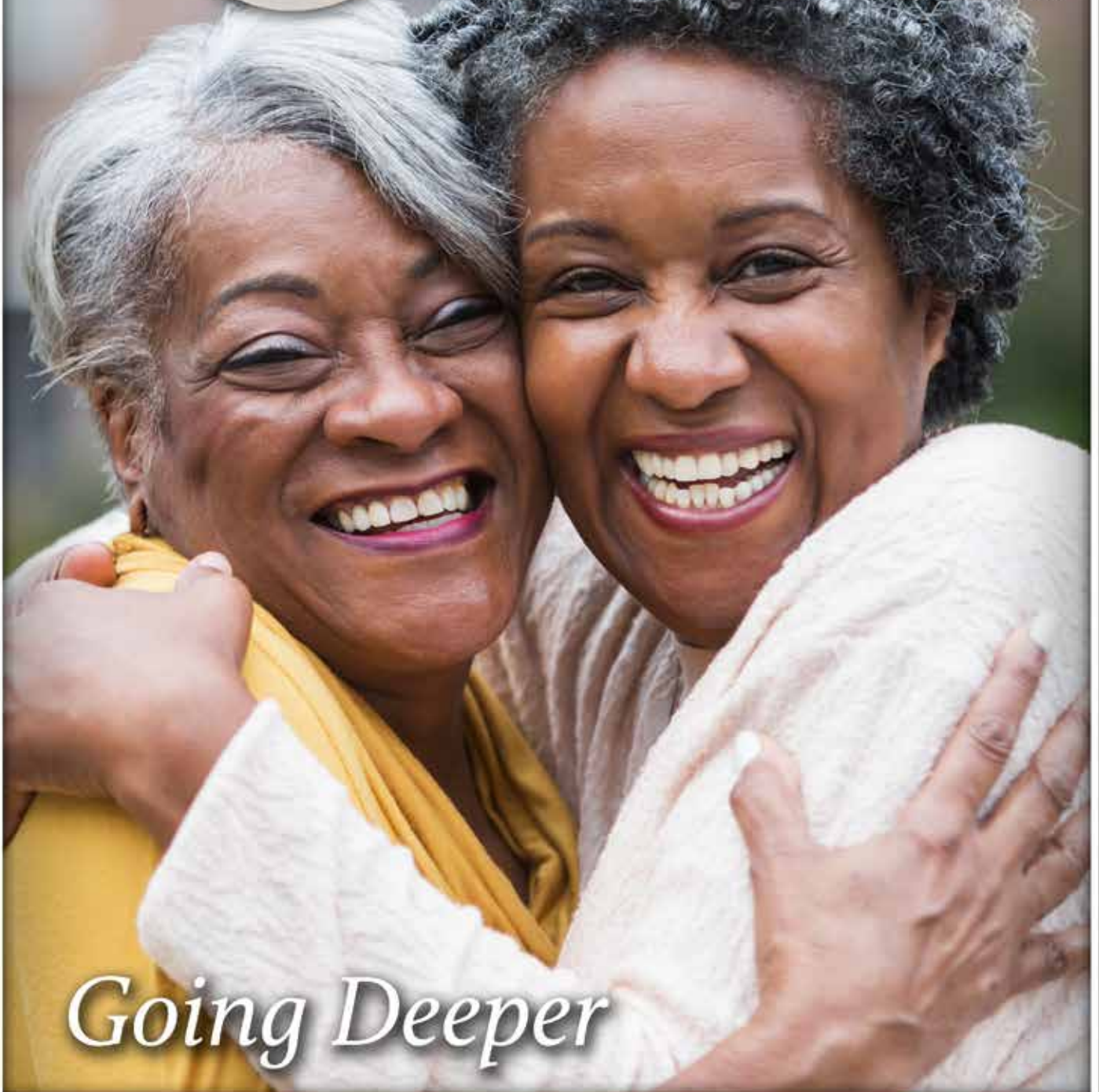


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

OCTOBER 2015



Going Deeper

A FRESH LOOK AT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



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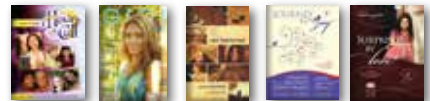
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On the Cover

In this issue, take a fresh look at women's ministries through the eyes of women who share and understand the deeply felt need for meaningful relationships, emotional support, and a closer walk with Christ.



Point of View»

BY CARMEN GRIFFITH » SOUTHWESTERN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



The Ministry of Women

Woman—made in the image of God and built by God. God's precious plant! We are the giver of life. Through us passes all life. We are strong and powerful. We are able to "leap tall buildings at a single bound." With that knowledge comes the responsibility and challenge of nurturing and affirming. We have more power than we could ever imagine. We are relational and have the power of love in our hands.

Exodus 9:16 says, "For this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee My power; and that My name be declared throughout all the earth."

It is important for us to act together and in harmony with the precepts of the gospel. As Shirley Benton (women's ministries director of the Columbia Union) stated in her remarks, "We are to covenant with our sisters to give love, assistance, and tools to grow, remain in the church, and become reproducing disciples. We must vow to create a culture of awareness as to how women can encourage other women in their Christian walk."

Only through the power of God can we excel in our reason for living. We were not made just to bear children and work in the kitchen. We were made to glorify God. We were made to show the world what a

wonderful God we serve, the God who gives us life.

We need to be careful what battles we choose to fight. Remember that the battle is not ours, but it is the Lord's. We have the power of the Lord in us, and we must allow His Holy Spirit to live



in us. We need to stand up and be counted. Stand up and be respected. Stand up and respect ourselves. Stand up and look like a child of God. Stand up like we belong to Him. Stand up and allow His power to dwell in us. Walk, talk, and look like a child of God. Walk, talk, and look like a daughter of the most High King.

We are strong. We are something to contend with. We are the daughters of the living God. Let us live to fulfill our purpose—the ministry that God has given us.

2 Timothy 1:7 states, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."



To Your Health

BY JESSICA LOZANO » SOUTHWESTERN UNION RECORD ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Better Health Starts Now: Six Ways to Improve Your Health

Get more sleep: The benefits of getting enough sleep are well documented. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH), sleep is essential for healthy brain function, emotional well-being, physical health, daytime performance, and safety. But, knowing you need to get enough sleep and getting enough sleep are two different things. What should you do if you're having a difficult time getting to sleep or staying asleep? According to NIH, try to get some physical activity in every day, and stick to a sleep schedule, going to sleep and waking up at the same time every day. Avoid heavy meals, strenuous exercise, and bright screens (which signal daytime to your brain) before bedtime. Instead, try to relax in the hour or so before bedtime, and sleep in a room that is cool, dark, and quiet.

Relax: Feel that tension in your shoulders? Or perhaps your heartbeat is racing as you think of all the things you need to get done this week. Relax! Easier said than done, right? Take an hour (schedule it if you have to) and write down your biggest stressors. The first step in easing the stress is acknowledging and planning how you will deal with these stressors. Accept that there are things in your life you cannot change; realize that you can only change your attitude with God's help. Start relaxing by taking a 15-minute break during the day to walk, read, or perhaps talk with God. Other ways to relax: get together with a friend, take up a hobby, or learn to do something new!

Get moving and get lifting: If you're already exercising, you're off to a great start. Aim to get at least 120 minutes of at least moderate cardio each week (30 minutes,

three times a week). Now, add some weights to your routine. Most women who exercise stick to cardio and light weights, if any. According to the Mayo Clinic, adding weight training to your regimen will help you maintain your muscle mass and a healthy weight, and will help develop dense bones, which reduces the risk of osteoporosis.



Unplug: How much time are you spending looking at your phone, on the Internet, or at a television that might be better spent in other ways? Nielson reports that the average American adult spends about 11 hours every day looking at some type of screen. Take a look at your phone, Internet, and television usage and decide if cutting back might be the right move to improve your life. Think of all the time you'll have to improve your relationships, to exercise, or to just relax!

Take a vacation: Whether you are single or married, a student, working, or retired, sometimes you need to take a step back from the tasks of every day in order to relax, refocus, and reconnect with loved ones. You don't have to spend a lot of money—but taking time to relax in this way will help relieve stress, benefiting both your emotional and physical well being.

Reconnect: First, reconnect with God. Ask Him to help you in your quest for a balanced and healthy life. He will help you! Second, reconnect with family and friends. According to Harvard Health Publications, quality relationships can improve health and increase longevity. According to one study, the social support of family and friends can be as important as getting enough sleep, exercising, and being physically active.

