

The Journal



A SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY SPOUSES

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*Ministry is giving
When you feel like keeping,
Praying for others
When you need to be prayed for,
Feeding others
When your own soul is hungry,
Living truth before people
Even when you can't see results,
Hurting with other people
Even when your own hurt can't be spoken,
Keeping your word
Even when it is not convenient,
And being faithful
When your flesh wants to run away.*

—Source Unknown

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Editor's Musings

Dear Clergy Wives:

One thing about life is certain—change! As pastors' wives, if there is one thing "consistent" in our lives, it is change! Whether it is a monumental change like moving across the country or a minor one like a new haircut, change occurs.

With this issue of the magazine, you will probably notice some little changes. I hope you think they are for the better. Besides a bit of a different look, we also have staff changes.

We want to welcome back Ann Taylor to the Shepherdess International staff. Ann was designing and laying out *The Journal* long before I arrived in this office. A little over a year ago, she decided it was prudent that she follow her husband, David, when he accepted a job transfer to the great Northwest. Regina Hayden, a gifted designer, joined us in producing the magazine. Recently Regina decided her gifts would be better utilized by joining the Youth Department in our building. We wish Regina the best and want to publicly thank her for all her hard work in helping us get out *The Journal*.

Help! Who is going to design and lay out the magazine? Enter Ann into our lives again! It is a privilege for Annabelle and me to have Ann working with us on this publication.

May the Lord continue to bless each one of you as you serve Him with your gifts and talents. May you and your whole clergy family feel His love and presence every day.

Your friend in Jesus,

The Journal A SHEPHERDESS
INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR

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Having the Time of Your Life

Sharon Cress

Time Management for Pastors' Wives



Sharon Cress is the Shepherdess International Coordinator at the General Conference.

In her dying moments, Queen Elizabeth the First sighed, "All my possessions for a moment of time." How often have you come to the end of a day or a week, and wondered what happened to all those moments? Perhaps as the sun set on Friday evening you chided yourself about how much more you could have accomplished and longed for just a few additional minutes to finish just one more project.

Life in the ministerial home involves a complicated time framework. You are "on call" 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every week, and sometimes even during vacation. Often it seems everyone in the world is controlling your time—everyone, that is, except you. And if you let everyone else control your time, you will never bring time under your control.

Just as you wouldn't survive long if your finances were out of control, it is equally difficult if your time is out of control. While we wouldn't think of failing to budget our money, we usually don't think of time as something for which we need to account. Hours and days just pass, from one crisis to the next, and the urgent takes priority over the important. Precious time gets

gobbled up by the insignificant.

God places a special importance on time management. God asks us to return only ten percent of our money—one dime for a dollar. Yet He asks us to set aside one day in seven—or 14.3 percent of our time—especially for Him. Obviously, God considers our time more valuable to Him than our money!

Often we assume that other people have more time than we do. They don't. They're just budgeting their time differently, or putting priority on different items. Let me share with you some principles that have helped me manage my time constructively.

God's time and His work

No matter what positions we hold in life, God expects us to invest time in ministry for others. Often I have fretted over time wasted just sitting and talking with my next door neighbor—when I might have used that precious time with her more constructively for ministry. By scheduling a lunch or a shopping trip with her, I might have budgeted some time specifically for informal witnessing. The fact is that unless I *plan* to take time for ministry, I usually don't.

A friend of mine, who is involved in team ministry, has arranged with her husband to keep the children one afternoon and evening a week so that she can give Bible studies on a regular basis. Thus, she sets time aside specifically for the purpose of winning souls, and her personal ministry has been very fruitful.

All this planning still doesn't guarantee that a neighbor will never impose on your time unexpectedly. However, I have found that when people know you are sufficiently interested in them to plan times of fellowship together, the idle gossip across the back fence generally diminishes in favor of planned activities.

Our families and their needs

Most families would have more social and recreation time together if all family members participated together in the maintenance of the home. Many wives get caught up in the superwoman syndrome. For many of us, the demand for perfection which we began to place upon ourselves when we were compared to others as young children, carries over into adulthood. We want to excel at work, have a perfectly clean house, and cook gourmet Sabbath dinners. And when we come up short in any one of these areas we anguish over our "failures."

Furthermore, many of us have been reared to believe that, "If you want something done right, do it yourself." The important question to ask, however, is not if others can do the job as well as you can, but if they can do the job well enough. Many tasks can be delegated to other family members. Delegation teaches our children and spouses their responsibilities within the family

structure. It also teaches them that they do not exist to be waited upon, but to serve. Each family member should have specific jobs for which he or she is held accountable.

When things aren't done to my standard I must ask myself, "Will this matter a month from now?" If it will matter, I should correct it. If it will not, why waste the time?

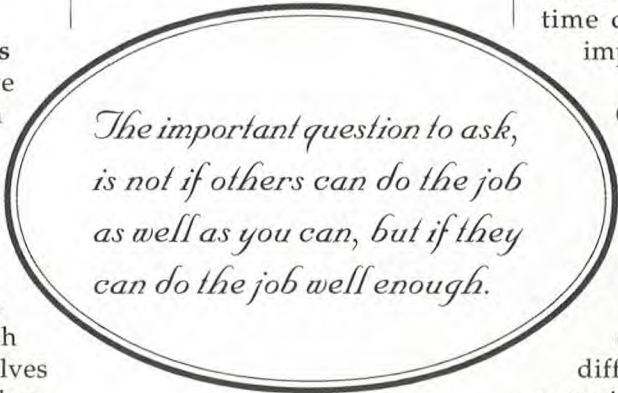
Our careers

For pastors' wives who have full-time jobs or careers, the dilemma of balancing and budgeting both time and money becomes particularly significant.

may seem like extras to some onlookers, but they can give you the opportunity for giving a Bible study rather than staying home to defrost the refrigerator. Save your time for witnessing projects, time with your family, or personal development.

If you are career oriented, you may need to hire outside help. It may seem like a luxury to hire someone to do the ironing or heavy cleaning, but it may be an expense that needs to be built into the two-career family's budget. Ellen White consistently relied on other Christian women to help maintain her busy household.

Many two-career couples find that eating out is justifiable when time considerations are more important than money.



The important question to ask, is not if others can do the job as well as you can, but if they can do the job well enough.

Sometimes we don't realize the advantages of the electronic age and the value of conveniences which allow us time that we would not have otherwise. When it comes time for you to purchase or replace an appliance, make the time element a major consideration. A freezer that does not need defrosting will save a couple of days a year. A self-cleaning oven can save hours each month. Washers that automatically dispense fabric softener or bleach can save countless minutes running back and forth on every load. Microwave ovens literally knock hours off meal preparation. These luxurious conveniences

Our responsibilities as pastors' spouses

A discussion about the unique responsibilities of the pastor's spouse has the potential for opening a can of worms, because every pastor's wife relates differently to her skills, time commitment and personal interests in that role. How involved you're going to be with the church's activities must be an individual choice. But let me share a few guidelines for prudently budgeting the time you choose to spend on these functions.

The team ministry concept affirms that wives are called, together with their husbands, to ministry. Therefore it is important that spouses work together to set their priorities for church involvement rather than allowing the agendas of others to determine those priorities.

