this an event to remember for almost 1,000 pastors and their spouses. Special guest speakers and musicians shared their gifts. Mrs. Vanira Sarli, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Central Brazil Union worked tirelessly to make this truly the highlight of their lives for the pastors wives. Held in a wonderful resort hotel, the facilities and setting was a little bit of heaven on earth. Jim and Sharon Cress and Joel Sarli from the General Conference Ministerial Association were blessed to be part of this truly extraordinary Ministerial meeting that brought many blessings to those who were privileged to attend.



Lima, Peru ministry wives sing a Shepherdess song. They were led by Vasti Viana



Pastors' wives meet in Quito, Ecuador for dinner and fellowship with former AFAM Coordinator, Vasti Viana

South Pacific Division

✿ Kay Winter, retiring Shepherdess coordinator for the South Pacific Division, sponsored Shepherdess meetings in Honiara, Solomon Islands for pastors wives from the entire **Western Pacific Union Mission**. Some traveled for several days by boat and bus to arrive on the campus for a week of inspiration and seminars. Kay had beautiful aprons made for each of the women and distributed other appropriate gifts to pastors wives who spend most of their ministry in isolated areas. Sharon Cress and Peter Prime from the General Conference Ministerial Association joined Pastor and Mrs. Winter for this event.

Southern Africa Union

✿ Mrs. Beauty Wakaba, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Union reports that the **Swaziland Conference** held a seminar on Pastoral Family Finance and interviewed pastoral children. The **Lesotho** Shepherdess chapter discussed Advantages and Dangers of Being Close to Spiritual Action and Team Ministry at their gathering. **Kwazulu Natal-Free State Conference** Shepherdess held their meetings in Annerly while the **Transvaal Conference** held their meetings at Sedaven.



Kay Winter (left, second row) and Solomon Island Shepherdesses send greetings to all their sisters.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

✿ This pictorial report comes from the North Philippine Union.



The North Philippine Union Shepherdess meeting featured Mrs. Nellie Vellaso as the guest speaker (second from left)



Central Luzon Conference SI Coordinator, Eleann Roque explains the importance of the Shepherdess organization at their banquet.

Trans-European Division

✿ Almost 100 Shepherdesses from the **South-East European Union** met in Belgrade with Sharon Cress for Shepherdess meetings during the Ministerial meetings. Pastor Radisa Antic, President for the Union, sponsored this memorable event for

all the pastors wives. The strong emphasis on the value of these precious women was demonstrated by the Union Administration. At the end of the retreat, the ministry wives were presented with special gifts to reinforce the value their special ministry.

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- ☞ Are you tired of your usual menus?
 - ☞ Do you need a new Sabbath dish?
 - ☞ Are you looking for a dessert for the school open house?
 - ☞ Does your family want something different for dinner?
 - ☞ Is next Sabbath church potluck?

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