

The Journal



A SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

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Happiness comes through doors



you didn't even know you left open.

The Journal

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Editor's Musings

Writing a short editorial each issue gives me an opportunity to express all kinds of thoughts. This issue I would like to write a tribute to each of you which I hope you will apply personally.

Taking on the joy and challenges of life in the parsonage is not an easy task. And, you all do it so well. In the years I have been in the Washington DC area the ministry wives in the church where Jim and I worship have embodied the genuine spirit and compassion that Jesus modeled when He walked among us. They have each one carried the burden of full-time employment and somehow managed to balance that with a smile and kind word on Sabbath for anyone who needed it. So, to you, special woman, unique wife of the minister, I salute you and the grace with which you carry on your important work.

You smile when you want to scream

You sing when you want to cry

You cry when you are happy and laugh when you are nervous

You fight for what you believe is right

You bring hope to hundreds

You have generously given when it meant you starved emotionally or financially

Shepherdess salutes you!



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Happy Sabbath!

Evelin Gehbauer

Since Evelin was a happy PK, she married a minister. She loves to help as a physiotherapist in the health-program for their church in Villach, a town she considers the most beautiful in Austria. She and her husband have two boys, ages 7 and 10. Evelin enjoys running a bell choir, playing piano and violoncello, gardening, and reading.



Sabbath is a happy day! Unfortunately many of our children do not agree. They look at Sabbath as a day of don'ts instead of a day that should be looked forward to all week. Every Sabbath should be unforgettable. Sabbaths are days to make memories. If you have trouble thinking of ways to make Sabbath special to your children, read on for kid-tested ideas that your children will love.

Treasure Hunt

A sundown surprise treasure hunt is always a big hit. You will need 6 small pieces of paper. The questions or clues are written on the paper.

First Card: Happy Sabbath! Today we want to think about creation. On your way to the refrigerator in the kitchen, imitate your favorite animal in sound and motion. Look into the fridge. You'll find the second card there.

Second Card: Very good! God created the world in six days. Clap your hands 6 times. Jump up 6 times, then run to the piano. The third card will be waiting for you.

Third Card: Exercise is important for staying healthy. Do 3 sit-ups, 5 jumping jacks, then touch your toes 10 times while keeping your legs straight. Now run to the washing machine to find the fourth card.

Fourth Card: Proper food is important. Quickly say: "An apple a

day keeps the doctor away" five times. Look for the fifth card in the mirrored closet in the hall.

Fifth Card: We hear birds sing every day as they praise God. Name 3 of your favorite birds and tell why you like them. Now go to your parents' bedroom and look under your mother's pillow. There you will find the last card.

Sixth Card: I wish you a particularly happy Sabbath. You will find your Sabbath surprise in the biggest pot in the kitchen. (You don't have to have big presents to make children happy. Erasers, cookies or stickers are sure to bring smiles to your children's faces.)

Picture Box

Fill a box with dried leaves, feathers, stones, etc. You and your children work together to create a picture. While you are making the collage talk about the Creator with your children. This is a great bonding activity.

Ruby Punch

Children love special treats. We have Ruby Punch every Friday night. Boil 2 liters of water and add the following ingredients: 7 teabags of hibiscus tea, 5 teabags of peppermint tea, 5 teabags of chamomile tea, 5 bags of Christmas punch spice, 1 liter of apple juice, liter of orange juice, liter of pineapple juice, and honey

to taste. Light a Sabbath candle and enjoy the delicious punch as you talk of Christ's wonderful blessings.

Prayer Time

Make prayer time come alive. Fasten a big sheet of paper on your fridge so that your children will always see it. Draw or write your own prayer request on the sheet. Let your children do the same for their prayer requests. With another color, draw or write the answers to your prayer requests as they're answered. This will show your children how God takes care of your lives. Discuss the different ways God answers prayers. This can also be done by making a prayer request book. Be sure you and your children thank God for His answers.

Sabbath Afternoon Activities

Have your children help you make play-dough. Mix 2 cups of smooth flour with 1 cup of salt, 2 cups of water, 1 tablespoon of oil, and 2 teaspoons of lemon essence. Add a few drops of food coloring to color the dough. After combining all the ingredients, heat the mixture until it becomes a thick dough that will not stick to your fingers. Take the dough out, spread it in a pan, and knead a little more flour into it. The dough can be kept for a long time in tightly closed plastic containers. Use the play-dough to form figures for Biblical stories.

Bible games

Bible games can also be made. Make a Bible Memory game by drawing cards that belong together. For example, draw Esau (with bow and arrow) on one card and Jacob (in a tent) on another. Other suggestions are: Raven and Elijah; Cain (with fruit) and Abel (with a lamb); and David and Goliath

Puzzles

Make puzzles from Bible pictures. Draw and color a picture, then glue it to a sheet of cardboard. Cut the cardboard into little pieces, then put your puzzle together again.

Tablemats and Bookmarks

Tablemats are fun and easy to make. Glue pretty pressed flowers to cardboard sheets. Cover with transparent self-adhesive foil. Bookmarks can also be made this way.

Bible dramas

Take turns acting out Bible stories. Use props from around the house.

Musicals

Plan a musical Sabbath afternoon. Make Maracas out of empty plastic bottles filled with rice, corn, or small stones. Take a long carpenter's nail and attach it to your finger. Use another nail to hit it with, and you've made a musical triangle. Fill a row of bottles or glasses with different amounts of water, and you have a great set of chimes. Just tap the glasses with a wooden spoon to hear different notes. Castanets can be made from two coconut halves.

Adopt a grandparent

Adopt a grandparent from your church or neighborhood. Share your Sabbath afternoon activities with that person. Make his or her Sabbath a happy Sabbath too!

Finger paint

Make finger paint by mixing 2 cups of flour, 2 tablespoons of salt, and 2 cups of cold water. Pour this mixture into 2 cups of boiling water and continue to boil until the mixture becomes thick. Add food coloring to color the paint. Let the paint cool and your children can spend a fun afternoon painting pictures of God's second Bible.

Dolls

Dolls can be made from toilet paper rolls. Dress the dolls in clothes made from left-over wool and fabric scraps. Use crumpled tissue to form the head. Use your dolls in a puppet theater.

Sabbaths can be fun and memorable days. Remember, God rejoices in the laughter of children. Happy Sabbath! 

*Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load
with today's strength - carrying two days at once.*

*It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time.
Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow,
it empties today of its strength.*

—Corrie ten Boom

Compassionate Teaching

Lois Keffer and Dean Stone

Lois Keffer is an award-winning author and editor who plans never to grow up! Her best-selling books and lively, energetic workshops have inspired teachers around the world.



Dean Stone is a nationally recognized children's educator, children's ministry specialist, and child advocate.



It's easy to look back on our childhood years with a warm sense of nostalgia. But if you could, would you want to go back to childhood? You'd give up control in most areas of your life. You'd live in a world of giants. Your lack of perspective and life experience would make problems seem permanent and insurmountable. If you watched cartoons and wrestlemania, you'd have a lot to unlearn from our culture. There would be bullies and growth spurts and measles and you'd have to relearn long division!

Teachers who have a real heart for kids are keenly aware of the struggles of childhood. Think back to when you were a child. How did you react in a classroom when you were: bored, hungry, tired, irritated?