First, decide what church activities you would be most comfortable working with and

how much time each of these will demand weekly. If that is more time than you can invest, you should decline. Many of us feel guilty saying no to a worthy project. If you suffer pangs of guilt when you decline an assignment, or if you end up saying yes when you really wanted to decline, the General Conference Continuing Education Course entitled *Carefronting*, by Betty Lou Hartlein, could be of immense help to you.

Second, there are people in the church who will want you to deliver messages, copy recipes, devise games for the church social and anything else that pops into their heads. I have found it impossible to remember all the items that people want me to accomplish or provide for them. When someone says, "Oh, by the way, I would like such and such . . ." I simply reply, "You know, I have a short memory. If you will get me a note about that, I will be better able to remember to do it." You would be surprised how many times an apparently urgent need is not sufficiently important for someone to spend two minutes jotting a reminder for you. So is it important enough for you to spend the time which you have budgeted for church-related projects?

Personal growth and development

Without proper care of ourselves, we cannot serve God or others well. Physical, mental and spiritual growth are absolutely vital.

Physical exercise clears the mind and tones the body. After an hour of exercise, I feel better prepared to face the tasks at hand and find that I work faster and accomplish more than I did

before. You are probably asking, "But where will I find the time?" Perhaps you can budget some of the time you are going to save from implementing the suggestions mentioned in this article.

It is equally important sometimes just to relax and do nothing. If you are a person who gains inner strength from solitude, this is not time wasted. In the long run you will have the strength to do more. You can also use that time for exercise, meditation, or prayer. My sister gets up an hour early and goes for a walk. By the time she returns, her husband and son are up and ready for breakfast. This walk is her quiet time to prepare herself for a full day.

"Rest is the step backward before the leap forward." Make certain you get adequate rest. That includes going to bed the same time each evening. Don't try to stay up to finish "just one more project." Get up earlier in the morning instead. Arising before everyone else gives you some quiet time for meditation and study. That extra 15 to 30 minutes can start your day with a much better outlook on life.

Regularly schedule some free time. Go to a museum, art gallery or shopping. Visit a friend. Or just stay home and read a book—alone. Many times when I get home at the end of a difficult day, just taking a shower refreshes and adds strength for accomplishing my evening tasks.

If you wish to improve your use of time, it is important to find out where time is being lost. One way is to keep a time ledger for one week. Record each job, what you did, when you did it, and how long it took, in 15 minute time increments. At the end of the week, review the overall picture.

Where has time slipped through your fingers? What were the most productive times?

Using lists to save time

One way to keep important items prioritized is to maintain a "to do" list, plus a larger monthly project list. The long-range list might include projects such as cleaning out the garage, storing seasonal clothing, planting flowers, etc. Keep in mind these hints for utilizing your lists.

1. Avoid over-scheduling. Remember that tasks always take longer than you think they will.
2. Prioritize your list. Schedule the most important items for your peak energy hours.
3. Review the list each morning. Add new items as some are crossed off.
4. Evaluate listed items. If an item has been on your "to do" list for several days, was it really important?

Time robbers, time gifts

Television and the telephone are the big twin time robbers! Think about the times you have walked through the family room and something on the television caught your eye. Before you knew it, twenty minutes had been lost. Leave the television off unless there is something specific you planned to see. You might find that a VCR helps you control the television: with a VCR, you can watch what you want, when you want, without commercials.

Telephone calls can cause havoc for the best laid time plans. If someone calls and says, "This will only take a minute," you can politely reply that a minute is all you have and if it will take longer, you will have to call him or her back another time. It might be helpful to install a telephone

answering machine for those times when your husband is not at home, or when you wish to remain undisturbed for study or devotions.

Just as some things tend to rob us of time, every so often we are granted a "gift certificate" of time. These bonuses can come at the dentist's office, while riding in the car, or waiting for your partner. With these times in mind, I almost always have a book I want to read or a needlepoint project I'm working on. I can't remember an evening in the last ten years when I sat down specifically to do handwork; almost all of my projects have been done during these bonus times.

Think of each day as your personal time account. Every morning you are credited with 1,440 minutes. Whatever you fail to use wisely will not be carried over; it is erased from your account forever. Count the importance of every minute. Just as pennies make dollars, minutes make hours.

As we struggle to keep up with the march of time—sometimes, it seems, marching to a faster beat than we feel we can keep up with—we need to remember how much our Savior accomplished in His short three and a half years on earth. He took quality time for His family, never forgetting the needs of His mother and close friends. He took time for personal revitalization and prayer, in order to gain the strength needed to finish His mission. By establishing our priorities and requesting the guidance of the Holy Spirit each one of us can manage the time we have on this earth to prepare ourselves, our families, and our neighbors for the soon coming of Jesus. ❀



My Love to God

Nadia Watson

My love to God will never end,
No matter what the Devil sends.
Whether suffering or missing lots of friends,
Or weakness, or sorrow with no end.

I choose to be close to my Lord
And be persecuted with threat or sword.
Let never care for riches or gold
As long as I find a place in the fold.

The Kingdom of heaven for which I long
Will be always my goal with nothing wrong.
There will be always love, joy, and a song
For me and those who are coming along.



Nadia Watson has been married to a minister for almost 39 years. She and her husband have shared their faith in many different capacities. She has worked as a teacher in both elementary and secondary schools in Egypt for 27 years. Nadia enjoys reading, writing, and cooking.

The Watsons have four children and four grandchildren, all who are residing in California. Although she is retired, she enjoys sharing her faith with others to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.





Letting God Lead in Your Life

Christa Schiffbauer

What would you do if you felt God asking you to go to a foreign country to tell people about Him? Would you go? Abraham and Sarah did. What if God asked you to marry a heathen king in order to save His people? Esther did. What if God asked you to marry someone who would be unfaithful to you to show the kind of love He has for us, would you marry that person? Hosea did.

God asked people in the Bible to do things that seemed rather foolish. Sometimes we may feel God cannot work with us the way He did with people in Bible times. Maybe we feel this way because we lack faith. How strong is our spiritual commitment to the Lord? Do we take the time in our busy lives to read our Bibles and pray? Or do we say a quick prayer on the run and hope God will understand our hectic lives and help us make it through the day?

How can we withstand the temptations the Devil sends our way if we have no spiritual reserve to call upon? When I quit my job, I thought I would have plenty of time to spend with the Lord so I wouldn't really have to schedule Him in. Was I ever wrong! If I do not schedule the Lord into my day, He does not

get any quality time from me! I can get so caught up taking care of my baby, doing housework, exercising, doing crafts and helping Dan with his work that the day is gone before I know it!

Let us look at Moses to see how he maintained a good relationship with God. God had a special plan for his life from the very start. A plan was made to hide Moses from the king's soldiers and to appeal to the king's daughter's heart so she would desire to have Moses for her son. It could have been very easy for Moses to forget about God's plan for him as he loved the plush life in the palace. In fact Exodus 2:11-14 tells us that Moses decided to take things into his own hands to deliver his people.

Could it be that Moses became a bit proud of his royal position and his leadership abilities? (Do we sometimes race ahead of the Lord in our desire to do what we think is His will?) Moses had plenty of time to think about God's plan for him as he cared for the sheep in the wilderness. Imagine what a cultural shock it was to leave the beautiful palace and the challenging educational and intellectual stimulation it offered! Moses could have been downright bored in the fields!