A Greater Calling

WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN, I went through a stretch of time when I wanted to be Secretary of State for the United States of America when I grew up. Though I didn't fully understand what that job actually entailed, something in me found the idea appealing. The responsibility, the impact, the need for careful thought and tactful diplomacy—among thousands of other things—seemed like a high calling.

And for sure, being Secretary of State for the United States would be a tremendous responsibility. But my desire for that job evaporated after a few months, because I found something much, much greater.

I encountered the King of the universe! And in Him I found One who not only treasured me, but who desired to utilize me in a work far more lasting, and drama much more intense than what the Secretary of State could ever experience.

You might think, "Yeah, that's what everyone says to chalk up an ordinary life to be something extraordinary."

Actually not.

A year later when God was really getting a hold of my life and heart, He began to immediately impress me with the reality that the pattern of His kingdom is very different from that of Earth. In a stroke of utter brilliance, Christ hung upon the cross apparently despised, helpless, and weak, all friends gone, and dying the death of a criminal. That was what the world thought. But if we pull back the curtain on the drama, we see that in that moment of apparent weakness He actually "spoiled principalities and powers" and "made a show of them openly, triumphing over them," (Colossians 2:15). It could almost be considered divine artistry, in the holiest and most glorious sense.

And I learned He left us the same pattern: "...but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26, 27), just as the Son of Man demonstrated with His life.

It can all be wrapped up in one hard to learn yet richly pro-

ductive word: selflessness. And the women whose lives have reached the farthest have been the ones who have embodied it most perfectly.

I am passionate about this. Those who say women *can* minister are mistaken. Women *must* minister. Their lives must be overtaken with the Spirit of God to the extent that they are actuated by His life and feel His heart. They can be fortresses of grace in the midst of their families, the touch of Jesus in the life of their

husband, the smile of angels to their children, royalty of heaven to the extent that they are queens in their homes on earth. They can be the hands of Jesus to the hurting and dying, the eyes that see the unnoticed, the hearts that feel for the abused, and burdened, the souls that rejoice with those that do rejoice and weep with those who weep. They can be strong and soft, gentle and forceful, just, and merciful.

They can do it all with the heavenly artistry that leads a life of humble self-abnegation that needs no recognition from the world, but whose vibrations reach on into eternity.

And I? A lifetime of learning would not suffice for me to sufficiently take in and learn all of this glorious reality of what a woman can be before God. But I am taken with the vision, and you can be sure I will die in pursuit of it.

Until then, meet me with your alabaster box at the feet of Jesus. And when all our littleness is poured out in love at His feet, His enormity can take over.



Natasha Nebblett travels and speaks with her family's ministry, Pathway of Promise, and is the president of GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ). She is passionate about home, family, and ministry, and is happily engaged to her fiancé, Paul Dysinger.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY HECTOR QUIÑONES

A Ministry for All Ages

At the conclusion of a successful evangelistic series, 89-year-old, Audrey French, Silver City women's ministries director, was impressed by God to become more personally involved in reaching souls for Christ. She realized that members were relying too heavily on the ministers and evangelists to complete God's commission, and the members were not doing their part. She decided to do her part and start knocking on doors.

Believing in the Holy Spirit's guidance, and praying late and early in the morning for continued direction, she felt drawn to contact her friend, 68-year-old Norma Gonzalez, personal ministries director, and share what God had laid on her heart.

After taking the time to pray and seek the Lord's guidance, Norma was impressed to partner in ministry and together they named the initiative, Gospel Feet Ministry. These two women of God were moved to focus on Tyrone, a neighboring city of approximately three hundred homes west of Silver City, New Mexico. With the church board's support, they organized the church in door to door evangelism.

Following the Lord's counsel, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot be without fruit," (The Ministry of Healing p. 143).

In order to assess the community's needs, church members went door to door with a simple questionnaire inquiring about the residents' physical, mental, and spiritual health. Each respon-

dent received an illustrated *Steps to Christ*, business cards from our various ministries, a card offering the Quiet Hour Bible Studies, and a treasure hunt with various items listed on a small piece of paper along with a Bible verse. Those desiring more information were given access to the church's lending library, which contained



Joe González

DVDs on health and stress management and the volunteers would return to pick them up and answer any question.

George, a veteran and senior resident of Tyrone, requested help to clean up his yard. His seven-and-a-half-foot tall hedge, shrubs, and various plants required trimming. The evangelistic team, Gospel Feet, requested further assistance from the church, and returned with



Norma González (left) and Audrey French (right) go door to door in the town of Tyrone, NM to reach the people for Christ, holding their gifts to distribute for those they visited. Above one of the Silver Springs members that came to help George with his front yard.

various church members and the equipment needed for the task. When the community witnessed what the church was doing, some of the neighbors came and asked who we were. They expressed their appreciation for the work we were doing and some requested Bible studies.

The results of this ministry have been marvelous in our eyes. There are no words that can express the satisfaction of this ministry. Our aim is to work as long as we can because we want Jesus to come soon. His promises are sure and it is a joy to have a part in helping people to understand His Word. If every church member would participate in whatever they can do to share the gospel, it would soon reach the whole world and Jesus would come.



Un Ministerio Para Todas las Edades

MINISTERIO PUERTA-A-PUERTA

A la conclusión de una serie evangelística, la hermana Audrey French, de 89 años, directora del ministerio de damas, en la iglesia de Silver City, fue grandemente motivada a involucrarse personalmente en servir a Cristo para la ganancia de almas. Se dio cuenta de que como miembros suponemos que terminar la obra es la responsabilidad de los ministros y evangelistas y como miembros todos tenemos una parte que hacer. Ella decidió en ese momento hacer su parte.

Creando en que el Espíritu Santo la guiaría, orando tarde y temprano en la mañana por esa dirección continua, sintió que necesitaba compartir esta idea que Dios le había puesto en su corazón con su amiga Norma González, de 68 años, directora de ministerios personales en la iglesia.

Después de orar y buscar la dirección del Señor, Norma quedó convencida que tenía que ser parte de este ministerio y le dieron el nombre de "Gospel Feet Ministry." Estas dos damas de Dios fueron motivadas a concentrarse en la ciudad de Tyrone, con aproximadamente trescientas casas al oeste de Silver City, Nuevo México. Y con el apoyo de la junta de la iglesia, organizaron salidas de puerta en puerta con los miembros de la iglesia sirviendo a las personas.

Siguiendo el consejo del Señor, "solo el método de Cristo dará verdadero éxito para llegar a la gente. El Salvador trataba con los hombres como quien deseaba hacerles bien. Les mostraba simpatía, atendía a sus necesidades, y ganaba su confianza. Entonces Él los invitaba "Sígueme" (Ministerio de Curación 143.3).

"Existe la necesidad de acercarse a la gente en forma personal. Si menos tiempo se le da a los sermones, y pasamos más tiempo ministrando personalmente, se conseguirían mayores resultados. Los pobres necesitan ayuda, los enfermos atendidos, la afligidos y dolientes consolados, instruir a los ignorantes, aconsejar a los inexpertos. Hemos de llorar con los

que lloran y regocijarnos con los que se regocijan. Acompañados con el poder de la persuasión, el poder de la oración, y el poder del amor de Dios, este trabajo no podrá así ser infructuoso" (Ministerio de Curación 143.4).

Con la meta de saber cuáles eran las necesidades de la comunidad, miembros de la iglesia fueron de puerta en puerta con un sencillo cuestionario sobre la salud física, mental y espiritual de los residentes. Cada encuestado recibió el libro "El Camino a Cristo" ilustrados, tarjetas de presentación de nuestros diversos ministerios, una tarjeta ofreciendo estudios bíblicos, y un papel con un mapa de búsqueda del tesoro con varios elementos a encontrar junto con un versículo de la Biblia. Aquellos que desearan obtener más información se les ofreció acceso a la biblioteca de la iglesia, la cual contiene DVDs de salud y el manejo de estrés y voluntarios volverían a recoger los DVDs para responder a cualquier pregunta que tuvieran.

George, es uno de los residentes de Tyrone y es un veterano, quien pidió ayuda para limpiar su patio. Los arbustos y diversas plantas requerían recorte. El ministerio Gospel Feet pidió ayuda de los hermanos de la iglesia y regresaron con varios de ellos y el equipo necesario para recortar y remover la basura. Cuando la comunidad fue testigo de lo que estaba pasando, algunos de los vecinos vinieron y preguntaron quiénes éramos. Expresaron su agradecimiento por el trabajo que estábamos haciendo y algunos solicitaron estudios bíblicos.