From a child's perspective, adults nearly always operate from a position of power. For that reason, we can intimidate and humiliate without ever meaning to do so. The result? Embarrassment, helplessness, even rage. Jesus exhibited a gentle, loving demeanor with children. Make him your model.

Your students are looking for love and acceptance—even the really-hard-to-love ones! When kids act out, it's very seldom aimed at you. Look for the cause behind the behavior. First, kid's brains are wired

differently from yours. Children have a need to move, so silliness and giggles are normal. So is their need for attention. If your students aren't hanging breathlessly on your every word, don't take it personally. Take a deep breath, make yourself relax, then assess the situation.

- ✿ Is Bill tired or hungry or simply having a bad morning?
- ✿ Is Jodi feeling overwhelmed or under appreciated?
- ✿ Was there tension between Dawn's mom and dad on the way to church?
- ✿ Is Dick coming down with a cold?
- ✿ Did brother #1 and brother #2 spill orange juice on Lois's jumper? Again?
- ✿ Was the sermon just before class especially long and boring and not very "kid-friendly?"
- ✿ Is Susan just being goofy?

Any of these factors have a major impact on a child's ability to focus and cooperate in class. Your sensitivity and understanding can help kids get over these bumps in the road. There is no need to be an amateur psychologist or feel you must diagnose behavioral problems. Love and concern are universal healers. And we can supply them abundantly to our kids because our

gracious God first shared them with us.

If you've ever worked with a hyperactive child, you know what it's like to have the boundaries of your compassion stretched. Kids who face a variety of learning challenges can take a lot of your energy. It's only natural for your resentment to build. Here's an important perspective-giver: *It feels worse to be inside that child than it does to be his or her teacher.* These simple strategies can be lifesavers when you're dealing with kids who can't stop moving.

- ❖ Use proximity control. Keep the child close to you. Use a calming touch on the shoulder or elbow.
- ❖ Provide something to keep hands busy. A koosh ball or squeezable ball to manipulate provides a safe, non-distracting outlet for movement.
- ❖ Let the child be your helper. Let him do simple classroom tasks that burn energy and save steps for you.
- ❖ Use her name in positive ways to help her refocus. "Jaymee, can you tell me what you're supposed to be doing now?"
- ❖ Commend good behavior whenever you can. Imagine the number of negative messages this child receives throughout the week.
- ❖ Talk to Mom or Dad about the strategies that they've found successful to keep their child on task.
- ❖ If you've tried all these things and still feel hamstrung by managing this child's behavior, get help. Pair the hyperactive student with another student who has a steadying effect. If you need to, ask a parent to stay in class as your helper. 

Excerpts from Hearts, Brains and Growing Pains, Cook Communications Ministries.

Witnessing Begins at Home

Esnart Gwashure

The best missionaries come from Christian homes. Missionaries for the Master are best prepared for their work when they are reared in homes where God is worshiped, God is feared and God is loved.

There is no missionary field more important than the home. Too many home fields are shamefully neglected. Parents are too busy with other church duties and little time is given to the family. Brothers and sisters bicker with one another instead of showing affection and interest. The spirit of Christ cannot be seen.

Esnart and her pastor husband have three children. She enjoys writing and reading the Shepherdess Journal and International News.



When the home is looked upon as a missionary field, family members recognize the importance of caring and loving one another. Sisters can positively influence their brothers. Parents can teach their children by Christ-centered example. Brothers can build the self-confidence of their sisters by accepting and loving. A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of Christ, an argument the infidel cannot gainsay. True Christian homes are the "light of the world." A light will shine from such homes which will reveal itself to unbelievers, leading them to the source of all knowledge.

Too often, the cheery smile and kind, encouraging words are saved for others while the family members see only the frustrated, overburdened selves. Remember, the first work of Christians is to be united in family. Let the light shine there first, then extend it to neighbors and friends.

He who lives Christianity in the home will be a bright and shining light elsewhere. 

Miraculous Healing

Dorothy Garwe

Dorothy Garwe is an Administrative Assistant (Cultural Section) of the American Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe. Dorothy's hobbies are gardening, cooking, sewing and conducting vegetarian cooking seminars.



God is great. Only He knows what is happening in our bodies even before we do. Last February I began having continuous headaches. I had no idea what caused them. I wondered if I needed glasses. The pain was so bad I felt like the headaches were migraines. At times I wondered if I had a brain tumor. When the headaches continued for some time, I decided to go see my family doctor. His diagnosis was "migraine headaches." He gave me some pain killers and told me to return if the pain did not get better. Unfortunately, the pain medication did not help the headaches. A second visit to the doctor was necessary.

I went to a specialist who asked me to describe the pain. Based on my description he thought I was suffering from migraines and was hesitant to refer me to a radiologist for a C. T. scan. Because the pain was so intense, I insisted on the scan. The pain was causing me to throw up and I was worried about what was going on in my body.

After the scan was completed, I was told to return in a week to find out the test results. I took some time off work per my doctor's orders and returned home full of questions. What if I had a brain tumor? Was I going to die? I had no answers so I prayed to God, "Lord, you know better than me, strengthen me and

give me courage until I see the results of the scan." Throughout the week I thought of my three children and my husband. How would they cope without a mother and wife? When you are sick, there are so many things to think about. I kept reminding myself that God is in control of my life.

I returned to the doctor's office on the appointed date. I was in his office when he read the test results. He looked at the x-rays, then looked at me and said, "Oh, Mrs. Garwe, it can't be, it can't be." As you can imagine, many things were going through my mind. I didn't know whether to cry or not. Based on the doctor's response, I concluded that I had a brain tumor.

The doctor asked me to go to another room and sit down. He joined me and asked me some questions. Had I been involved in a car accident? The answer was no. Had my husband ever beat me? I actually laughed at that question. I explained to him what a kind-hearted person my husband was. He then said, "Mrs. Garwe, this x-ray shows that you have a subdural hematoma; in simple terms, there is bleeding in your brain which formed a clot and the clot is causing pressure on your brain. It needs urgent attention." I sighed, but felt a bit of relief. At least I did not have a brain tumor. My doctor arranged for me to see a neurosurgeon immediately.

The neurosurgeon chatted with me and explained the procedure he was going to use when he operated. He helped calm me down when he told me of the success he had had with other patients. Because the surgery involved my head I was extremely nervous. I talked to the Lord and said, "I know there is nothing difficult for you, Lord. I know there is something You want me to learn from this experience. May Your will be done." After my prayer, I thought of calling other shepherdesses and friends, but then I began feeling sorry for myself, so I dropped that idea.

I was admitted to the hospital on February 4, 1998. Many of my Adventist friends who worked at the hospital came to see me and give me encouraging words. Nevertheless, I was quite nervous. Then God sent an Adventist gentleman who prayed with me. He read Psalm 91:14-16. I felt strengthened and began to relax. This gentleman explained to me what was going to happen to me. He told me what to expect when I went into the operating room. He described the big, bright machines I would see. He told me how the doctors and nurses would be dressed. He helped put me at ease.