Christa Schiffbauer is a pastoral wife in Texas.

With no one to talk to, he was forced to talk to God. (Do we have to come to the place in our lives where God is the only person around so we will talk to Him?)

It took Moses many years of caring for the sheep before he was humbled enough for God to use him. He was so humbled that when God asked him to tell the king to let his people go, Moses said he couldn't speak correctly! God had to send his brother Aaron to give him moral support! I can relate to Moses!

I believe God wants the work of Shepherdess clubs to go forward. We need to encourage one another in our walks with the Lord and the struggles we face daily! God has promised us He will always be with us as He was with Moses, so we should press on!

Moses started his journey to Egypt accompanied by his wife and sons. Along the way the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him. Why? Because Moses forgot to circumcise his son as the Israelites were instructed to do to show their allegiance to God. Zipporah, Moses' wife, stepped in and saved her husband's life by circumcising their son.

God expects us to follow His commands concerning our families while we do His work. God does not expect us to ignore our families while we follow His plans for our lives. Too many times the children of a pastor grow to hate the church because it takes their father away from them so much. Perhaps there are times when we need to step in like Zipporah and let our husbands know they must spend time with their children.

Moses and Aaron assembled all the elders of the Israelites together to show them the signs God had given for their

deliverance and make sure the people believed God had sent them. It could have been very easy for Moses and Aaron to go directly to Pharaoh without consulting the Israelites about their deliverance, but God told Moses and Aaron to go to the Israelites first as an act of courtesy, respect and friendship. The Israelites had not seen Moses for a very long time. They may have thought he was dead. They needed to be shown that God had not forgotten His promises to them; they needed to be reminded to have the faith to believe God would use Moses and Aaron to help them.

The pastor and his wife can forget to consult with the church members about their plans for the church to move forward. After all, doesn't everyone want to see the church grow? It is important to make sure the laity are willing to make the sacrifices needed to help the church grow, whether it be with their funds, time or prayers.

When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh they did not jump right in and say, "All right king, it is time to let the Israelites go—our God has said so!"

It is easy to jump in and try to make changes right away in a kingdom or a new church, but God wants us to be a bit more diplomatic and soft spoken about it.

Moses and Aaron approached the Pharaoh first about letting the Israelites have a mini-vacation to celebrate in a festival to God in the wilderness. Vacations for slaves were unheard of so Pharaoh refused the request. He made the Israelites work harder and provided less materials for their labors. Naturally the elders of the Israelites complained to Moses and Aaron about the

trouble they had caused them in their work. How quick they were to forget that God was going to deliver them through these men!

We are like those Israelite elders! We want to grumble and complain about all the problems in our churches. We forget that God has promised to help us deal with these problems. Also Satan creates problems in every church in which there is potential for spiritual growth. Satan wants to snuff out the work of God in our lives. If Satan can sidetrack us from our relationship with God, he can win the battle. When we grumble and complain about problems in our churches, does it really solve them?

Moses was a bit discouraged about what was happening to the Israelites. In Exodus 5:22, Moses asks the Lord why He sent him since the people were mistreated. God reassured Moses that He had everything under control (see the following chapters of Exodus).

God even allows trials and disappointments to come to us. No one likes to have bad things happen to them. It is important to remember when we are in the midst of these trials and disappointments that God has a reason for such experiences. We need to cry out to the Lord, "Save me, for I cannot survive alone."

When Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go, God did not lead them through the Philistine's territory because they were not able to face war with the Philistines. God could have easily fought a war for them, but their faith was so weak He had another plan. God led them toward the Red Sea with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God gave the Israelites a visible sign He was with them. They were not used to making decisions for themselves.

A slave does not have to think when he is a slave; he does what his master tells him to do.

There are some people today who would like to have God show them visible signs of where He is leading them. In some ways this could be good because there would be no doubt. However, in other ways, a visible sign could be bad because it shows that we are not putting as much faith and trust in God as we should. It may also prevent us from making the best out of a bad situation. I do not believe God has a plan A, B, C for our lives. God has not made us to be robots. He has given us an amazing ability to learn and choose what we want to do in our lives. I have heard women say they did not choose the right person to marry so they should just leave their spouses and find new ones. God does not tell us to do this. He wants us to stay committed to our mates and press forward. God did allow for divorce in Moses' day, but He only did it because of the hardness of the Israelites' hearts. We can look all around us and see what a horrible thing divorce is. So many people in our churches are hurting from divorce. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin. We need to love these people and reach out to help and encourage them. We also need to guard our own hearts so we do not fall into the "what if" trap that leads to divorce.

When Pharaoh realized his slaves were really gone, he decided to chase and capture them; he quickly forgot all the signs God had shown him. The Israelites saw the Egyptians coming after them and began to mistrust God; they grumbled and complained about their situation. Moses reassured the people that God would deliver them and

encouraged them not to be afraid.

As pastoral wives we need to have such a strong relationship with the Lord so that no matter what happens in our lives and our churches we can say to our church members, "Stand firm and see what the Lord will do!" This is not an easy thing! The longer I am involved in the ministry, the more I realize that I must not give in to feelings of despair and negativism. I must constantly place my trust in the Lord and say, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" People like to be around those who seem to be happy with themselves and their lot in life.



The saying, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" applies to the leadership in our churches. Church members tend to follow their leaders in attitude and actions. If the pastor and his wife are negative about things, you can be sure the church members will be too!

God performed a wonderful miracle for the Israelites when He parted the Red Sea and allowed the sea to destroy their enemies. God wants to perform wonderful miracles for us in the ministry. I have known of people on their death beds, who upon being anointed were healed and able to

be a blessing to their families because of it. God will perform miracles for us, but He is waiting for us to ask for them. We need to take the step of faith and ask God for miracles! God loves the word "impossible" for with God all things are possible!

Moses and the Israelites sang a song of praise to the Lord when He delivered them from the Egyptians at the Red Sea.

We need to remember to praise God in song when good things happen in our churches. There is nothing like singing to lift our spirits and enhance our worship to the Lord. Many churches are afraid of allowing praise-filled music in their services for fear it will turn into a celebration-type of church. Most of the churches I have been to do not even come close to celebration with their extra slow hymns and sad faces! In music, as in anything else, there is a happy middle of the road.

God continued to prove His love for the Israelites by providing food and water for them. He wanted to take care of the spiritual needs of their lives as well as their physical needs when He gave them the Ten Commandments. The tabernacle was to be made in a specific way with specially made items inside it. God is a God of order and discipline.

God expects us to give Him our best. It saddens me to see how often people are not prepared for the Sabbath. Being too busy can be a sin if it takes us away from God's work and the things that really matter! For example, Sabbath School superintendents need to prepare everything ahead of time so Sabbath School can run smoothly. (In one of our churches, we have five Sabbath School superintendents. It helps if each

superintendent has plenty of time to prepare for Sabbath School; it lessens the likelihood of burn out); deacons should be well organized when they take up the offering and not rush around trying to find another deacon; and elders on the platform also need to be organized! Some people naturally tend to be organized. (I am one of those organizers, but I can easily go to an extreme and that isn't good either.)