El resultado de este ministerio ha sido maravilloso ante nuestros ojos. No hay palabras que puedan expresar la satisfacción de este ministerio. Nuestro objetivo es trabajar todo el tiempo que podamos porque queremos que Jesús venga pronto. Sus promesas son seguras y es una alegría tomar parte en ayudar a la gente a entender Su Palabra. Si cada miembro de la iglesia participa en lo que pudieran hacer para compartir el Evangelio, no tardaría en llegar a todo el mundo y Jesús vendría.

Hector Quiñones



Norma González con una hermana trabajando en el jardín sonriendo por la oportunidad de servir a George, en la comunidad de Tyrone (arriba a la izquierda). Joe González platica con George (arriba a la derecha).



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Uniting together to share the burdens of daily life, uplifting each other, and helping each other keep our eyes on Christ is what women's ministries is all about.

Melody Argueta, LCSW

Ladies, if you're like me you may have experienced days when you feel like you're the only one in the world who is fighting a private battle. You see other women when you go to the grocery store, drive down the highway, exercise at the gym, care for your loved ones, or go through the doors of your church, and you wonder, "Is she struggling like me? How does she do it all? Does this longing ever get satisfied?" You may also ask, "How can the world continue to function when I am in such pain? How is it that others can smile while my heart is so heavy?" I've come

abundant stress, yet goes unnoticed (Estimates suggest that the majority of caregivers are female. The percentage of family or informal caregivers who are women is 66 percent, according to the Family Caregiver Alliance.)

- **Fears rejection and battles with insecurity (of all types).** This is the adolescent girl who is trying to fit in and striving to balance peer pressures and expectations from her parents. Most adolescent girls face unbelievable pressure on a daily basis.

- **Needs approval or acceptance.** This is the elementary-school girl trying to find a friend, obtain her teacher's approval, or simply be accepted into the "in-crowd."

- **Allows duties and distractions take priority above all.** This is the working mother/wife who battles with being unable to delegate all responsibilities and feels that "my plate is so full," or the single mom who is struggling to meet the needs of her children.

- **Struggles with guilt.** This is the individual that has taken a non-traditional path of life from mainstream church society and wonders how the church will embrace her shame.

- **Longs to still be part of something great.** This is the forgotten mother, grandmother, or nursing home resident who is wondering whether there is still purpose and meaning to her life.

- **Wants to be cared for and/or desired.** This is the single girl that has experienced and accomplished much, yet doesn't perceive this season in her life as a blessing, because society has informed her that marriage brings real fulfillment.

- **Bares deep emotional scars.** This is the woman who carries the scars of sexual abuse and battles to live a new norm in her life.

- **Has experienced betrayal.** This is the ex-wife who intended her marriage vows to be for forever, yet somehow finds herself on the other side of divorce.

- **Feels the pressure to live up to society's expectations (or even yet the church's expectations).** This is the mother that compares and beats herself up when she just doesn't feel that she is "doing it right."

- **Is grieving loss of some sort.** This woman is mourning the



to understand that the needs and struggles of women from all walks, from my nine-year-old niece to my 96-year-old bed-bound patient, are very similar.

Have we had the opportunity to look around our church and listen or get to know the stories of the individual women that grace our pews? We may not know each one, but have we met the woman who...

- **Feels the need to care for her loved ones.** This is the woman who is a form of caregiver to an ill or disabled living under

loss of a loved one, has lost employment, lost a relationship, or simply has shattered hopes.

The list could go on or vary, by age, culture, language, and location. These are often the battles or thoughts that race daily through our minds and sometimes feel as attacks on our personal journey; thoughts that at times evidence a form of brokenness.

Unfortunately, these circumstances create anxiety and stress among women and often lead us down paths we feel are uncontrollable and unmanageable. Anxiety is real and common among us. Anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the U.S., affecting 40 million adults in the United States age 18 and older, or 18% of the population, and women are twice as likely to have an anxiety disorder as men (Source: National Institute of Mental Health). Symptoms of anxiety do not necessarily mean that you have a disorder, however, symptoms left untreated can lead to a disorder and it becomes a disorder when it impairs you

from functioning. These are real issues present in our church and it would be wise to care for and address them.

As women, we long to be whole, don't we? As you read these words you may think that I am just a woman trying to make sense of our gender, however, I do not claim to be an expert. I line up with the rest of us as we tire of the mundane and long for a transformation of our lives. As we tire from the same ways expecting a different result, and long for a new approach pursuing wholeness and holiness.

Practical, character-changing approaches exist that can be implemented in our lives, as individuals and as a church, to pursue holiness and to encourage each other in our individual pursuit. To pursue holiness that will encourage us to start feeling whole instead of broken. Our church's women's ministries long for wholeness and holiness. So let us enhance these attempts to help us reach a place in which we, as a church, are encouraging holiness among our women of all ages.

Often a more relational approach





versus corporate approach is effective. Each has a place in this world, but often in our programming we lose the individual and fail to connect. Allowing imperfection and grace is key to ministering to such a broad range of individuals, however, teaching each other that the trials of life are meant to help us grow and growth leads to holiness. Accepting this helps give us a better understanding of our walk and not fear the trials of life but rather see them as opportunities of growth.

Small group ministry, small group settings, intimate Bible study, and gathering in homes is often most effective. Hospitality is important, and we have often closed our homes and expected the church building to provide the setting for our growth. However, our homes are the places of comfort and they can invite the broken, feed the hungry, give rest to the weary and encourage the disheartened.

This is not *the* solution but rather *a* suggestion of what could be adopted as we accept the words of others who have walked before us. As we become aware of the women and their stories that exist in our church, let us humbly and respectfully embrace them. May we address them, as individuals and as a ministry, by...

- **A commitment to Christ.** May each event, meeting and effort be for the sole purpose of knowing and praising Christ.



As women we long for the presence of our Lord let us seek it out with every effort.

- **Being committed to being in the Word.** Too often women are seen as only emotional beings, but we possess intellectuality and it is to be respected by incorporating the study of true theology (how we think about God). Let us commit to true Bible study in which we

seek to know our Lord intimately.

- **Refraining from slander and gossip.** It's been said that "Wisdom walks through the door of silence." May our words be for encouraging one another and to communicate Christ's love. Often silence is needed to embrace the presence of God, let us choose our words wisely when we convene with each other and allow silence to be a part of our speech.
- **Living to serve "the least of these."** When we focus on the needs of others, we build on generosity and kindness, and diminish greed and selfishness
- **Encouraging older women to teach younger women, and younger women embrace the counsel of older women.** We have lost the concept of honor for each human being. Let us ignite this virtue by honoring each others words, especially the words of those who have gone before us. Older women have such wisdom for younger women and younger women bring vitality to older women



that meet their needs. Try not to assume.

The search for a better way of life is not new; the longing for a transformation of the soul is an age-old desire. Books have been written, sermons have been preached, movements have been created, articles have been published and ministries have arisen based upon it.

- **Creating a safe place and as individuals let us be a safe place.** Let us develop an environment of trust so that in confidence we can carry each others burdens, but may we be a vault for the things shared. It is a privilege when a women shares her inmost struggle, let us treat it with honor and respect by not repeating it to others
- **Opening our hearts in order to embrace each other's pain.** Compassion is present when we have become aware of our own pain and also the pain of the one next to me, therefore we stop judging the woman next to us and rather embrace her in her pain
- **Focusing on developing character.** Seek out efforts that helps us enhance the characteristics of loving kindness, humility, patience, modesty, honor, generosity, abstinence, compassion, order, etc.
- **Accepting hardship as growth.** Redirect our minds so that we see hardship as pathway to holiness, realizing “that the people we relate to, the work we do, where we live, what we eat, the challenges we face, how we respond to those tests and the rest all appear to be the pieces we are given to work with us as we pursue growth” (Morinis, *With Heart in Mind*, 2014)
- **Asking questions.** Each group of women is different. Ask what their greatest needs are in order to offer ministry efforts



These words are not new truths or novelties and they are definitely not my own wisdom. When pursuing holiness, God has empowered us to be holy by creating us in His image. (Gen 1:27) Therefore the truths needed for pursuing holiness are not something new.

I humbly implore you to allow me to come alongside you as we jog our memories, rattle our minds for truths that God has already placed within us. As women let us pursue holiness, encourage each other in the journey, engage in the hardship as a path to growth, and serve one another until we see the Lord.