When I was wheeled into the operating room, I was not surprised at the hub of activity that was going on around me. My friend had explained how busy everyone would be. Soon the anesthetist was beside me, explaining what he was doing. The next thing I remember was a nurse calling my name. I opened my eyes drowsily and was surprised to see it was 12:30. I asked the nurse if the operation was over and she said yes.

After three days I felt so much better. On the fifth day after the operation I was discharged. The nursing staff was surprised at my quick recovery. I told them that God had healed me so quickly. From

that day on, the headaches have disappeared.

I thank the Lord for this miraculous

healing and my faith in Him has been strengthened because of this experience. 

I Am a Pastor

Angélica Rodrigues Barros

Angélica is currently Pedagogical and Educational Advisor at the Centro Educacional Adventista in Rio de Janeiro. She is a district pastor's wife and they have two daughters: Milce Ellen and Greice Any.

She loves preaching and lecturing to parents on education-related subjects. Her leisure preferences are reading, knitting and embroidering. She loves God's created nature.



I am a pastor not because I married a pastor, but because I accepted the call of God and I received His challenge to marry someone who was preparing himself to be a pastor.

I am a pastor because I learned to love the simple people and share attention of my husband with others who seek him, even when I am anxious to have his attention only for myself.

I am a pastor because along our way, I had to smile when my heart was crying and other times cry, when I was seeking reasons for a smile.

I am a pastor because I am dressing in a style different from the style of the world, but I believe it to be a preparation for the return of Jesus Christ.

I am a pastor because, even though I am feeling a desire to do personal things, I lay everything aside to help my husband share the news that Jesus is coming.

I am a pastor because even though I do not want to damage the furniture, leave my friends or transfer to another job, I accept the change to another district.

I am a pastor because worldly values do not matter. I want to keep fame, treasures and wealth in heaven.

Finally **I am a pastor** because I ardently wish to live in the heavenly home and to meet you there. 

Sometimes I Don't Feel Hospitable

Nancy Hoag

Award-Winning author, Nancy Hoag, is a former teacher turned prolific writer. She has published three books, more than 850 articles, devotions and columns, and has seen several of her stories in anthologies. Nancy's fourth book, the Fingerprints of God will be available in bookstores July 1, 2002. A wife, mother, and grandmother, Nancy and her husband have recently retired to Bozeman, Montana.



I don't remember why I felt so unfriendly, but am certain I had no reason. Blue Monday, bills, the weather, something. When my friend Doris called wanting to bring her distraught neighbor to my house, I replied, "Absolutely! Come right over!" Then I prayed, "Lord, please make me hospitable!"

Several minutes later, they arrived, and God did something I couldn't possibly have done for myself. He caused me to relax, and my tension lifted. My friend's neighbor shared why she'd come, and I began to be glad that she had.

An hour later as the two women backed down our drive laughing, my spirits soared. The greater bonus came later when my phone rang for the second time. It was Doris.

"I want to tell you Pam's never felt so welcome in anyone's kitchen before," she said. "Do you know she cried? Said you made her feel she'd come home; she couldn't believe you would respond so warmly to a complete stranger."

I told her that it hadn't been me; it had been the Lord. That experience carried me for months—until my hospitality factor was tested again—and again I'd have failed on my own.

"Honey," my husband said over dinner one night, "you know we're running a training session at the office, and I'm bringing twenty-five folks in for the week." He paused as I stiffened. "What would you think about my having them all here for dinner?"

I did a choke-hold on my napkin, forced myself to be calm, and said, "Sure, honey!"

For the next two weeks, I wrestled. I remembered God had given us our home and we had dedicated it to Him for His use.

"But this week?" I groaned.

Finally, one afternoon when I couldn't bear to whimper alone any longer, I called my closest friend for sympathy—and received a scolding.

"Nancy, too few wives these days would say 'yes', but that's one thing that makes us different. Isn't it?"

"Well, yes," I admitted, "but it's such an awful time, because I'm too busy."

"Too busy to bless your husband?"

"So you think I should do it?" I should have called someone else.

"I think so," my friend said. "And not just for your husband, either. You should do it for the others too. Wait a minute, and I'll find my lasagna recipe; it's a perfect for a crowd."

Before I crawled into a bed that night, I fervently prayed, "Lord, You know I do not want to do this, but I want to bless my husband and his friends. Please give me Your nature again. Make me happy to have guests and to give them and my husband a pleasant evening."

Our company was due on Wednesday, and by Tuesday, the Lord had begun to answer my prayer. I began preparation early that morning and found myself actually looking forward to serving. I shopped, polished, arranged flowers, baked enough dessert for twice the expected crowd, and shined every faucet and glass in the house.

At 6:00 pm, they arrived. By evening's end, my husband's happiness and a change in our guests had become obvious. Every one of them had come through the door stiff and formal, but as the evening progressed, we began to resemble a family.

The men loosened their ties, helped themselves to seconds, poured coffee and shared. When the last person had said good-bye with a handshake for my husband and a hug for me, I praised God. Then I ran to the phone to tell my friend.

She reminded me, "God is always gracious, and He desires that we be the same. When we don't feel friendly, we can always turn to Him to make us so."

My friend was right. When callers knock at my door, I can knock at His. He is always willing to give what my guests and I need. 

God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.

—Martin Luther

Devotional

There was a group of women in a Bible study on the book of Malachi. As they were studying chapter three, they came across verse three which says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled the women and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week this woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest in silver beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot—then she thought again about the verse, that he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy—when I see my image in it."

This story is especially meaningful to those of us who may be in the hottest part of the flame right now. To

know that God has his eyes fixed on those he is refining and cannot be distracted is most comforting! Nothing that happens in your life goes unnoticed by the Father—most comforting. He is aware of all and guess what? He's on your side!

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance and faithfulness. We are told that the mark of a true Christian does not lie in his works, but that we will know them by their fruit! Here we must also remember that this is His fruit, not ours. It is the fruit of the Spirit—that word is capitalized in the Bible. It is His Spirit through us to others. What an awesome responsibility that is!

Whenever I find myself in the "hottest flame," I just instinctively look at the "fruit" list. "What fruit is my Lord trying to bring forth in me now?" Every day He presents to me situations that require me to be gentle, kind, patient, etc. I've gotten to where I look for them now and rejoice when they come! I'm sure we've all at some time or another asked the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" or more specifically, "God's people?" I don't ask anymore. I just know. How else can He perfect in us the fruit of the Spirit unless obstacles are presented?

Sometimes it's in small ways, but very powerful; sometimes in much deeper ways, painful even. It's during these times I hope you will remember one thing from this devotional today.

"How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh that's easy—when I see my image in it."

May we all strive for a clearer reflection! 

When Does a Child's Education Begin?

Meible Mello Guedes

When some people think of education, they think of school-aged children. In reality, education begins when a child is a baby. Education begins at home. Those early lessons a child learns will guide him for the rest of his life. Lessons of respect, obedience, reverence and self-control will help a child become a successful adult. Many mothers are eager to work outside the home, but if at all possible, postpone the job as long as possible. The job of "motherhood" is the most important task ever. Those first five years are critical in a child's development.

It is important for newborns to feel love. Parents should not feel afraid to show affection. A warm and gentle touch communicates love to a baby. If a child lacks that physical affection, his physical, as well as emotional, development will be affected.