I believe we should plan ahead by setting goals and objectives for our churches. It is a good idea to have a church-planning meeting in January with your church members. This gives them an opportunity to tell the pastor and his wife the things they would like to see happen in the church. You may be surprised at some of the ideas that come up in these meetings! (At one church, the people wanted to have more church socials and activities for young people and non-church member spouses. When we put this idea to practice, our church changed from being a church of mostly old people to a church of young adults!) God will bless our efforts in these planning meetings and we will accomplish more with less of the hassles!

There is a saying that when God closes a door, He always opens a window. This is true. When I look back at my life I see how God has given me those windows when I was determined to break down the door!

God worked very hard to show the Israelites the windows He left open for them. It is unfortunate that very few of them learned from their mistakes and failed to repent and return to the Lord. Every time I read about the Israelites, I am amazed at how Moses trusted in God to see him

through his many problems with that grumbling group of children. (If I had been leading the Israelites and God decided to kill them for their wickedness, I would not have begged the Lord to spare them and take my life instead! No siree—I would have said, "Take them—they're yours anyway—good riddance to them!" It just goes to show you that God isn't finished working with me yet!)

How do you feel when church members approach you to tell you something they don't like about what your husband said or did? Moses had to deal with his own brother and sister complaining to others about him! God took care of that problem by striking Miriam with leprosy. God will take care of the people complaining about our husbands too.

God has a wonderful plan for our lives. He loves to give good gifts to His children. As we study,

pray and share with others, let us take advantage of the promises God has made in leading us. I like the thoughts expressed in the poem by Ray Lessin:

In His Time

I wait on God to bring to pass all
He has promised me,
And as I wait, I rest in faith, for
what I cannot see.
For in His way He will provide at
just the perfect time,
Everything that's good and right
to bless this life of mine.

God had a better plan for Moses instead of letting him go to the promised land. He could not bear to be separated from him through death, so He took Moses to heaven. He gave Moses a much better reward than the promised land.

Let us strive to have that kind of relationship with God as we let Him lead in our lives! ❀



*They that wait upon the Lord shall
renew their strength; they shall mount
up with wings as eagles; they shall run,
and not be weary; and they shall walk,
and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31, KJV

Unrealistic Expectations and Misplaced Dreams

Madalyn Allen

From girlhood many women have been taught that happiness comes from achieving fame or fortune. Whether the model is Cinderella or Queen Esther, women subtly learn that marriage is one way to make their dreams come true. From childhood we are encouraged to think about who we want to marry. It is inbred that we should not settle for a pagan, substance abuser, or non-motivated man.

In many ways there is nothing wrong with this thinking. All social relationships are based on the formula:

reward - costs = profit.

No one wants to feel used. Biblically, the apostle Paul tells us not to be unequally matched. Balance is central to any relationship. We all want to get roughly equivalent to what we give, especially from a relationship.

Pastors' wives are no different. We, too, have carefully selected our spouses. But what attracts us to them? What rewards did we imagine we would receive by marrying a pastor?

Usually all the dynamics of establishing a relationship are evident: age, physical attractiveness, background, approval

among acquaintances, stability, etc. But there is another underlying dynamic present. Potentially, a pastor is a leader who will command respect. To those who value spirituality, he can seem superior to others. He is a star. Or at least there is the hope that he will be. He can seem exciting, influential and admirable. And since fantasy plays a big part in female sexuality, this dream of being somebody by being identified with someone important can play a significant part in our original selection of a pastor husband.

It seems that this dynamic should lead to happiness ever after. But that is not always the case. Every year since my husband entered the ministry, we have experienced one of our pastor-friend's marriages breaking up because the wife walked away. Why? The fantasy did not come true. The importance and attention she imagined she would receive from this relationship became disillusionment when the door to reality opened.

Her disappointment is predestined because of the kind of man she married. Pastors, for the most part, are more developed in the male-female traits than the

Madalyn Allen and her husband, Ed, spent three years as missionaries in Hong Kong. They currently live in Southern California where Ed pastors the Rolling Hills Church. Madalyn is in the final stages of completing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Fuller Seminary. Her interests include identity development in ministry, integration of psychology and theology, child psychology, trauma in ministry, and the treatment of character disorders.

general population. They show more concern, act more helpful, and are more nurturing. This is what most women say they desire in a man. Women come to seek the pastor's advice and call to discuss their problems. After marriage it can feel like he is having an affair. He is serving everyone else's needs with the qualities that attracted his wife.

Many times the minister's wife adds her water to the soup by fulfilling her desires for status through her husband's profession. She gives up her personal aspirations and lives a lot of her dreams vicariously through her husband's ministry. She may reason, "If he succeeds, so do I." Yet, after lonesome hours and years of hard work, it does not always feel like success. This back-seat role can leave her feeling like she is playing second fiddle. It is so easy to believe everyone else is responsible for the moves in the playing field of life. These feelings of hopelessness especially surface when she is asked over and over again to do the job nobody else will take.

When these fantasy dreams do not become reality, it is easy to become enmeshed in a situation that seems, at best, impossible to unravel. Affairs are attractive to a needy woman who has not developed her own self-esteem or feels her life is completely unfulfilled. Since the fantasy aspect of her marriage has been lost in the mundane daily necessities of budgets, children and work, a fresh new fantasy life is alluring. It can keep her feeling like her feet need not touch the ground. She can pump energy into it. And it can be a way of making a statement: "I have a life." "I am somebody." "Someone values me."

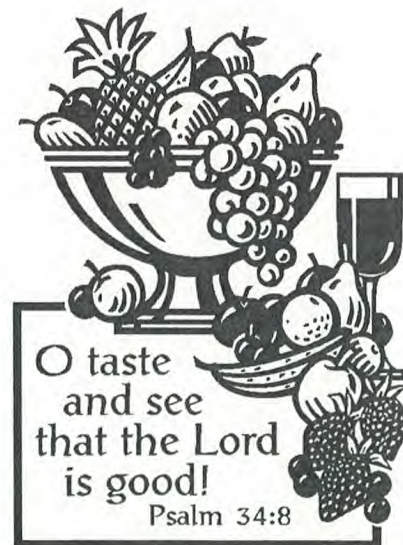
One minister's wife had a brief affair and in working through the problems with her husband, he resolved there was no reason to break up their home. However, she insisted on leaving him and taking their children. The affair was her way of tangibly confirming the fact she was miserable.

What are the answers? What do we do with our desires for intimacy? How do we take the loneliness out of our lives? First of all, recognize that the problem lies with our own unrealistic expectations. These desires will not be met by throwing away our marriages. Second, since the problem is ours, take the necessary steps to fix it. Happiness in a relationship comes when we assume responsibility for ourselves. If intimacy is not present in marriage, take the responsibility for creating it. Learn tools of communication that facilitate intimacy.

I have done this. There was a time when I expected my husband to know by my little antics or looks when I wanted some extra

affection. I would not consider directly telling him because I imagined only cheap women were honest about what they really wanted. To verbalize my needs, I felt like I was selling myself. However, as I realized the manipulateness and childishness of this approach, I was able to give it up and openly state my feelings. It was a hard but necessary lesson that has led to a much more harmonious relationship.