HOW TO REACH ME: WOMEN TALK ABOUT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Jessica Lozano, Southwestern Union Record associate editor

Record staff members recently sat down with a handful of our women members to talk about what women's ministries means to them and to discuss ways that women can uplift each other. They shared some of their burdens and gave suggestions on how all women in the church might better serve each other through women's ministries. As we talked, one idea became very clear. For these women, who overwhelmingly asked for substance and quality over quantity and frivolity, trusting relationships amongst the women of the church should be the foundation of these ministries. These women ranged in age from early 20s to 60s and are married, single, or divorced, and some have children and some do not. Each of them had something valuable to

share, and each expressed a desire to help other women. They left the discussion realizing that, although their situations may not be ideal or may even be painful, they were in a unique position to minister to other women like them.

The following is a short selection of questions and answers from the discussion. Because of the sometimes sensitive nature of the discussion, the names of the participants are not disclosed.

Q: What is your current perception of what women's ministries is and does?

W1: Women's retreats or women's luncheons. Getting together for breakfast or a meal every week and women's Bible studies.



W2: Tea parties!

Do you participate in women's ministries?

W1: Yes, I've been invited to many get-togethers and luncheons.

W2: Somewhat, but I don't like to attend the bigger women's retreats, because I don't like to leave my family out.

W3: I'm the women's ministries leader for my church.

W4: I'm not really sure. Maybe I'm too young?

Based on your experiences, what are some things you might like to see in women's ministries?

W1: I've gone to a lot of women's gatherings, and I'd like to have more practical advice or resources available to me to apply to my situation. For example, there's usually a lot of talking and sharing our problems, but then what? If I have a real problem—my husband is into pornography or I'm seriously concerned about one of my children's behavior—how do I get help? Where do I go?

W2: If you do have those problems, you fear telling anyone because you're afraid of being judged.

W3: There are some women's ministries events that we do that are good for people who are very outgoing, but that's not everyone. Not everyone feels comfortable sharing with a large group or with strangers, or even asking for help from women they do know because there's not a trusting relationship.

W4: I think it would be nice if there was something to help young women who feel that maybe women's ministries isn't meant for them. Perhaps a mentor program that let's young women pair up with someone a bit older.

What can we do to build trusting relationships amongst women?

W1: Just like for all of the ministries in the church, I think one of the solutions could be to create small groups. You can't get to know every woman in the church really well, but through smaller groups you can start to build those relationships.

W2: I would love to see women mentors in our church.

W4: I've wished that I could ask advice from some of the women in my church who were older than me, but I didn't know how to



approach them.

What can you personally do to help women's ministries reach women?

W2: For myself, I recently realized that I'd been a part of my church for years but I didn't really have any real women friends there. There were groups of women that were friends but they didn't really approach me. I had been single for a long time before I got married, and as I got older it seemed I had less in

common with them. I decided that I wanted to make friends with them, so I deliberately approached them and tried to participate in the women's ministries events, even though I do wish they were more family-oriented.

W3: I think we as women have to remember and realize that each of us may be hurting in some way, and that when we ignore each other's burdens we are ignoring what Jesus gave us to do—to love each other. I think the first thing we can do as women to participate in women's ministries is to be the one to take the first step. Maybe we have to be the ones to show kindness to the single mom or widow who feels lonely. If we have gone through struggles, we are even more capable of understanding what it's like, so we should try to help those around us going through the same things.

W1: One thing I think would be very helpful is that if someone is really in need of help, women's ministries would be a great place for them to find a listening ear and then resources to help their situation. That could be counseling or mentoring or advice on where to find even more resources.

W4: I agree that women need to mentor each other and be open to helping and showing love to each other.

As the discussion ended, the women said it was eye-opening to hear that they were not the only ones going through a trying situation. They said they were beginning to realize that perhaps their unique perspectives could be blessings for other women, but one thing was clear: women's ministries is based on relationships.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RESOURCES

Nurture, Empower, Outreach. These three words make up the foundation of the General Conference Women's Ministries' mission statement. They also highlight the purpose and role of such a ministry in our local churches. The following resources are a compilation of ministries, training guides, DVD's, books, and links to demonstrate ways in which you can get involved in *nurturing* and *empowering* women for *outreach* in your church and community.

Ministries

Homes of Hope and Healing

The "Homes of Hope and Healing" program involves opening our homes to our neighbors for fellowship and learning. In these



perplexing times, when hopelessness abounds, our homes can be places where neighbors, family, and friends gather in fellowship to share hope

and healing for spiritual and emotional nurture.

Visit adventistwomensministries.org for more information.

Heart Call

Heart Call encourages women to reach out to members who have drifted away, working through small groups and reconnecting ministries. It encourages them to step out of their comfort zone and make gestures of friendship to heal emotional wounds and restrengthen community ties.



This ministry can be easily started at your church using the free resources available from AdventSource.

enditnow

enditnow is a global campaign to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence against women and girls around the world. It aims to mobilize Adventists around the world and invites other com-



munity groups to join in to resolve this worldwide issue.

Visit enditnow.org for information on how to get involved.

God in Shoes

God in Shoes ministry is an innovative method of evangelism that takes the church into the community to perform acts of kindness and demonstrate God's love. For information on how to implement God in Shoes in your community, order a free copy of "60 Great Ideas for Women's Ministries" by emailing Erica.Jones@nad.adventist.org or calling 301-680-6427.



Resources

Visit www.nadwm.org for the following resources.

Resources for local Women's Ministries church leaders

- Dressing for the Rostrum
- Event Planning Worksheet
- Hospitality Ministry
- How to Write a Personal Mission Statement
- Job Descriptions
- Mission Statement Process
- Princess Tea Resources
- WM Ideas
- Women's Ministries Pamphlets
- Women's Needs Assessment for the Local Church
- CREATIVE Training

Resources for teens

- GIGI Magazine
- True Love Waits – Purity Conference
- "For Young Women Only" by Shaunti Feldhahn
- "Teen Virtue - Real Issues, Real Life... A Teen Girl's Survival Guide"





- Warning Signs of Potential Batters (download)
- Old Fashioned, a film on old-fashioned Christian courtship.
- Understanding Dating Abuse
- Teen Pregnancy Resources

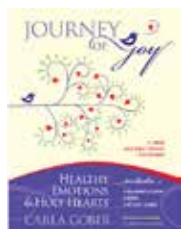


- Surprised by Love: A 10-part DVD Bible study series by Elizabeth Talbot based on her book by the same title. In this series you will meet Jesus in a more intimate way than ever before as you learn what the Bible reveals, from Genesis to Revelation, about His amazing role as our Go'el (Kinsman-Redeemer). Contact your local Adventist Book Center or

visit www.adventistbookcenter.org Also available in Spanish (español).

It is our wish that these resources can spark an interest and drive in you and the effort of women's ministries, in order to nurture, empower, and reach out to women in our churches and communities.

DVDs for Women's Ministries



- Journey of Joy: Healthy Emotions and Holy Hearts: An 11-part DVD Bible study series for women. Discover how you can experience joy even during life's darkest moments. Examine the connection between a woman's emotions and her spirituality. Uncover new ways to study Scripture, and most importantly, revel in the Lord's blessing on your Journey of Joy.

Your Local Women's Ministries Directors

For more information on how to get involved in your area, you may contact the women's ministries directors of your conference, listed below:

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference



Melody Radde
mldyrd@aol.com



Ana Alvarez
anara56@hotmail.com

Texas Conference



Sandy Reyes
sreyes54@live.com



Cheryl Allgood
callgood@txsda.org

Oklahoma Conference



Linda Francisco
lfrancisco@okla-adventist.org

Texico Conference



Roxanne Smyth
sda7rocks@gmail.com

Southwest Region Conference



Rose Carr
rcarr@swrgc.org

Bezaida Castro
bcastro@swrgc.org



Lidia Y. Ruiz
lypruiz@yahoo.com

We Are Called



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

For the past four years I have had the privilege of serving as women's ministries director for Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. There have been times when I have felt inadequate for the task. But, Jesus says, "My grace is sufficient for you."

During that time, I have met wonderful women of all ages, shapes, sizes, and colors; true daughters of God, every one of them. I have been in awe of the women whose journey has been different than my own. Those who have suffered the death of a spouse, the death of children, divorce, abuse, health issues, and so much more. They have shown grace under pressure. They have been knocked down by life but have reached out their

hand to God. He gently picked them up, dusted them off, and placed these women on higher ground. God says "The battle is mine."