Meible Mello is married to Pastor Arlindo Guedes, minister and evangelist of the South Brazil Union. They have three daughters and one granddaughter, Maressa.

Meible helped organize and develop the Shepherdess program in Brazil in 1980. Presently, she is working on her Master's Degree in Education. Her hobbies include reading, writing, helping her husband in his ministry, spending time with her granddaughter, painting and helping others.

Nothing can substitute for a parent's love. Parents need to realize they have a special mission in life. Children who are constantly sent to sitters, placed in front of televisions or computers or encouraged to spend hours playing the latest video games lack a crucial ingredient of a well-balanced life. Children need to feel wanted and loved by their parents. They need time with their parents. They need the positive influences of their parents. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Parents have an awesome responsibility and they should not take it lightly.

Parents want their children to do well in secular subjects. They spend time helping with their math and reading skills but all too often, they fail to spend time helping them grow in other areas. Emotional balance, self-control, altruism . . . all these things are important. They should not be neglected.

Children are curious creatures. Nurture that curiosity but balance it with good judgement. Parents should help their children respect different opinions by setting examples. If parents are tolerant of others' views, children are likely to be also. Yet it is important to teach children to stand up for their

beliefs in a non-threatening way.

When teaching children to obey, it is fundamental for parents to do so with love. Make few rules, then enforce them. Be consistent. Also, remember that the punishment should fit the misbehavior.

The promises parents make should be kept. Children have faith in their parents and this trust should not be broken.

Play is an important part of a child's life. She learns social skills and develops physical skills. Outside play lets her experience God's nature. She enjoys the fresh air, the twitter of a blue bird, the wonder of a flower. Parents should be with their children as they experience these things.

Parents should teach their children to be disciplined. They need to be taught good habits. They need to be taught honesty. But most importantly, parents need to share the love of God with their children. They need to show their children the character of God. They need to give their children unconditional love, just as Christ gives them unconditional love.

The education of a child begins at birth and continues throughout life. Parents should take this responsibility seriously and be thankful to God for the opportunity to educate one of His children.



A Loving Church Is a Growing Church

*Ludmila
Krushenitskaya*

Ludmila Krushenitskaya and her husband have a son, Oleg, who is an intern pastor in Russia, and a daughter, Albina, who is married to Oleg Resnichenko, the pastor of the Odessa Church in the Ukraine. Their four-year-old grandson, Timothy, likes to pray, preach and invite people to participate in worships. Ludmila enjoys helping people, reading, holding seminars for women and pastors' wives, and when possible, working in the garden.



“Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma” (Ephes. 5:2).

I remember the church of my childhood and youth with great love and gratefulness to God. Although it was a hard time for the believers in ex-Soviet Union, I remember how much was done by the church for our youth. We were so poor we could not afford to buy strings for our orchestra. The whole church participated in voluntary offerings to help the youth glorify the Lord. We were able to praise Him not only with songs, verses and sermons, but also with music instruments with new strings!

For music practice, we would gather after 10:00 p.m. We would close our windows so no neighbors could see or hear us and we would practice until 6:00 a.m.

Our Youth Department worked hard to prepare a monthly solemn worship service for our church members. The Church looked at us as the future of the Church. They expected us to deliver on our commitments and because they trusted us, we took our mission seriously and did not fail in our

responsibilities. In spite of interdiction of the government authorities, we had meetings on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and other days when possible.

My church from long ago was very successful in making its members feel needed. The church was the center of life in our community. These days, many churches meet only on Sabbaths and members return to their “work-day” lives each week. Sometimes with such schedules, it is difficult to build genuine relationships. Thus, it is important to survey church members and learn of their interests and needs. Determine the capabilities and talents of members and organize groups according to interests. When this is done, work hard to schedule meetings at convenient times. Such programs will draw church members closer together. As more and more people take ownership of a church, the church will grow and word will spread of the wonderful activities taking place at the church.

Several programs that have worked well in my church are listed below. Perhaps one or two of them may spark an interest in you. If so, pray about what God wants you to do. You may be the one He wants to take

leadership of such a program. Work with your pastor and fellow church members and create some groups that fill the needs of some in your congregation.

Prayer Group

Organize your church members for a special praying ministry. They can meet at any time convenient for them during the week or on Sabbath one hour before the morning worship. Let this group include only volunteers whose hearts are full of intercessory prayer. Material study on a particular subject should take about 15 minutes, then let the members share the problems of the church members as well as their relatives and friends. After telling God of their needs, the members should thank Him for the blessings received.

Generations Meeting

Quite often, aged people become irritable when children are being playful. Sometimes those of age beyond 60 can't cope with those who have not yet reached 12. Is it possible to solve this problem? Yes! Children can prepare a special program (Bible verses, songs, a short sermon, if possible), with their parents' help. They can present the program to the older congregation members and afterward, take time to greet each adult. Children can make cards for their older friends and show they care. The older folks will then get to know the children and look forward to visiting with them. With a little effort, bonds between the two age groups can be strengthened.

Bible Study Groups

Most churches have active Bible Study Groups. After the Scripture

study, just remember to discuss the necessity of visiting those who are spiritually weak. Make it a point to invite new members to the studies.

Classes of Special Skills

Classes can be organized by interests: mending, darning, quilting, gardening, preserving of fruits and vegetables, identifying crab plants, etc. (Don't forget to invite those children 10 and above; they often get forgotten in such groups.) As the group members learn new skills and get better acquainted, they look

*When one church member rejoices,
rejoice with him.*

*When one church member cries,
share her burden in prayers
and care for her.*

forward to working on projects together.

Health Classes

These classes are designed to study the art of a healthy lifestyle. Members can share their experiences and carry their messages about health to those in need. This class can be open to non-believers.

Support Group

God has given the special gift of charity to some sisters and brothers. Such people provide a tremendous ministry. Whether it's helping with someone's garden, doing apartment maintenance or simply taking someone to the grocery store, these acts of kindness are priceless. When

organizing such a group, choose a leader who is familiar with the abilities of the group members. This will help when it is time to assign people to different tasks. Of course, this group closely interacts with the whole church and is open to help wherever help is needed.

Celebrating Baptisms

Gather your friends and several church families together and organize a group dedicated to assimilating new members into the church. Prepare special Sabbath luncheons celebrating the baptisms that take place. Introduce the new members to others and make them feel like part of the church family. Make this a special time that will never be forgotten.

New Church Members in Role of Salutators

Ask some of the new church members to help those who are greeters. Church members will not be offended if their new brothers and sisters do not remember their names at once. But the new church members will be pleased to realize they are a part of the church family.

Secret Friends

Many congregations have successfully tried out this program. The results have been excellent. Each participant is given a name of another participant (men are partnered with men, women are partnered with women). They are to keep that name a secret. Throughout the year, each participant gives his/her "Secret Friend" anonymous notes of encouragement and small gifts delivered through the elected postman. Most importantly, they are to pray for their secret buddies. At the end of each quarter everyone

joins together for lunch. Each person finds out who their secret friend is.

The mystery fills this program with joy because no one knows who is sending little gifts, notes, etc. Friendships are formed even though the identity of the friend is not known! This program can be repeated endlessly by changing pairs. It is especially effective in big congregations where people know very little about each other. Every participant can get at least four new friends a year.