Very seldom do our marriages fulfill all the dreams we idealistically hoped for in the beginning. The ability to construct a good solid marriage comes when we recognize the problems and set out to address them directly. We need not be victims of a maze of social expectations, but rather we may see our problems as stepping stones of strength. Jesus will help us recognize that behind our rusty relationships are the silver linings of a relationship built on *His* desires for our lives. The rewards will be tremendous. ❀



Two Unequal Sisters

Petra Heibutzki



Company is coming! Preparations are running in high gear. Windows are being cleaned and rugs shaken. The menu is being planned with great care.

That evening, she sinks exhausted into her bed. But sleep does not come. Thoughts buzz through her head: "Did I think of everything? What will I do if the roast does not cook thoroughly? By no means shall I forget to get fresh flowers tomorrow. Will the new cot be comfortable enough for the guest? Tomorrow I will ask my sister to get some whipping cream for the cake. Thankfully I am not alone. She stands by my side with a helping hand. I am so grateful for her help." Finally, she falls asleep.

The first thought in the morning is for the kind visitor who is expected to come. Then she thinks of all other preparations which still need to be made.

Together, the woman and her sister start their chores. During the greatest bustle a knock is heard at the door. The capable housewife is struck by fear. "The company is here and I am not ready!"

The friend, with his twelve companions, is greeted and taken to the sitting-room. Then she quickly rushes to the kitchen, puts

the roast into the oven, and prepares the dessert.

Martha continues busily then notices that she is alone. "Well, of all things, where is Mary? Why did she stop? She knows many things still have to be prepared."

Martha goes to get the big ceramic bowl from the living room. She sees Mary and murmurs, "This can't be true!" There Mary sits at the feet of Jesus oblivious to the world around her. Martha feels Mary is negligent in her duties. It is brother Lazarus's responsibility to tend to the visitor while the women prepare the meal. Can't Mary see the visitor has brought along 12 friends? There is much to be done in the kitchen!

Softly Martha calls her sister, but Mary doesn't respond. Anger wells up. "She sits lazily and lets me slave away. Impudent! And we have to serve the meal for 16 people!"

Martha is so upset she can't keep silent. She will get help from Jesus. "Lord don't you care that my sister lets me do all the work alone? Please tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41, 42).

With which of these two women can you identify yourself? Are you a Martha or a Mary?

Isn't it true that we, as ministers' wives, are often working around the clock. This large amount of work consumes us. There is always something to do. We sacrifice ourselves for others. We like to do this work; after all, we do it for Jesus. The Lord values our caring and yet one thing is more important than all the work for God—sitting at the feet of Jesus!

Do you take time off regularly to sit at His feet in order to be recharged and to learn from Him? We are not going to be saved by the amount of work we have performed. We are redeemed only if we have an intimate relationship with our Savior.

From the perspective of a housewife I can agree with Martha. But Jesus applies different standards. He designates Mary as the one who comprehends what is most important in life.

If I do not sit repeatedly at the feet of Jesus then I remain empty and hollow, even if I act like a perfect minister's wife and seem to have all things under control.

We have to steal some time in order to be alone with Jesus. We must be prepared to let go of all other things: pressing deadlines, urgent phone calls, or important visits, in order to be filled with Jesus' power. Then we will be able to start our work with new strength. I desire to be a Mary. Do you? ❀

Petra is a pastor's wife living in Detmold, Germany. She has two children ages 12 and 10. She says, "I have been a pastor's wife for 15 years. I love music, needlework, reading, and taking care of the Pathfinders in our district."

How Do I Keep My Children Quiet in Church?

Heather J. Godfrey

Regardless of one's nationality, environment or childcare expertise, most parents have found themselves trying to keep their children quiet during the church service. Several women from the South Pacific Division agreed to share their ideas about how they keep their children quiet during church.

All the women agreed having a Sabbath bag which is used only for church is a good idea. The bag should be filled with quiet things such as felts, books, soft toys, etc.

Meredith Cousins says it is important to keep Sabbath things just for Sabbath. That way the children will look forward to playing with those items because they are special. She also carries a roll of sticky tape wherever she goes. She says the children can sticky tape their arms, shoes, legs, chairs, eyes and mouths and they love it. Keeping a supply of "peel-off" stickers provides hours of fun for youngsters. While the stickers are great for church, they also work well if the family is kept

waiting in the car for something. The stickers may be placed on the car windows, and then removed with ease.

Glenda Harker recommends practicing how to be quiet during worship service. Children learn by doing, and this activity may be practiced at home. If you have junior age children, encourage them to read the Junior Guide during the church service.



Listening to the sermon and marking down how many times "God" or "Jesus" is said can interest many children, according to B. D'Costa.

Karen Sim takes along a small supply of toys (not rattles). She also carries a juice bottle with her. Every parent experiences a time when a child continues to fuss. Ms. Sim suggests taking the child out of the sanctuary at that time.

Heather Godfrey, a pastor's wife in Australia, shares ideas from the South Pacific Division on how pastors' wives cope with small children during church.

However, once the child quiets down, it is important to return to the sanctuary.

Browsing at the Adventist Book Center is a treat for Melissa Urquhart's children. They pick out age-appropriate books they want to take to church. Ms. Urquhart also encourages parents to sit in areas where the children have a little room to move around. A little space seems to keep the children happier longer.

"Sitting a child on each side of you helps keep the noise to a minimum," states B. McCurdy. She also suggests letting babies have their bottles at the same time as the sermon. Most babies will sleep after a bottle.

Reverse the Sabbath school and Church service. Merlene finds that after much activity in Sabbath school, it is hard to calm children down. If church is first, the children come rested and are more likely to be quiet.

Lagi Puni said, "When my two girls were at the ages of two and three, I made a very special box and put in two little picture Bibles. They weren't allowed to open it until Sabbath during the

divine service, and by then they looked forward to opening that box. That kept them quiet. I always put something special in that box every Sabbath for years."



*Though it is
not always
easy to
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service, planning
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Finally Heather shares her experiences with us. "Our first two were like chalk and cheese. One was quiet and the other...! Well, it was a case of trying to think ahead, especially when we

had two Sabbath Schools and two divine services in the one day as well as all the travelling to get there. I always packed quiet books and a few quiet toys in my Sabbath bag. The children would be taken to the toilet between Sabbath School and Church, then they would be given a drink so they would be comfortable during the service. I never took food into the sanctuary. This can become a habit. A good breakfast is a must on Sabbath morning, especially if the service is likely to be prolonged. Children need to be taught what worship is all about. Teaching begins at home. Older children can be encouraged to take note of what the speaker is saying and either draw pictures on the topic, or follow the reading of the Bible texts in their own Bible. Because my husband is the minister and I know what the sermon is about, I often supply the children in the congregation with pictures or activities that relate to the sermon."

Though it is not always easy to keep the young one quiet during the church service, planning and perseverance pays off. ❀



*Let the little children come to me, and do
not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these.*

—Matthew 19:14, NIV

A Gem of a Husband

Birol Christo

Who can find a good husband? For his price is far above rubies and diamonds. The heart of his wife is bound up with his, because he was good to her all the days of her life. You will find him in Proverbs 31:10-31, side by side with the virtuous woman, his spouse. He is a rare gem indeed.

He loved her from the day they were married. He made her feel at ease; she felt free to open up to him and expose her feelings. He understood her nature, her needs, and her desires.