There are days when He invites us to the banquet table and other days that He asks us to be satisfied with the crumbs from the master's table. Like the woman at the well, we come thirsty, with empty hands and open hearts. Jesus provides water for our thirsty souls. He says, "Trust me."

We are called to walk in His light, to go where Jesus leads, to go without knowing where that journey might take us. Whether it is the mission field of a foreign country, or the mission field of our own homes, we are to show the love of Jesus

to the world.

God invites us, His daughters, to rest in His arms. God asks us to take sanctuary in the Most Holy Place, God's heart, to lay our burdens down at His feet. He asks us to remember that we are safe with Him, that we are loved, cherished, and adored. We are the finishing touch of His creation, and it is our mission to pass this message to others. We are to be His hands to serve others, His feet to go where He leads, His arms to comfort those who are grieving, His ears to listen, and His mouth to tell of the wonderful God whom we serve.

Melody Radde, Arkansas-Louisiana Women's Ministry director

Fort Smith Hosts Women's Ministry Program

FORT SMITH, ARK. » The ladies of the Fort Smith church were treated to a delightful afternoon hosted by women's ministries

on February 15. It was a feast for the eyes, ears, palette, and heart. The beautiful decorations and delicious food were provided by Debbie Maxwell, Martha Kuykendall, Nancy Brennan, and Jan Rand. Special guest speaker was Melody Radde, women's ministry director of the Arkansas-Louisiana Confer-

ence. Melody braved the impending snowy weather to minister to the group. The program was entitled "Every Heart Has a Story to Tell," and Melody shared several stories from her heart with the ladies. Everyone has a special story written on their heart to share with others of what God has done or is doing in their lives. The women's ministries department has planned several events which we are looking forward to. Fort Smith is so blessed to have such a loving group of women serving our church.



Far left: Melody Radde, women's ministries director of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.

◀ The theme of the women's ministry program, shown here, was "Every Heart Has a Story to Tell."

Umpire SDA Church Baptizes New Members from Nashville Area

UMPIRE, ARK. » The Umpire church is excited to have their first baptism in the Nashville Arkansas church plant. Three years ago, Bart Kahlman from Ouachita Hills College contacted Wilbert in a door-to-door outreach campaign to help with the church plant initiative. Wilbert was invited to study Bible prophecy and he eagerly agreed. He studied with local members, and after a year he finished the Daniel prophecy seminar. Wilbert's wife, Pat, wasn't sure what to think about these



Top left: Wilbert & Pat are baptized.

Above: Celebration for Wilbert & Pat's baptism.

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Sponsored by Arkansas-Louisiana Prayer Ministries

strangers in her home giving her husband Bible studies, but over time, she warmed up and joined the group. As she listened around the corner, she became more and more interested because these Bible studies answered Bible questions that no one else had answered before. The couple made a decision to get baptized together after an evangelistic series held by local members Gary Manly, Jonathan Baylon, and Michael Smith. The couple studied for baptism using the baptismal certificate as a guide.

Shortly after starting the baptismal studies, Pat stopped smoking—and has not smoked since. She gives God all the glory. A local church member's swimming pool was utilized for the baptism on August 15, 2015. Present to support this baptism were family, friends from out of town, members from the Umpire church, Nashville church plant members, and Ouachita Hills College students.

It was a joyful celebration! We thank God for the newest members in His church family. We ask for your prayers as the Lord's work continues in this area.

Jonathan Baylor

Seventh-day Adventists Make News with Disaster Relief Work

SHREVEPORT, LA. » Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (ACSDR) has been in the news with their many responses for warehouse management in the areas of great disaster. This is another side to the local Adventist Community Services that have provided disaster services to their localized areas for many years. Many of the Arkansas-Louisiana churches provide a community service center with food for the needy, supplies for families that are burned out, cooking schools, and/or many other services for their communities. As we have seen more and



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▲ ACS responds to needs in Saipan after Typhoon Soudelor.

◀ Volunteers from AmeriCorps help to unload relief supplies at the ACS warehouse set up in Saipan.

more devastating disasters hit in all parts of the world, the ACS Disaster Response team has become more and more valuable.

Lavida Whitson has been the director for Adventist Community Services Disaster Response for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference for many years and has become proficient in warehouse management. After spending several years running large warehouses in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, she set up and ran several ware-

houses in Arkansas. She has been sent by the North American Division to help in the set-up and management of several warehouses on the east coast and has helped write manuals for operations in many areas.

In early summer this year, she was joined by David Farmer and Cyndy Jones at the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) training in New Orleans for the national training session. Each state has its own VOAD organization

and Lavida Whitson is a member of each one in order for the ACSDR to be able to participate within the state. Many other Seventh-day Adventists were present, as ACSDR is active all over the world. It was an interesting experience to be in a group of over 600 participants from around the world—all here for the same purpose, learning how to help people during a disaster. Over 115 different organizations were present. One of the speakers gave a great story about Seventh-day Adventists feeding a Mormon group during the Katrina disaster. He said it touched him that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was doing that for another church. We are proud of our local community service centers and volunteers. The Lord is not the only one who sees the good that you do for others! Thank you for all your efforts.

Sylvia Downs

Women Need Women



Women are wondrously affirmed in Scripture. In fact, of all world religions, only the Bible insists on the high dignity of women as made in God's image and joint heirs with men of eternal life. It says in the first chapter of the Old Testament: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

In Genesis 2:18, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." After sin entered the Garden of Eden, through individual choices of Adam and Eve, God instructed them with unique and different consequences of sin in their lives. God, their Creator, knew that they were uniquely different, even though they

were both human beings. They were made for each other and needed each other, but they individually and collectively were to be one as stated in Genesis 2:24, "and they shall be one flesh."

So the premise is women have been genetically provided for by their Creator, special and extraordinary characteristics that can be nurtured, crafted, developed, and utilized in a multitude of ways. Each woman has the natural ability to be herself, to express herself, and to develop herself as she deems necessary. Who better can relate to and understand that than another woman. Maybe I am stating the obvious, but I believe that we forget the resources that we have right beside us.

Women's ministries provides an atmosphere and environment for women to meet together, share, learn, to be themselves, and to work together for a common goal or project. This ministry can of-

fer a safe place, a forum, or a platform for women with special needs or struggles to share with other women who have been in her shoes. Women with needed talents and gifts can collaborate together and teach one another. Women with experience in life's journey can guide younger inexperienced women with questions. We all need each other—that big hole in our heart, that yearns for acceptance or that desire to be a part of something important. Women need women, working together to make a difference to make this world a better place.

No matter our walk in life as women, whether we are single, married, divorced, and/or widowed, God will bless us with meaningful relationships with God or with others, giving us strength for our journeys toward the Kingdom of God.

Linda Francsico, Oklahoma Women's Ministries director

New Treasurer for the Oklahoma Conference

We welcome to our Oklahoma Conference team, Roger and Carol Driver. Roger was elected in May as the treasurer of the Oklahoma Conference and arrived in mid-June to begin his new responsibilities.

Roger received his bachelor's degree from Southwestern Adventist University and began serving the church in 1998 as the secretary-treasurer of the Dakota Conference. He has also served as treasurer in both the Wisconsin Conference and the Illinois Conference. Most recently, Roger worked in the payroll department at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Roger and Carol have two adult children and three grandchildren.

We praise the Lord for the enthusiasm and the leadership they bring to our Oklahoma family.

Richard C. Dye, Sr.



Roger Driver, the new Oklahoma Conference treasurer, and his wife Carol.

Ketchum Health Fair

KETCHUM » The Ketchum church is all about teaching the health message, and what better way to do that than to put on a free health clinic for the community?

This was the first community health fair Ketchum has had. We decided to have it in the community, rather than in the church, because we really wanted to focus our attention on outreach and evangelism through this health fair. We found the perfect grocery store to host the fair because of its central location, so we talked to the manager to see if we could use his space. At first, he was very reluctant, explaining how the date we had chosen would be one of the busiest at the grocery store, how he would have to send the request to the corporate office, and said it would take a very long time to get a response. After I explained to him that I was a big

believer in prayer and that I felt strongly about this location being the one God had chosen for the health fair, the manager said he would try and send the request but wouldn't promise anything. Not even two hours later, we received a call from the manager with great news. The corporate office had approved it! The manager was extremely surprised and moved by the faith we had in our Lord. He provided us with water and produce to use during the health fair and the turnout was great! We

had a great response from both the community and the church.

About 65 people from the community came for free blood pressure checks, glucose tests, air-lung capacity tests, and massages, among many other services.