Family Prayer Groups

Praying together as a family is very important. It sets the stage for prayer in public. One family prayed for a musical gift. Because they felt so strongly about God answering their prayers, they began to sing together. As their confidence grew, they began to participate in the music service of the church. Now they are strong pillars of the church.

Family Sabbath Evening

Opening and closing the Sabbath is an enriching experience for all those involved. The place is not as important as the spirit. Take the time to enjoy playing Biblical games together. Fellowship by sharing stories of Christ's blessings. Build memories by creating an atmosphere of love and worship.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that from my own village church where I grew up, four organized new congregations were formed in the surrounding villages. Each church has created a loving and welcoming atmosphere for the members. The young people actively participate in conducting worship services. They are like flowers that beautify a garden. The serving aroma of these churches exhale fragrance to the glory of God, not only inside the church, but also to the surrounding area.

People get to know about Biblical truth through relationships. About this our Lord has said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples. If you have love for one another" (John 13:35). People see this love when we care about each other. When one church member rejoices, rejoice with him. When one church member cries, share her

burden in prayers and care for her. And if one church member suffers, all church members suffer. If one church member is honored, all members are honored.

"Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma (Eph 5:2). 

The Seven Wonders of the World!

A group of geography students studied the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of that section, the students were asked to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World. Though there were some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a

little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. To touch
 2. To taste
 3. To see
 4. To hear
- (she hesitates a little, and then)
5. To run
 6. To laugh and
 7. To love.

It is far too easy for us to look at the exploits of man and refer to them as "wonders" while we overlook all God has done, regarding them as merely "ordinary". May you be reminded today of those things which are truly wondrous.



Stress-Busters

Valerie Smetheram

Val Smetheram, British born, is a naturalized Australian living in Queensland, Australia. Passionate about the environment, justice, and all growing things, she is an amateur writer and poet with over a hundred pieces published. She has been a minister's wife for over 18 years. Her ambitions are to become superfit, learn to swim and write a book, not necessarily in that order. Her motto: Life begins at 60!



Stress. A much talked about topic these days. Certainly it causes a lot of angst for many of us, particularly in the work area.

I listened recently, with interest, to a radio interview with Dr. Lennart Levi, Emeritus Professor of Psychosocial Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. He has been studying the problem, worldwide, specifically stress in the workplace, for many years. He says that employers, globally, across all sectors, as economic rationalism gains momentum, have increasingly tended to pressure their employees to the point of collapse, which, in short term brings increased productivity, but in the long run leads to destruction of the work force in pursuit of gain. That got me thinking about our own work hours. We're all very busy, of course, especially so if you work in the ministerial area (and that's not to denigrate anyone working in other sectors). While we all know that overworking is neither good nor sensible, how often do any of us stretch our workday far too long? It can be difficult when you're pressured from several different directions at once but truly the employee has to take some responsibility for limiting, to a realistic degree, their length of work time. It also made me think seriously about happenings or activities in our own experience that

had released stress. I recalled things that broke, however briefly, the stress cycle.

When I thought about it, I realized that one of the greatest stress-busters for ourselves had been laughter. It truly *is* the best medicine. Many of these interludes happened when our boys were still at home and involved our greedy golden Labrador who was somewhat of a 'Klepto K9' (where food was concerned anyway). As I scanned my memory many moments came to mind . . . The time when our youngest (about 7 at the time) was happily tucking into his breakfast toast. His mind elsewhere as usual, he lowered his toast hand slightly. This was too much for the canine thief. She zoomed in like a jet plane, fleeing outside with her prize. (Pardon me while I dissolve into laughter) I can still see our young son's wounded face at being robbed.

Another time we'd just sat down for our meal after shutting the dog outside. I sat with my back to the glass doors which led onto the patio. My partner faced me. "Disgusting!" he said with feeling. Did he mean the food? But No. He pointed with his chin over my shoulder. A long fat runnel of slime ran down the glass door in a slightly wavy line as if a very large snail had traveled there. Evidence of a large wet doggy nose! Two big brown eyes were staring him down. Out of each side of her jaw a

long string of saliva gained length with every moment. The kids giggled. Suddenly we were all in fits of laughter, which grew and grew as we looked at that ridiculous dogface. Still holding his aching sides, he chained her up out of sight.

Yet another happening in a isolated country town. Still early in our post-college years, we were slightly in awe of Presidents and associated ranks. We had a new president and colleagues that year, all three of whom had worked together in great fellowship previously. Someone rang from the main office 500 kilometers away asking if we would care for these three for a weekend? Stammering, "yes", I then panicked. I shouldn't have since there was much good-natured banter between them and a lot of laughter. We had already told our boys that we expected them to behave and to mind their manners while the guests were with us. Useless to tell the dog the same thing though.

Someone had kindly given me a large rainbow cake to help out that weekend. I placed it on the buffet in the dining room. We were all in the lounge room having finished a short devotional when I heard a slight scraping noise. Fearing the worse, I headed out to investigate before everyone came out for the meal. You've guessed it! There she was, licking up the last of the colored crumbs off the floor. And I'd thought she couldn't reach it! We all found it difficult to eat after that owing to aching sides! Now I've retired some years ago, we caught up with that president and his wife recently when we were itinerating and visiting their church. Over lunch he suddenly said, "Do you remember the rainbow cake?" That was all it needed to produce heaps more laughter and to retell the story once more.

Another time, another place, once again I had placed two large cakes on a higher shelf to cool. I turned my back and, yes, it happened again. Really angry I chased that thief out of my kitchen, brandishing a large wooden spoon. She quickly realized that things had taken a serious turn and fled to a certain place of refuge, the office, where my partner was quietly working on his sermon. Nosing open the door, she ran under the desk, behind his legs, and when

*"Do you remember
the rainbow cake?"
That was all it needed to produce
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we looked all that could be seen was her nose poking out between his knees! The thought alone generates laughter. I mean how could anyone be cross with her for long? That wonderful dog, who lived for 16 years, cost us very little yet repaid 500%. She died 5 years ago and we still miss her. What a character! So many incidents ... often involving the children and almost always, that impossible dog and once I get the grey cells ticking over more and more things come to mind.

However, there are other things, of course, to relieve the mind of stress. Hobbies, for one. I have taken up artwork again in recent years—charcoal drawing which is a lovely medium to work in. I find it highly

absorbing. Writing is really my first love, I think, and it's gratifying when your work is accepted for publication. In recent weeks two articles of mine have been taken up by gardening magazines. Last year articles and poetry appeared in an animal magazine and I perform pieces of my material for a local community group, which is great fun. Then there's gardening, of course. I really do love the garden—my special interest being in growing tropical fruit, particularly the unusual species. Several years

ago I joined a Seed Savers Network and have exchanged seeds and gardening tips with many people. You get acquainted with people all over the country you wouldn't other-wise have contact with. The joy and satisfaction I get when something grows successfully is indescribable. I remember when I was very young, my father picked an apple from our tree at home, cut it and shook the seeds into the palm of his hand. He explained that the whole tree

had grown from one of those. That piece of information blew my mind! I guess the sense of wonder has never left me. But there, I could go on and on and if I start talking about plants and trees I could be here for a long time. The hardest thing is to find enough time for these interests but I believe it's important to do the best you can. Even if its only half an hour here and there. My partner finds it very difficult, with a heavy work schedule to find spare time even for maintenance jobs around the house but I know everyone else is in a similar situation.