He provided for her well. He knew that a woman needs a helper in the home, and he realized it would be too much for her to do all the household chores by herself, especially when the babies arrived one after another. So this husband provided well for his house, there was food, clothing, and maid-servants. He noticed how frugal she was, so he gave her money to run the house. With what she saved, she bought

wool and flax and made garments for the children, for herself, and also for him. He took notice that she wasted not her time, money, talent, and energy.

He trusted her with money so he never questioned her about how she used the money he gave her. He never insisted that she write down all her expenses so he could check. He never took back the balance of the money. What she saved he let her use as she pleased. He trusted her with men with whom she had business. He safely trusted her in everything and she did not betray his trust.

He gave her room to grow. He allowed her to improve her talents of sewing and weaving. She not only made clothing for the family but also to sell. He did not suppress her. He drew out all her goodness and abilities. Her business did well. She made enough money so she could help the poor and the needy. All loved her as there was kindness in her tongue. He was kind to her and let her help anyone she wanted to. Her business grew. She bought a field and planted a vineyard. He praised her. He told others at the gates what a remarkable woman his wife was. He showed others

the garments his wife made for him to wear. He recognized that in spite of her busy activities, she bought up her children well so that they too rose up and blessed her.

He was not a dictator. He did not chide her for getting up early and leaving him alone when she traveled. He wanted her to be free and happy. He did not grumble. He trusted her when she was away on her business trips and waited for her return with excitement because he loved her truly. He admired her ability and efficiency.

He gave her freedom—freedom to travel and do business—freedom of choice—freedom of speech. He did not tell her what to wear, how to do her hair, and how to do this and that. He was a God-fearing man, respected and known by people all around.

Who can find a husband like this one for his price is far above rubies and diamonds? The heart of his wife is bound up with his love. He loved her as Christ loved the Church. He is the one behind her, the cause of her success, the cause of her happiness. Are there any more husbands like this one? I would like to know! ❀

Birol Christo is a former Shepherdess Coordinator for the Southern Asia Division. Birol and her husband, Gerald, are retired and living in Maranatha Colony, Hosur, India.

Transfers are Part of Ministry Work

Dorothy Garwe



We have had our joys and sorrows in the ministry. We thank the Lord for everything because we know He is in control and leading our lives.

Year after year we were being transferred from one district to another. This really disturbed us at first, because as soon as we got used to the people we were pastoring, we were transferred. Yet we put our trust in the Lord and let Him lead in our lives.

I remember one move in particular. I had just unloaded my china dishes in the sink when it collapsed. All my dishes were broken into little pieces! I was heartbroken. I said just a short prayer in my heart, "Lord, give me patience." I did not know what to do, but I thank the Lord because He granted me the patience.

Another transfer for my husband came. In the past, transfers were within the Conference. But this time our transfer was from one office to another. Just the news of being transferred shocked us, because it was from a Conference to a Division. We had sleepless nights, trying to think why this call was directed to us,

Dorothy Garwe is a secretary in the American Embassy in Harare. Her husband, Bob, is the Stewardship/ Lay Activities Director, East Zimbabwe Conference, Eastern Africa Division. Gardening, cooking, sewing, and conducting vegetarian cooking seminars are her hobbies.

but we had no answer. We prayed to the Lord and said, "Wherever you want to send us, Lord, we'll go." We were so nervous we didn't know what to do. We had the support of our friends who kept on reminding us that it was God's work and we should go and serve Him. We were really encouraged but still shocked to accept the call. Finally we agreed and were transferred. But we had problems with the house where we were going to stay. It was infested with fleas. We had a two-week old baby and we were very concerned about the fleas. We knew the Lord was watching over us though because our little child never got bitten once, even though we, our relatives and our friends who assisted us in the move were covered with flea bites!

We had our joys in hosting people at our house for meals. At first, though, it was not easy. A lot of things would come in my mind, "Oh, I am not a very good cook. Will the people enjoy what I am going to prepare for them? I do not have much, and I don't know what to prepare for them." All these ideas would clutter my mind until I learned that being hospitable is not about having abundant food and being the best cook, although it is good to learn how to prepare good nutritious

food. I prayed to God to help me because I was nervous every time people would come to our house for a meal. I praise Him because He helped me. It's not a burden anymore. I find joy whenever we invite people to our house.

My husband found joy in serving and working with people in different Unions in our Division. We really thank the Lord for His calls to serve Him in different capacities. "Prayer is the answer to every problem in life." It puts us in tune with Divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly. So often we do not pray in certain situations because, from our standpoint, the outlook is hopeless. But, *nothing* is impossible with God. *Nothing* is so entangled that it cannot be remedied: No human relationship is *too strained* for God to bring about reconciliation and understanding: No habit so *deeply rooted* that it cannot be overcome: No one is so *weak* that he cannot be strong: No one is so *ill* that he cannot be healed. No mind is so *dull* that it cannot be made brilliant. Whatever we need, if we *trust* God, He will supply it. If anything is causing worry and anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and trust God for healing, love and power. "But with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). ❀

Paralyze Those Thieves

Hannah P. Sandy

*An unwelcome
experience brings an
important lesson.*



Hannah Priscilla Sandy is studying for a Masters in Public Health at Loma Linda University in California. She likes reading, writing, cooking, and making friends.

Lord, if there is anything in me that is unlike You, please up root it!" I was praying. And, to be honest, I felt rather pleased about my spiritual progress. Just a few days ago on a busy Friday afternoon, the Devil failed twice to get me into emotional fireworks. First, a beautiful glass jug was cracked, and then a special black skirt was scorched. After praying over both misfortunes, I congratulated myself at knowing the difference between "just things" and matters of eternal value.

Today, however, the Devil caught me off guard with something bigger. Early this morning when I opened the bedroom door, I noticed that the garage door was open. My heart flew into my mouth.

"Dan!" I shouted to my sleeping husband. "Thieves have gotten into your car!"

We scrambled into the garage. The sight was so horrible I could hardly look. Every valuable object was gone from the car—tires, mirrors, headlights, battery, radio/tape player, and so on. What a wreck!

Bursting into tears, I cried, "Lord, how can You allow this?" That car was dedicated for Your

service!" I rattled on and on in prayer until I thought of the perfect thing to do: put a curse on the thieves.

"Lord," I shouted at the top of my voice, "paralyze those thieves! Visit them right now and make them know we are Your servants. Paralyze them from head to foot!"

Upon further thought, I modified my request somewhat: "Paralyze all but their mouths, Lord, so they can confess the deed and we can recover every item of the car!"

Pentecostal brimstone

Later that morning my husband called the family together for prayer. In his usual serenity he committed the matter to the Lord. He said he wasn't going to dictate his own will to God, but only wanted to thank Him that His will would be done. He said a few more nice things as well.

Well, I didn't think his prayer was effective in getting through to God, so I chimed in with Pentecostal fervor to demand that He rain fire and brimstone upon the thieves. Hadn't God sent bears at Elisha's demand? Hadn't He sent fire when Elijah prayed? And hadn't He told us that if we

asked *anything*, believing, He would answer? "You have to paralyze them," I begged. "Lord, You have to! Let the world know we are Your true servants."