This work has energized the church members with fresh zeal! This event showed our church members that health evangelism can really open the doors to someone's heart. It is an amazing feeling to serve the community with things that are relevant to them. Following Christ's method alone is the key to refreshing your soul.

Mary Snead



Twenty-five volunteers from the Ketchum, Venita, and surrounding churches helped to put on a free community health fair.



Mother, Daughter Banquet

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. » On April 12th, at the Oklahoma International SDA Church, we hosted our first Mother/Daughter Banquet. This was the main event for the year for our Women's Ministries Department and by all accounts, it was a success with about 60 women at-

tending. We wanted this event to be an outreach to friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members, which it was. At the banquet, about thirteen women registered for a bible study, "Surprised by Love", which was led by Holly Smith

beginning May 18th. We celebrated all relationships that women enjoy but especially the bond between mothers and daughters. We asked those attending to bring pictures of their mothers and daughters to share with those at their table.

We enjoyed an Italian dinner, an excellent presentation by Holly Smith, our pastor's wife and a new mom, beautiful music presented by Sheila Davidson and Jade Magluyan, and an evening of wonderful fellowship. We hope to repeat this event next year. God has surely blessed us with the women in our lives and we found this a good way to celebrate the love we share.

Peggy Devinish

The Mother/Daughter Banquet celebrated the bond and relationship between mothers and their daughters with special music, fellowship, and an Italian dinner.



Bristow Adventist School Mayfest

BRISTOW, OKLA. » Early May is always hectic for schools, and Bristow Adventist School (BAS) jumped in with its annual Mayfest. Of course, first things first meant that the bake sale started things off, with Gilbert Perez as a fledgling auctioneer. Church members and friends brought delicious baked goods, ranging from snickerdoodle cookies to dark chocolate cake on a silver platter, and homemade bread to boot. After much friendly bargaining, yelling, and wheeling-dealing for each person to buy the item they wanted, the bake sale garnered a little over \$700 for the school to use on much-needed lighting in the gymnasium.

After the bake sale's success, Mayfest transitioned to show time. From syncoated jump roping girls, Anna, Ma-

dalyn, Daysia, DeSaree, Destiny, Sophie, McKayla, to skits ("What's the word?" presented by Tom and Laura Weber and Johnnie Baker), to musicals ("Weather Song" BAS), the school entertained the audience until late in the evening. In between talents and comedies, Patricia, Junnell, and

Laura reminded everyone that "we're not ones to go 'round spreadin' rumors," from the musical Oklahoma, injecting local references that had the audience in fits of laughter. At the end of the program, we took a few minutes to recognize our principal, Jennifer Semillano, and her husband, Darry, who have since moved to Michigan to attend Andrews University. After the frivolity, it was a somber reminder that we were saying goodbye to our beloved teacher of three years and her gifted lay-pastor husband. We wished them well, as Darry pursues his Master's degree in Divinity this autumn and collected a fishbowl of cash to start them off.

Caroline A. Fisher



Bristow Adventist School students participate in Mayfest, an annual end-of-year celebration showcasing students' talents and engaging families in fun.

Let God be God



Let God be God is the Southwest Region Conference's Women's Ministries theme for 2015, and at my ripe old age of fifty-something, I have learned to allow God to be God in my life. This happens when you get to the point in your life where you say, "it's not my worry, it is God's." You should trust and believe that everything that is going on in your life is allowed by the God you serve. We all need a fresh daily dependence on the One who

will see us through all things and knows the beginning from the end—the One, who without a shadow of doubt, will not steer us in the wrong direction. *The Message* puts it this way: "If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body.

Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to Him than birds" (Matthew 6:25-26).

We worship the all-knowing, all-powerful God, who sits high and looks low and is concerned about us. As we continue throughout the year, we need to let God be God in our lives and discover the power that reigns from within.

Rose Carr, women's ministries director

An Inspiring Youth Teen Summit

BATON ROUGE, LA. » In its continued effort to "give back" to its mainly non-Adventist community, the Berean church's Community and Support Wellness Center recently hosted an event for ages 13-17. "An Inspiring Youth Teen Summit" was sponsored by Magellan Health Services, a Louisiana Department of Health organization designated to coordinate behavioral health services for adults and children who are "in, or at, imminent risk of out-of-home placement."

Magellan Health's family and youth involvement coordinator, Danielle Marshall, coordinated the event. The community center's director, Lyn Hakeem, District

State Representative Regina Barrow, the director of a youth group called Idle Hands, R.J., and Marshall made up the leadership team for the event, which addressed issues such as bullying, handling peer pressure, and building self-esteem. According to Hakeem, it was Marshall who provided the inspiration for Idle Hands, an organized group of inner-city youth who, under their young adult director, gather on a regular basis for wholesome, fun-filled activities challenging body and mind.

"Either we provide for them or the streets will," R.J. adamantly stated. The role-playing session featured the youth of Idle Hands, representatives from a group home, neighborhood clubs, and youth-at-large simulating situations involving each of the focused topics. It was obvious that there was no reluctance on their part as they aptly portrayed their characters in their respec-

tive roles. In addition, there were various group activities, which also gave them an opportunity to work together with many youth who they were meeting for the first time.

State Representative Regina Barrow motivated the youth with her animated presentation, beginning with how excited she was that Magellan provided the program and how thankful she was that Hakeem orchestrated the hosting. "My prayer is that each of you has a wonderful school year. You can do it. Every morning when you wake up, say 'I can do it. I am smart and I look good.'" Barrow concluded by reminding the youth that each is original, but all are connected, therefore, positive thinking is a must. Following her presentation, the youth boldly shared their goals and ambitions. As had been promised, the first 50 who registered received school supplies—with all youth receiving a certificate of attendance, and of course, refreshments. Berean is grateful for still another chance to demonstrate God's love through the service its community center continues to provide.

Evelyn M. Edwards



Top left: Idle Hands youth group with director R.J. at far right.

Bottom left: Group picture with center director Lyn Hakeem kneeling at left.

Bottom right: State Representative Regina Barrow making a point during the youth event.

Let God Be God



Vinton Johnson
Associate Treasurer
Human Resources Director
Southwestern Union Conference



Owen Moore
Church Elder
Shiloh Adventist Church



Diana Jaworski
Director/Spokesperson
Creative Box Ministries



Carmen Griffith
Women's Ministries Director
Southwestern Union Conference



Wilma Lee
Family Ministries Coordinator
Southwest Region Conference



Melinda Dyer
Health Evangelism Coordinator
Southwest Region Conference



Carolyn Johns
Owner, CTC & Associates
Meeting & Event Planning



Rose Carr
Women's Ministries Coordinator
Southwest Region Conference



Betzaida Castro
Women's Ministries Hq. Coordinator
Southwest Region Conference



Leslie Soupet
Administrative Assistant
Southwest Region Conference

Early-bird registration
\$150 per person, through August 31

Regular registration
\$175 per person, starting September 1
(Hotel rate is not guaranteed)

Hotel Accommodations
\$139 per night, up to four in a room
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Register on-line at:
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Hotel reservations:
aws.passkey.com/g/49805731

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or visit www.mysouthwestregion.org/ministries/women-ministries



Destination Paradise Vacation Bible School

BATON ROUGE, LA. » It is defined as “a very beautiful, pleasant, or peaceful place that seems to be perfect.” Thus the theme “Destination Paradise” was most appropriate for our recent Vacation Bible School, which attracted a myriad of ages ranging from a three-month-old infant to children in their late teens.

The Bible school, which attracted community children along with those of the church, ran for one five-day week beginning in the evening at 5:30 and ending at 7 so as to accommodate working parents, guardians, and youth already involved in various summer activities.

The program created by the NAD Chil-

dren’s Ministries department was designed to introduce the children to God’s Word through “investigating various Bible truths through Bible stories, nature, crafts, games, and more.” Beginning with His birth, the children met Jesus and, in an abbreviated format, followed Him all the way to God’s promise of a “new heaven and the new earth.” Each day, they learned how God loves them, speaks to them, cares for them, acts a certain way toward them, and how ultimately He will reign victorious. The program culminated with their realizing that God wants to save each boy and girl and wants nothing more than to share His “new” paradise with them.

Evelyn M. Edwards



▲ Children of all ages enjoyed the Vacation Bible School program at the Berean church.

► Many church members helped out with different aspects of the program. Here, Albertha Parker prepares closing program refreshments and paradise dessert treats.

According to director Robyn Oguinye, the VBS program refused to turn anyone away. “If considered over-aged for one of the various classes, that person became a member of the coordinating team.” In fact, we were never at a loss for teens and adults who unreservedly functioned as teachers, classroom assistants, arts and crafts directors, game coordinators, and of course, our refreshments committee.