May God help you as you endeavor to fulfill all your obligations plus find that precious spare time to release your mind and do something completely different. 

Joy at Finding One Who Was Lost

Sharda Mahapure

I had been busy cleaning my house on a Sunday morning and it seemed I had more to do than usual. My husband, Sadanand, was ill with chicken-pox. He very seldom got ill, but when he did, he was worse than a child! He didn't like to take his medicine, he didn't want to drink extra water and he hated the idleness of lying in bed. He wanted me to be close so we could carry on a conversation or he wanted the children to play at his bedside.

Sundays are busy days for me. I am a teacher and I make all my lesson plans on Sunday. I also do all the marketing on that day and because I had to get some more medicine for my husband, I planned to make a special trip to the Doctors' dispensary. I had my day planned out and I was on a mission.

The house was clean by ten in the morning. Sanjeev, our six-month-old, was fast asleep. Seven-year-old Albert was playing with his blocks at his father's bedside. The lady we employed to help with the housework was busy folding the baby's napkins. I asked her to watch the children while I went on my errands. I decided to take my nine-year-old daughter, Nita, with me to the market. I collected my marketing bag and we left. Nita was delighted to go with me to the market and being a great chatter-box, she had many

questions for me. We headed for the dispensary first, then waited in a long line to get our medicine. Nita and I played our "word game" until our turn came. Once we obtained my husband's medicine, we set off for the market.

"Now, Nita, be sure you hold on to my pallu," I warned, holding out the free end of my sari, "then you will not get lost." Nita was a very responsible child and we moved from stall to stall quite smoothly. I was busy buying potatoes at one stall when I asked Nita a question. When she did not respond, I turned to see what she was doing. I was quite astonished to see she was nowhere in sight. I called, "Nita, Nita" in a loud voice but received no reply. Like any typical, anxious mother, my immediate thought was that someone had kidnaped her and fear almost took away my rational thought. I quickly retraced my steps and at each stall I asked, "Did anyone see my daughter with me when I came here before?" Some said, "Yes, she was right behind you." Others didn't remember noticing her.

Now I started praying silently, urgently, "Lord, help me find my Nita. Send her back to me. You know how much I love her and I can't live without her. How will I answer Sadanand?" Then guilty thoughts started pressing upon me. "I did the wrong thing by taking her with me.

Sharda is the wife of the outgoing president of Northern India Union. Her husband was the former president of Central India Union. Sharda is a teacher and worked for 38 years in Adventist schools. She was the principal of two high schools in the Central India Union. She is also the former director of the Women, Family and Children's Ministries in the Northern India Union.



She was playing happily with her friends; I am the one who called her to come. How could I ever be so stupid as to take her into such a crowded bazaar? I will never forgive myself if I don't find Nita." I searched the entire market in vain and finally realized I would have to go home and tell my husband that Nita was lost. Fear took strength from me. I tried to walk quickly but felt weak and faint.

I turned a corner and came upon a small police chawki (station). A policeman was standing there. I gasped out the story of having lost my daughter just 15 minutes earlier in the Fancy Market. He asked me her name and wanted to know what she was wearing. I couldn't even remember! He then asked me if I could describe her. I was so anxious, I couldn't even do that! I just kept crying and pleading with him to run and find her. He did not move an inch so I tried hard to hand over my market bag and purse to him. "You keep these safe and I will find her. Just hold these things 'till I return." The policeman looked astonished when I tried to give him my purse and it was obvious he thought I was out of my mind. I started walking away, but he called me back, returned my things and assured me he would find Nita.

A large children's playground was located a few steps away. I knew our house was on the opposite side of the playground; in fact, I could see it from where I stood. The knowledge of what I had to say once I reached home drained my last ounce of strength and I sat down on the footpath. I hailed a passing taxi and asked him to take me home. "Where is your home?" he inquired. Not having enough energy to even speak, I pointed to my house. With an incredulous look on his face, he muttered, "lazy, crazy people in this city," and drove away.

Sitting there on the roadside, feeling utterly helpless, my shopping

bag beside me, purse in my lap, I began to pray once more. At once a terrible thought roared in my mind. Bombay is a large city and many children are lost daily. Some are never found. I feared my Nita had been kidnaped. I pleaded, "Lord, if this is so, please force the captors to set her free. She was with me all the while, holding on to my sari pullu and now she is gone!" The tears began to fall and I couldn't see my house.

Suddenly I heard the shouts of some children. They were running towards me. Brushing the tears from my eyes, I recognized some of the children from our building. Nita's friend Shaila was leading the group. I decided to ask them if they would help me find Nita. As they drew closer, I recognized the face in the middle of the crowd. It was Nita! I shook my head to make sure I was seeing clearly. Then I leapt up to greet the children. My purse fell to the road, my shopping bag fell over and potatoes and tomatoes ran unheeded across the road. All the children surrounded me, each telling a different story about Nita. But Nita had no story to tell; she only came close, grabbed my hands and held them tightly. She had found me and she was so happy. My feeling of joy was beyond description.

The children chattered constantly as we walked to the house. When I walked into my husband's room, he took one look at my face and recognized the anguish I had experienced. I began sobbing and explained how I had lost Nita. He caught my hand and smiled as he said, "Nita came home to tell me that Momma was lost. I explained to her that Momma was not lost. She was searching everywhere in the market for her daughter. I told Nita to take her friends and go together to the market. I said, 'Go to the very same spot where you ran away and stay there until she comes for you.' That

is why they were running to the market when you met them."

The loss of my child that day brought mountains of grief, anxiety and almost unbearable sorrow upon me. My spirit was broken and my happiness was temporarily turned to misery and confusion. The loss of Nita left me desolate.

Fortunately, our God does not leave us comfortless or without hope. He hears our prayers. Sometimes the answers are slow in coming and other times, like in this case, God permits us to know real sorrow just long enough so as to appreciate other people's true sorrow. This experience made me realize the meaning of love and experience the joy of regaining one who was lost. It helped me to think of God's supreme love for us. He sent His only Son so we might be saved.

Matthew 18:12-14 records the parable of the lost sheep. The shepherd owned 100 sheep and when one of them wandered away, the shepherd was filled with anxiety. He loved his sheep and went in search of the lost one. He didn't care how late it was; he didn't think about his weariness. He only cared for the safety of that sheep because he loved that one as much as he loved the other 99 which were safe from the danger of their enemy. When he found that lonely, frightened sheep, his joy knew no bounds. He called his friends to rejoice with him and so great was his joy, the impact of his love for this lost one led his friends to rejoice also.

Our Heavenly Father loves us even more than our earthly parents do. We may understand God's love through pleasant or unpleasant circumstances. Let us give thanks to Him for each experience that keeps us in tune spiritually and helps us to trust Him more. Let us give thanks to Him for the privilege of knowing Him.



Fatalism or Choice?



Naty Quintino

The Winter is almost over and so are the memories of rain, wind, snow and cold.