I got up from my knees feeling satisfied that I had offered a better prayer than my husband, one that the mighty Jesus couldn't help answering. My husband and I decided to fast and pray for the day.

We live at the mission house, with offices just downstairs. The compound soon was bustling as our fellow workers came up to express concern and sympathy. Their sentiments of love warmed my heart. Then, as my husband visited the police station to report the crime, I managed to dress the kids and send them off to school. Following worship downstairs with my colleagues. I was too numb to stay around the office, so I went back up to our living quarters.

Throughout the day I spent much time on my knees, wrestling with the Lord to mete out suitable punishment on the culprits. I even reminded God that He hadn't done anything last year when we were burglarized, even though I prayed that He would force the thieves to bring our things back. Surely this time He would act if I meant anything at all to Him.

Soft voice inside

I tried my best to ignore the soft voice inside me with its gentle urgings: "Hannah, love your enemies, pray for those who hurt you, and forgive the thieves." I was sure God couldn't be asking that of me. Why God Himself knew this was our only means of transportation. My husband is the mission president, and we can't get around much without a car. The Lord surely understood why we hadn't been able to insure

the car—the mission simply had no funds. So how could He permit such a thing to happen and then expect me to forgive the perpetrators!

Well, the Lord continued to reason with me all day long with that soft small voice. By late afternoon I was ready to listen. I recalled that when Christ came, He taught us to love our enemies. "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for an eye, and tooth for tooth. . . . But I say unto you: Love your enemies'" (Matt. 5:38, 44, NIV). "So, Hannah, forgive the thieves! Pray for them!

Suddenly the reality of my situation dawned on me. I was not justified in praying for God to paralyze the thieves, no matter how much the loss hurt. Anyway, as my little daughter pointed out, how could I expect the stolen items to be brought back if the thieves were paralyzed? So I started saying, "Lord, help me to forgive the thieves, and just give me peace."

In tune with grace

By the time the family met for sundown worship, I found myself completely in tune with my husband as he read from Romans 8:28-39. I testified to him and the children that I was no longer wishing for the thieves to become paralyzed. Instead I felt sorry for them that they let themselves be instruments in the hands of the enemy.

And that's where the story ends. The thieves were not caught, so the car is still crippled, and I have no idea how we will get it back into working order. However, the Lord has brought great good out of this tragedy by teaching me to forgive the unforgivable.

Thank you, Jesus. ❀



The Pastor's Wife

*She enters, dressed
In her Sabbath best,
And takes her place
In the House of the Blest.
And bowing her head
As she's seated there,
She breaths to God
This humble prayer
"O, Lord, help him
His own true love
To speak with words
From Thy throne above,
Help him to bring
Thy message sweet
To those who come
With Thee to meet."
And then he rises,
His sermon to give
Words by which
The laymen live.
He breaks to them
The Bread of Life.
But first he smiles
Down at his wife.*

—Anonymous

Triumph of the Spirit

Ruth McKinney



Ruth Esther McKinney is the Coordinator of the Office Administration Department and an assistant professor at West Indies College, Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies.

Her husband, Silas N. McKinney, is the president of the West Indies Union Conference. They have three grown children—two girls and a boy. Also, they have been blessed with four grandchildren—three boys and a girl.

Ruth likes to write poetry, do gardening, play Scrabble, and listen to good music. She has been privileged to have a number of articles published locally, and she has had to fill various speaking appointments recently. She gives God all the glory for anything she has been able to accomplish.

I was ushered into a bright, airy room which offered a breathtaking view of lush vegetation and distant mountains. The setting was so peaceful and relaxing, with the chirping of the birds outside giving background music, that I was unprepared to see my friend, Merle—that vibrant, out-going lady—lying so helplessly on the high, hospital-type bed.

She asked who had come in, as her sight was just about gone. When I called my name, it took a few seconds to register as I had been living away from Jamaica for many years. Then her sharp memory put it together, and before I knew it, she was asking for all the members of my family by name and saying over and over, "What a mighty God we serve!"

As a double amputee, with restricted hand movements and diabetes-ravaged sight, she evoked pity. Great sympathy welled up in my heart for this lovely lady who had so many strikes against her. But, I dared not express even one word of sadness, despite my aching heart. Even to my inquiry, "How are you doing?" elicited only praise to God for His many blessings.

She wanted to hear all about my children and grandchildren. Yes, all my children were grown,

married, and pursuing their own careers. When she asked I told her of my mother's passing, and she expressed words of comfort and spoke of being faithful so we could meet my mother in the better land.

We talked, laughed, and exchanged experiences for over an hour; and not once did she mention an ache, a pain of any unpleasant circumstances. No expression of discomfort for having to lie in bed for over ten years, no bitterness for having to suffer severe pain, no rancor for the aborting of a successful career escaped her lips. I looked at her and marveled. She was a cheerful and sunny as the birds outside her window. What an example! What a wonderful spirit!

Then I noticed the telephone resting on the pillow in her bed. She told me she started and has maintained a telephone ministry for many years. She prepares a text from the Bible, a devotional thought, and some philosophical material every week. This she uses to encourage and cheer about 20 people every Friday. At the end of each call she reminds the individual of the time sun sets. She cannot leave her bed, but she is ministering to others. What a triumph of the spirit! No self-pity! Her only desire is to continue to be the shepherdess she always

was and serve in any way she can.

My mind raced back to the Merle Bennett I knew 15 or 20 years ago. As a pastor's wife, her wise counsel, dedication, and positive outlook endeared her to her husband's parishioners. As an effective, caring teacher, she distinguished herself in the Education Department of the West Indies College in Mandeville, Jamaica. Her students made history in educational circles at that time, for on more than one occasion all her teacher trainees, in one sitting, passed the Joint Board of Education government examinations. This was quite a creditable accomplishment. Merle, however did not "blow her own horn." She had the satisfaction of a job well done and that was good enough for her.

Merle was progressive and ambitious. Not satisfied with her B.A. and M.A. degrees, she set her sights on a terminal degree. Unfortunately, after successfully completing all the course work for her Ph.D., illness forced her to shelve this dream. However, though all the vicissitudes of her life, her mind remains alert, her memory keen, her spirit sweet.

Her voice refocused my attention on what she was saying. "Thank you for the inspirational poems you have been sending me; and you know, I listen to the tapes you gave me almost every day."

"That's nothing," I replied and hurried on to sidetrack by saying, "Tell me about your children."

"Wayne now lives in the United States and is doing very well." She continued to tell me about his new position and then she mentioned her daughter. Melody returned home after getting her M.A. degree and accepted a position at West Indies College as Director of Admissions and Records.

Merle smiled as we talked of her children's successes.

An optimistic outlook and a positive attitude helped her to count her blessings in spite of all her physical afflictions. Her loving and devoted husband, Harry, has been a pastor for 41 years. He was the Church Ministries Director for the West Indies Union and gave his services as lecturer for many years at West Indies College. Now retired he helps to keep Merle happy, for she depends upon Harry to be her best friend, confidant, lover, and nurse. She counts him as her special blessing, for to her he epitomizes the spirit of the vow, "for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health..." They have been married for 42 years.

Other members of this close-knit family rally around Merle in support and help. Pastors and church members come to look for her from time to time. Individually and in groups, the shepherdeses in the area visit her to sing, read, and pray with her.