Women's Ministries



In 1 Samuel 7:12 we read, "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen.

He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

What a wonderful verse! The "stone of help," the "Ebenezer," marked the memory of God's power, God's presence, God's blessing, and God's help. The Scots Bible translator, James Moffatt, translates it literally: "Samuel took a stone... naming it Helpstone. Here I raise my Ebenezer."

God is the God of help. This is the refrain that breathes through the Bible. How often do we see people crying out to God for help? And how often do we see the testimony of faith that cries out: "Ebenezer!"—"the Lord has helped us"! This was the experience of Samuel's own mother. Hannah could not conceive a child, so she prayed to the Lord, being "deeply distressed and weeping bitterly" (1 Samuel 1:10). God "remembered her," (1 Samuel 1:19), as the Scripture puts it; and "in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord'" (1 Samuel 1:20). The Lord helped her! The very prophet who set up the Ebenezer stone was himself a "living stone,"

a visible reminder to his own mother that God answers prayer—that God *helps*.

The women of the Texas Conference recognize our Ebenezers and we thank the Lord for them, as we become Ebenezers for others. God uses each of us to communicate the precious gospel of Christ.

In the past few years we have sensed His power moving among the women of our conference as He inspires them to do more for Him. God has empowered them to do the work He has called us to do, for His coming is near.

We have wonderful women that are a very active part of the women's ministries department. A large majority of our churches in Texas meet with their women on a monthly basis to hold prayer breakfasts, typically featuring a guest speaker. In addition, the ladies receive training in areas like healthy cooking or flower arrangement. Others hold Bible studies for women or host weekly prayer groups at church. Many churches last year had a Week of Prayer conducted by the women in their congregations. It is so beautiful to discover the speaking talents that some of the members in our conference have. May God continue to bless each one of them as they continue to shine their lights for others.

Each year we've been able to hold three women's retreats. One is held in the Valley area and two are held in the fall, one in Spanish and one in English. All three have experienced wonderful attendance.

Guest speakers have included Elizabeth Talbot, director for Jesus 101; Carla Gober, Loma Linda Center for Spiritual Life & Wholeness director; Carmen Griffith, Southwestern Union Women's Ministries director; Wilma Gonzalez, Montemorelos University Wellness Center director; Raquel Arrais, General Conference Women's Ministries associate director; Juan Ramirez, Canoas Wellness Center director; Kelly Dulac, and Annie Perez.

Additionally, we have held women's ministries leadership trainings throughout the conference by area. These trainings have had a good response! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the women's ministries leaders that serve this department. Thank you for doing a wonderful job and serving the Lord! I would also like to thank our administrative assistants, Abigail Espinoza and Cheryl Allgood, along with the conference administration for their support of women's ministries in Texas.

Sandy Reyes

Mortgage Burning Celebration

CROWLEY, TEX. » On October 18, 2014, the Crowley Church celebrated the burning of the mortgage for the church and TV studio. The church was first organized in 2005 and met in a rented church for five years in Crowley. During those five years, land was purchased and the church was erected. Four years ago, 52 chartered members moved into their newly constructed church with a mortgage of \$250,000 for the church and \$200,000 for the Good News TV studio. During the last four years the mortgage was fully paid by the membership in October 2014. In addition to the church and studio mortgage, the church purchased a \$40,000 digital lighted sign, which was also paid for with generous donations from the church members.

"We just praise God for what has been accomplished in such a short time," states Paul Karmy, head elder. The church is now laying plans for the next phase of building. Plans call for a gymnasium with an official sized basketball court. The church today has grown to 165 members, tripling the membership in the last four years, which

now requires more Sabbath School rooms and additional space for fellowship meals.

The final phase of the Crowley church building project will be a new sanctuary. "By that time we will know just how large to make it," the church building committee affirms. "With the Crowley community growing in such a fast manner, we expect in a few years the church to be much larger than it is today. We have seen God at work here in this part of Texas and we trust Him as we look to the future."

Judith Jamison



Crowley church members burn the church building's mortgage in celebration of the financial support and growth of the church.

Edinburg Holds Everest VBS

EDINBURG » It was an awesome week at the Edinburg church when we had our Vacation Bible School on June 7-12 with the theme “Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power.” Close to a hundred kids ranging from 1-10 registered, and more than one hundred volunteers signed up and helped.

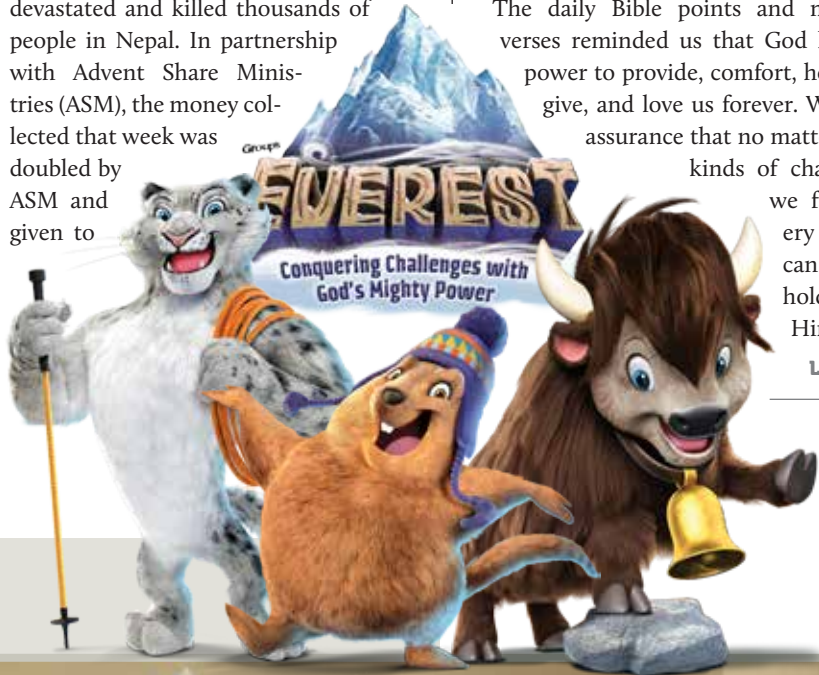
The kids and volunteers expressed their excitement day after day by singing powerful songs, preparing snacks, participating in glacier games, engaging in Bible stories, having fun at the imagination station, and watching a movie about how other kids experienced the Bible points conveyed everyday at VBS.

With “Everest” as our theme, we were

reminded of the earthquake that devastated and killed thousands of people in Nepal. In partnership with Advent Share Ministries (ASM), the money collected that week was doubled by ASM and given to

ADRA Nepal to help with its relief project. The daily Bible points and memory verses reminded us that God has the power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive, and love us forever. What an assurance that no matter what kinds of challenges we face every day, we can always hold on to Him!

Leah Par



Many children enjoyed a week of fun and fellowship during the Edinburg church's Vacation Bible School.



Elevate Ministries Hosts Young Adult Fellowship Sabbath

KEENE » “Young Adult Fellowship Sabbath was inspiring,” shared Sean Amos, a young adult who lives in Keene. “It offers a new option for the younger generation and allows them to see Christ through the eyes of their peers. It was outstanding!”

This summer, nearly 600 young adults from the greater Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex convened at the Keene church as Elevate Ministries hosted their first Young Adult Fellowship Sabbath. The purpose was to highlight Elevate Ministries and their efforts to especially encourage young adults to experience worship and community together.

Beginning Friday evening with a great discussion about *The Record Keeper*, an Adventist produced Web film series about angels and spiritual conflict, young adults gathered in numbers, where many enjoyed refreshments and conversations in a local family home. Into the evening, young adults enjoyed singing, laughing, and growing closer spiritually and to one another.

Keene’s associate pastor for young adult ministry, Albert Handal, headlined the Saturday morning services with a special encouragement to church members to take advantage of the spiritual opportunities to bless next generations. At 10:15 a.m., Elevate Ministries led a special fellowship worship, specifically inviting young adults to attend. Attendance swelled as multiple generations joined together in worship. Pastor Handal challenged young adults to avoid “spiritual posing” and to make a difference by being the church with passion and compassion.

A delicious meal was enjoyed by nearly 200 young adults, hosted by Keene church members who, knowing the students and young professionals well, encouraged them to take food home. What great hospitality and generosity!



“This is the start of a bright future for our whole church family,” James Wingardner, Keene church’s associate pastor, said. “We are really excited about Elevate Ministries and support them fully.”