Nature seems to writhe under a certain fatalism.

It is always so! Winter means cold, rain, storms, floods, avalanches, fog, tornadoes, destruction, filth, abandonment and death.

For most people, Winter means discomfort, deprivation, loneliness, sadness, emptiness, nostalgia, spookiness, anxiety, silence. Such negative and fatalistic feelings prevent them from enjoying the beauties and wonders of this season.

Too often, winter symbolizes other

kinds of fatalism. For many, marriage is a closed letter. Children are a nightmare. Family is a prison. Fatalism pervades our society.

It has always been so, it will always be so

In an attempt to destroy this ideological fatalism, special years and holidays have been created. There is the International Year of the Family, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Children's Day, Tree Day, Environment Day and so on. Can they change a fatalistic attitude into a positive one?

It has not always been so, but it must be so now

Does being a pastor's wife seem fatalistic? Does it always mean the negative: moving, packing, enduring, renouncing, sacrificing?

It has always been so, but it does not necessarily have to be so

You, as a pastor's wife, can represent more than service, silence and sacrifice. You must be more than that.

A pastor's wife knows what it means to feel love; her days are lightened as she looks forward to victory with Christ.

The pastor's wife is like a pure snowflake shining and reflecting its projected, inside light.

To be a pastor's wife is the most dignifying situation a woman can aspire to. It is more than being a woman, more than being a mother. It is the privilege given to that woman who is also a mother of her own children and of those who God places in her path through her husband's ministry. The pastor's wife's role differs from her husband's. The pastor's wife must consider herself the happiest, the most privileged woman because God, the Creator, is the one who put her in that noble position. This is not fatalism but divine choice!

Everyone has a choice. My prayer is that you exchange the fatalistic mask that feels despair at your situation in life and trade it for a radiant glow that comes from knowing you have been given the privilege of Divine election. 

Naty is a pastor's wife in the South American Division.

Cooking Classes Win Souls

Many pastors' wives lead out in cooking classes. Sometimes this is a big sacrifice on their part, but the number of people won is less than expected.

This is a continuation of the most important aspects of cooking classes:

1. Use flyers that advertise local businesses, and let them distribute the flyers.
2. Give talks on health and food. Each day present one of the eight natural remedies.
3. Hold eight health classes once a week.
4. Ask that the attendees write out their questions and promise to answer them at the next class.
5. Discuss other topics after the cooking class, such as stress, depression, and Bible studies on: the Bible, the Sabbath, confession, the law of God, baptism, etc.
6. Choose the pastor or presenter that gives the spiritual emphasis who will be able to attend all the classes.

The talks should be well prepared. There should be a continuity and subtlety so that from the second or third class, there can be woven themes from God's word which are for our well-being physically and spiritually.

The presenter, besides winning the sympathy and love of the audience, should help them to get acquainted with Christ in His beauty, splendor, and love.

If we want the people to fall in love with Christ, this can be done through biblical research—studying those things they are interested in knowing if they will promise to attend the classes.

If this happens, we should keep in mind the following points:

The classes should continue for about two months, with meeting times once a week.

There should be no break between the cooking class and the biblical research.

It would be better to have both the cooking class and the biblical research in the same place in the church, to avoid having to move from one place to another. People get used to coming to one place.

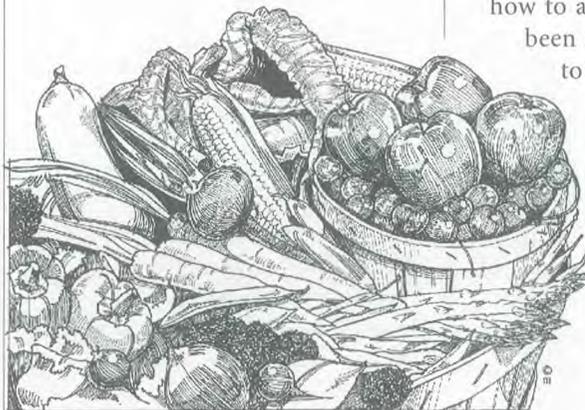
It is preferable that the classes be conducted on the same day the church has for Prayer Meeting. It can be a little bothersome for those attending Prayer Meeting, but it is favorable for the class attendees because they get used to this day and time.

When the people advance in biblical research and are invited to attend the Prayer Meeting, it will be difficult for them to say no, because they have already formed the good habit of coming to the church. Of course, the church members need to be prepared for this.

The class members should be invited to attend classes on Sabbath in the morning until they are baptized.

One pastor's wife tells us: "If you had asked me how I was encouraged to do this, I would not have known how to answer you, as there have been times my nerves seemed to devour me. But there is something I am sure of.

Praying on our knees makes this possible. Only God can train us to be ready or prepared for this task." 



West Bolivia Mission Shepherdess magazine, Dialoguing (Dialogando).



Shepherdess International News

Eastern Africa Division

✿ The Shepherdess Coordinators of the Eastern Africa Division joined the Ministerial Secretaries in Nairobi, Kenya for a joint Shepherdess International/ Ministerial Advisory and training seminar. Ron and Karen Flowers of the General Conference Family Ministries Department presented valuable information and training for the coordinators to use with ministry families.



Wisconsin pastor's wives Jacquelyn Guerrero, Carmen Mahlum, Sue Nelson, Jollet Springer and Cherry Habenicht

Saturday evening, they met at the Hickory Lodge ceramics project and others learned to do flower arranging. Beautiful take home products were the result.

Pastor's wives voted unanimously to hold a retreat next year. Sharon Cress, of Shepherdess International, will be the speaker and they are

making plans for a weekend that will be special for our pastor's wives.

South Pacific Division

✿ Orel Hosken has retired as the PIM Coordinator in South Australia. Orel composed and implemented the Certification Program for pastors wives in the South Pacific Division. Without her untiring effort this program never could have seen the fruition and growth it has experienced under the leadership of first Kay Winter and now Debora Kent. Kudos to Orel! Enjoy a well deserved retirement!

✿ Clergy wives from Victoria

enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship at a family weekend retreat at Howqua in June. Bev Hankinson and Marcia Christian facilitated a special PIM meeting on creative art. Pam Townend and Juilie McCutcheon held a program to entertain the children.

✿ North New Zealand pastors wives had a retreat at Tui Ridge Park. They were blessed by the ministry of David and Cheryl Robertson and were inspired by the drawings of Charline Bainbridge. Sandy Van Syk was the coordinator for the retreat and made it a very special weekend.

✿ South Queensland PIM's enjoyed a peaceful weekend at Moreton Bay and Coochiemudlo Island for their annual retreat. Marlene Foote from Toowoomba had the opening devotional. Caryl and Trafford Fischer shared experiences about the changing role of the pastor's wife. Beach walks and music were nice intermissions. Kay Humble and Karen Gazsik also shared devotionals with the group.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

✿ Shepherdess Coordinators met together with Ministerial Directors of the Division in an advisory set on the lovely island of Bali. John Duroe and



Eastern Africa Division Shepherdess International/ Ministerial Advisory

North American Division

✿ Phyllis Corkum reported that the first retreat for Wisconsin pastor's wives was held September 21-23, 2001. Greeted by the surroundings of Camp Wakonda, fall colors, and fresh air, the atmosphere was perfect for relaxation, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Linda Johnson and Juanita Edge decorated the dining room at Red Pine Lodge to perfection and the food was superb.