She counts these times as real blessings and looks forward to the interaction and fellowship.

Merle's indomitable spirit reflects the working of the Holy Spirit in her life. As a committed Christian, she gives her life to God anew each day. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit" is the only way a person saddled with such discouraging disabilities can valiantly overcome and display the sweet fragrance of God's love. She is an example to all who complain for every little inconvenience or problem. Instead of recounting sorrows, she counts her blessings; for she is not disabled but enabled through the triumph of the Spirit in her life. It is only through the Holy Spirit, who comforts and sustains her, that she continues to "fight the good fight of faith."

Merle is a source of inspiration to the downcast, a fount of encouragement to the depressed; and she brightens every life she touches because of the triumph of her own beautiful spirit. ❀



Priorities

If the heart is devoted to the mirage of the world, to the creature instead of the creator, the disciple is lost. . . .

However urgently Jesus may call us, His call fails to find access to our hearts. Our hearts are closed because they have already been given over to another.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship





Shepherdess International News

Euro-Africa Division

Hanni Klenk, from the German Swiss Conference, reports that 12 ministers' wives met together in a home. There a young minister's wife, a student of medicine, processed with them questions on genetics. In the afternoon they baked the dough they brought with them and made 40 bags of cookies; these were given to Reach International to sell and the proceeds helped children in need.

Inter-American Division



Shepherdess Coordinators for the North and South Mexican Unions met for an advisory and discussion of the Strategic Plan for Shepherdess in 1997.

Ruth McKinney, the Shepherdess Coordinator for the West Indies Union organization has held several pinning ceremonies around the Union.



East Jamaica Conference pinning ceremony. Mrs. Ruth McKinney and Mrs. Yvonne Bignel led out.



Mrs. E. Thomas, president of the Shepherdess organization in the West Jamaica Conference and Mrs. Ruth McKinney.



West Jamaica Conference pastors' wives after their pinning ceremony.

South American Division

Maria Felisa de Rando, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Austral Union, reports that they held a ten-day ministerial council in February and 220 pastors' wives attended (only three from the whole union were missing). The topics included: preventive medicine, stress and the pastor's wife, alternative medicine and the Adventist Church, the health of children, computer classes, and personal interviews.

Mrs. Rando has also been involved in personal evangelism. She held a series of meetings in Montecristo, Cordoba, Argen-



Maria Felisa de Rando

tina. Every night, for eight weeks, she publicly shared the gospel. Of the 118 persons who attended, 34 were baptized. Today there is a church in Montecristo with 38 members because of this dedicated woman.

South Pacific Division

Not long after Jill Hisco began working in the Torres Strait, she learned that over 400 babies were delivered each year at the hospital on Thursday Island. Mothers from every island in the Torres Strait and the top end of Cape York would come to Thursday Island for delivery. Jill realized that this would be a wonderful opportunity for witnessing. Using the "Welcome Baby" program, Jill and Cecilia Enoch visited the maternity ward twice a week to give a gift of clothing and Welcome Baby Card.



Cecilia Enoch and Jill Hisco

This opened the way for these island people to have their first contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Cecilia continues the program on Thursday Island alone now, as Jill and her pastor-husband, Ken,

have moved on to Lord Howe Island. Jill has now begun the Welcome Baby program on Lord Howe. Nine beautiful babies have been born in the last 18 months. Jill says the "Welcome Baby" program is a very easy and most rewarding form of outreach.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Pastors' wives on the Island of Guam met for their annual Christmas party.



Front row, left to right: Valerie Krunich, Oni Jimeno, Shoko Tsuji, Jemina Lacson, and Carol Claus. Back row, left to right: Priscilla Ondap, Marilyn Rollins, Hatsumi Nobur, Leah Jano, Eve Sumicad, Hyang Ki Kong, and Mariquita Taitague.

Southern Asia Division

Hezbibah Kore, Shepherdess Coordinator for the South India Union, reports:

✿ Bharathi Thompson, a pastor's wife from the Karnataka Section, is now pastoring her own church. She also conducts Branch Sabbath Schools.

✿ A Shepherdess meeting was held in Bangalore on November 12 with 30 pastors' wives attending. Secret friends exchanged names and then all participated in a seminar where they learned the secrets of making good communion bread.

✿ A one-day Shepherdess meeting was held in Kottarakara with 35 in attendance.

✿ Six shepherdesses dedicated themselves for team ministry with their husbands when they

were ordained to the gospel ministry.

✿ The North Tamil Conference held a two-day Shepherdess meeting and 45 attended.

✿ Jean Sundaram, Shepherdess Coordinator for the South Tamil Conference, brought two precious souls to Jesus in baptism.

✿ The South Tamil Conference held a Shepherdess meeting for the Madural circle and 20 women attended (photo below).



✿ **Catherine Stephen Wittenesses for Christ**—Catherine Stephen is one of our shepherdesses working as a teacher in the KGF School. She and her husband, Stephen, who is pastor of the Oorgampet Church, are doing a great work in that area for God.

Catherine is very interested in doing God's work. She began by visiting the people in her neighborhood and telling them about God. Every Sabbath afternoon, she prayed with them. She also visited the sick people. As a result of this, Catherine started a Branch Sabbath School in this area called Telugu Line and about 70 children attend. Every Sabbath afternoon the children eagerly wait for her to arrive to start the Branch Sabbath School. The children are from Tamil and Telugu families.

Martha, a lady also interested in conducting Branch Sabbath Schools, assists Catherine. They reached out to the Telugu children too. This story does not end

here. Today, she has four Branch Sabbath Schools in Oorgampet.

One day a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Prabhu from Fitters Block area happened to see these people conducting the Branch Sabbath School in the Telugu Line area. They invited Catherine to start a Branch Sabbath School in their house. Twenty children from Fitters Block area attend the Branch Sabbath School.

Catherine conducts two more Branch Sabbath Schools in Pethapaly and North Tank Block. Most of the children attending the Branch Sabbath Schools are Hindus. As a result of the Branch Sabbath Schools, an effort meeting was conducted there in October 1996. At the end of the meetings, nine souls were baptized.

✿ On Sabbath, November 30, 1996, M. L. Narayana, Chaplain of Gifford Memorial Hospital, was ordained to the gospel ministry. Frances Campbell, Shepherdess Coordinator for the Southern Asia Division, welcomed his wife, Deborah, and presented her with *Close to Home*, the 1997 women's devotional book.



Share your adventures with *The Journal* readers!

We would be delighted to feature your Shepherdess chapter in this column. Send story and/or picture to the editorial office.

NEW SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL PROJECT



What is the funniest or most embarrassing thing that has happened to you?

Shepherdess International is in the process of compiling the funniest and most embarrassing things that have happened to clergy spouses. Through the years, women have shared with me their most delightful and humorous stories, and we want yours included in this compilation. *You may or may not choose to have your name printed with the incident!*

Want \$100.00?

Send us a catchy title for this collection of parsonage humor. If yours is chosen (and you are a pastor's wife) we'll send you US\$100.00! Suggest as many titles as you like.



Please send your story to:

Sharon Cress
Shepherdess International
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 U.S.A.

The proceeds from the sale of this book will fund pastors' wives' projects to share the good news of Jesus Christ.