Margarida Sarli, from the General Conference Ministerial Department spoke on professional issues for pastor's wives. There was Bible study time with Laura Hokanson, and prayer throughout the day.



Southern Asia-Pacific Shepherdess Coordinators with Sharon Cress and Ellen Missah

Ellen Missah planned an extraordinary program of education and fellowship for the group.

✿ Bangladesh Union Mission: Dorothy Biswas Shepherdess coordinator reported that 167 people were baptized in 2001 as a result of Shepherdess evangelistic meetings.



Dorothy Biswas speaking at her evangelistic meetings.

as a result of these pastors' wives evangelistic work and meetings. The ministry wives enthusiastically sponsor charity clinics, they visit retiree homes, women's prisons and farmers families. They conduct seminars for stop smoking, living a healthy life and the dangers of drugs.

✿ East Indonesia Union Mission Shepherdess coordinator, Jeanne Sakul reports that their Shepherdess has a membership of 250. Their activities include a World Ministerial Council in Bandung, a Health Seminar Retreat for Ministerial wives in Manado and Leadership seminars at the Union office supported by Adly Campos, Netty Rantung retired SI coordinator



Dorothy Biswas and Lucina Chambugon with their baptismal group

of the division, and Sharon Cress. A weekend for the whole Union was held in Manado with Pastor and Mrs. Willy Oliver from the North American Division. They also sponsored a Bible Conference.

✿ Shepherdesses in the West Indonesia Union Mission have been very busy providing support for the refugees. When demonstrations began at Wayame Academy all of the teachers, students and workers were brought to a military complex

Pastors Biswas and Chambugon baptizing in the river Chengi



✿ West Indonesia Union Mission has a Shepherdess membership of 350. Led by Yanni Hò Sanaga they have been very active in their work. Their activities include seminars to improve the skill, attitude, performance and knowledge of the Shepherdess. This continuing education has reaped miraculous results. From 1997 to 2000 over 3,960 people have been baptized

by garbage truck and had no place to sleep. People were sleeping outside on the grass, but during this trauma Mrs. J. Wairata evangelized some of the refugees. Many studied the Bible with her and were baptized. Many are professionals and one is a professor at the university who in turn led seven other relatives to Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord that during times of difficulty dedicated pastors' wives spread the

good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

✿ Sri Lanka Mission is served by Shepherdess coordinator Collette Reith. They have 20 regular pastors serving 3,453 members. Sri Lanka is just beginning their organization for ministry wives and plan future events with emphasis on the family, financial management and family problem solving.

✿ North Philippine Union Mission Shepherdess Coordinator Miriam Andres reports that 80 pastors' wives are giving Bible studies, 126 are involved in team ministries with their husbands and 18 evangelistic meetings have been conducted. There have been two SI conventions and many conference and mission retreats and programs. Professional growth seminars have been conducted in the areas of Team Ministry, Safe Motherhood, Home Finance Management, Personality Development, Dealing with Preachers' Kids and Home Management. Ellen Missah and Sharon Cress conducted a Shepherdess International Convention at the NPUM Conference Hall with 125 in attendance.

✿ South Philippine Union is served by Pleny Camagy, Shepherdess coordinator. There are five chapters in this union with a membership of 262 pastors wives. Nurture and training is done through seminars and counseling sessions. There are 122 Shepherdesses who have undergone continuing education programs in colleges and universities. Fifty-five percent of the Shepherdesses do not work outside the home and provide full-time team ministry with their husbands. The Shepherdesses of South Philippine union have brought 13,975 souls to Jesus during the years 1996-2001. Praise the Lord for this kind of harvest by dedicated clergy wives!

✿ Central Philippine Union Conference Shepherdess leader Glenda Catane reported that they are



Dr. Miriams, Mrs. Irene Duroe , Miss Sharlene Reyes, and Mrs. Ellen V. Roque



A good time was had by all. Mrs. Barcelisa Amoguis and Mrs. Filipina Bautista.



Pastor and Mrs. Jimuel Abcede of Central Luzon Conference hosted the Shepherdess meetings.



Pastor's wives attending meetings in Central Luzon Conference.

blessed with 155 ministers wives in their Union. Shepherdesses have shown their active role in leading out and inspiring women as they take their responsibilities seriously. Outreach

activities include cooking and health schools, prison and hospital visits and outreaches, Vacation Bible Schools, and evangelistic meetings. They have conducted 16 evangelistic meetings and five new churches were constructed and organized because of their donations and solicitations.

✿ Southeast Asia Union Mission under the direction of Sally Phoon recently hosted a Shepherdess Sabbath retreat in Singapore. Sharon Cress was the guest speaker. Sally reports that the mission has achieved the significant accomplishment of a publication of a Shepherdess Newsletter in Bahasa, Malaysia for Sabah and Sarawak. And it is produced in Thai for the Thailand Shepherdesses. Sally recently visited Cheingmai, Thailand and met with 20 Shepherdesses. They had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of eight people, the result of two shepherdesses work. One of the eight was the owner of an orphanage.

Another shepherdess in the remote village of Khunsa up in the north near the China-Thailand border reported her work among the Hmong people up there who have migrated from China. Ninety percent of the women are illiterate. She has trained the children in Bible knowledge, fund raising for outreach work, and in cleaning the church. Children automatically show up to clean the church every Friday totally unsupervised. The women attend classes in reading and writing Hmong under the leadership of the shepherdess on a daily basis. The village, comprising of 80 families, is now 95% SDA after just five years; there are only about five more families to reach. From among these five families, she has organized a Bible study class for 16 people every Sabbath afternoon. The young people and women are raising their own funds by working on the farms for a church building that will seat 600 people.

Euro-Asia Division



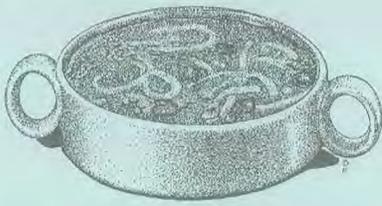
Shepherdess meetings in Rostov-on-Don, Caucasus Union of the ECD. Pastor's wives from this city had a short seminar after the Bible conference. Second from the left, first row, is Akensia Liberanskaya, the new Shepherdess Coordinator in this union.



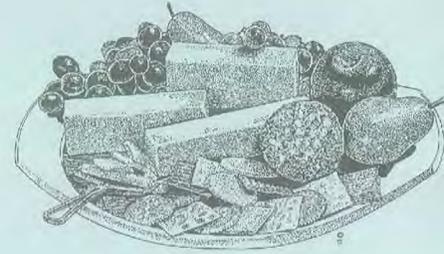
Shepherdess meeting in Moscow. Pastor's wives from different congregations of Central Conference of the West-Russian Union, ECD, came to Moscow for a two-day meeting. Conference coordinator, Valentina Trikur' is in the center, first row, together with her husband, president of the Central Conference.



Pastor Ponyatovsky (third from the right in the last row) with his wife Lilia (second from the right in the first row) together with the team of theology students conducted a Stop Smoking program in Tula. As a result 24 people stopped smoking.



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