“The mission statement of Elevate is to spread the love of God through music, words, and actions,” shared Chris Rhodes, who founded Elevate Ministries. “This past weekend was a very beautiful example of this mission.”

Pastor Albert Handal shared the moment during which he was blessed the most. “I was blessed beyond words to see so many not-so-young adults come forward during the appeal to commit their hearts and their lives to the support of young adult ministry,” he said.

For more information on Elevate Ministries, go to their facebook page: [Facebook.com/Elevateministries7](https://www.facebook.com/Elevateministries7).

Chris Rhodes



Young adults and teenagers from around the metroplex join together for the first Young Adult Fellowship Sabbath, hosted by Elevate Ministries, with Albert Handal, the Keene church’s associate pastor for youth and young adult ministries, as the main speaker.



Women's Ministries in Action



TEXICO CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries is dedicated to helping women find and fulfill their calling. God has gifted women with unique abilities and they can minister in ways that are especially meaningful to other women. There are many needs to be met and we can respond to these needs in special ways. We seek to nurture women in ways that touch their lives.

One powerful ministry, which was started 12 years ago by Mary Jo Dubs from the Georgia Cumberland Conference, is God in Shoes. God in Shoes is a way to take the church out into the community, providing physical, emotional, and spiritual encouragement.

While attending the 2010 NAD Women's Conference in Dallas, I had the privi-

lege to be a part of this mission outreach. I, along with approximately 800 other ladies, boarded busses to shelters, community centers, hospitals, at-risk teen pregnancy centers, etc., where we shared a kind word, helping hand, healing touch, and in many cases, items to better individual lives. We gave a message of hope: God loves you and values your life. There's nothing like friendship evangelism! My hope is one day to have a "God in Shoes" outreach in Albuquerque.

Another program that women's ministries has strongly emphasized is "enditnow" which seeks to end violence in all forms in the home, church, and community. One out of five couples today experiences domestic violence. One out of three girls and one out of five boys experience

sexual abuse before the age of 18. Because I'm a part of those statistics, this is a ministry that has become close to my heart.

Three years ago the Lord impressed me to start telling my story. Because shame is an unfortunate byproduct of abuse, it was a very difficult journey for me to begin. However, I found that by sharing my story others have been able to share theirs, and when the stories are told, the bondage of shame and guilt are broken, saying, "Together we can do something to stop this."

I believe that God has given women's ministries a big vision to inspire and encourage all women to experience a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Roxanne Smyth, Texico Women's Ministries director

Corrales Church Has A New Shepherd!

CORRALES, N. MEX. » The Corrales church welcomes and is pleased to introduce its new shepherd, Andre Arrais, pastor, and his wife, Natalia, to our church family. Members are excited about the new pastor and his plans for church growth. Pastor Arrais is a native Brazilian who was born and raised in the Adventist Church. Ministry is in his blood; his maternal grandfather is a retired pastor, both his parents are pastors, his brother is also a pastor, and his paternal grandfather worked all his life as a colporteur. His call to pastoral ministry came while he was in his last year of law school. Since then, he has been preparing himself to fulfill God's calling in his life. He is blessed with a wonderful wife who happens to be a pastor's kid, too. Together they have accepted God's challenge to serve wherever He leads.

Pastor Arrais' philosophy of ministry focuses on three major spheres: community, education, and outcome. The community sphere encapsulates the social aspect of the Christian walk, but it doesn't limit itself to the mere gathering of people. According to Pastor Arrais, community has to do with fellowship and unity; with what it means to be a body in the biblical concept of the

body of Christ.

The education sphere has to do with the content that both gathers and nourishes the community. Pastor Arrais believes that a community needs to learn how to under-



Natalia and Andre Arrais, new pastoral couple for the Corrales/East Mountain church district.

stand and love Scripture; to be educated into a mindset that will lead them to the comprehension that God's saving work in their life is not an end in itself, but a means by which God can reach others.

The third sphere is the outcome sphere. He emphasizes outcome instead of evangelism because he believes that when a strong community is built and educated with the correct mindset, evangelism and the fulfillment of God's mission for the church will be the inevitable result. He states that "A community well educated will have a passion in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those around them, but also, in being a voice, proclaiming Jesus' soon return to a world in need of hope."

Pastor Arrais' call to ministry was slow but progressive. He has always enjoyed being in church and being part of the church. However, when the time came after high school to choose a major, he decided to go to law school, which was the area of study that he found to be the best fit for him. During that time of his life, it never crossed his mind to study theology. He lived his first three years at an Adventist law school as a lukewarm Christian. Pastor Arrais felt he was an Adventist in name only but not in heart and attitude. Following a Week of Prayer at the university, he decided to start reading the Bible more intentionally. He made a commitment to read the whole

Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and even the SDA Bible Commentary. This Bible-reading journey changed him completely. For the first time he fell in love with God's Word and simply couldn't keep it to himself. He would constantly share what he was learning with friends. It soon came to a point where he was spending more time with the Bible than with his law books.

He started to sense that God was speaking to him and calling him to be a minister. This perception of the Holy Spirit speak-

ing became stronger and stronger, and so he decided to volunteer at a local Adventist church to ensure this was indeed His calling. It didn't take him long to realize that God was leading in this direction. He walked through the neighborhood, and together with a friend he recruited and arranged seven Bible studies that year working as a Bible worker and a Sabbath School teacher. It was without a doubt a foundational step in his journey to ministry. Pastor Arrais completed law school that year,

married the beautiful Natalia, and started his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in the summer of 2010.

On January 1, 2015, Pastor Andre began his ministry as shepherd of the Corrales/East Mountain church district. During a recent sermon at Corrales, Pastor Arrais implored each member of the church to be a worker and a witness to the love and advent of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Monique Wilkerson

Odessa VBS: Destination Paradise

ODESSA, TEXAS » Destination Paradise Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a huge success at the Odessa English church during June. After being encouraged by our pastor, Abner Razon, to use the General Conference VBS curriculum, director America Baeza agreed to try it out.

The church was transformed into an island paradise, decorated by Delia Muniz and several volunteers. The children, led by their "travel guides," had an adventure learning about Jesus. With treasure logs in hand, the groups would visit various stations. Attendance varied between 30 and 40 children daily as they enjoyed the

Bible stories, crafts, nature investigations, mission stories, games, and snacks.

Lydia Soto decided to come and see what her great-grandchildren were so excited about. She came the whole week and helped tremendously in the kitchen. One of her great-grandsons has been attending church ever since, and even joined his cousins at the General Conference Session in San Antonio.

The week ended with a graduation on Sabbath. Many parents attended the program and the church was full. VBS is a great tool for witnessing to our friends and relatives.

America Baeza



◀ Children at the Odessa church enjoyed the crafts as well as the many other VBS activities.

▼ The Odessa church hosts Destination Paradise Vacation Bible School.



Ten New Members in Santa Fe after Prophecy Seminar

SANTA FE, N. MEX. » Members of the Santa Fe English church are rejoicing because 10 new members were added to their number after a recent prophecy seminar held in the church. Dr. Jim Stevens, former president of the Texico Conference, conducted the meetings over a seven-week period, which saw 30-40 visitors in attendance daily.

“We rejoice in the addition of these new members and we will stay in contact with a number of people who may yet decide to join God’s family,” says Pastor Eric Redic, who continues to conduct Bible studies with new and potential members.

The church appointed a spiritual brother or sister to keep in contact with each of the new believers. The ministry of the

spiritual partners is to keep in touch with the new members for at least six months and to help them integrate into the church family.

The seminar was an all-out effort for the church as members cared for parking, presented music, welcomed the visitors, conducted programs for the children, and prepared and served snacks for as many as 70 people who attended each night. Dr. Stevens commended the church members for the smooth running of the programs as “one of the most helpful teams I’ve ever worked with.”



The prophecy seminars held at the Santa Fe English church were well attended with about 30-40 attendees each day. The church rejoiced, as they received 10 new members into the congregation, as a result of the seminar.

He and Pastor Redic attempted to meet with each potential member in their home during the series. The church is committed to holding evangelistic meetings every year.

Allen Steele

The Joy of Youth for Christ

PECOS, N. MEX. » On July 25, at the Pecos River, a beautiful young girl decided to give her life to Christ. Jodi Thomas, an 18-year-old young lady, took the important step of being baptized. From the beginning of

2014, she decided to study the Bible and get prepared to give her life to Jesus. Every week she was able to meet at a library with Pastor Leonard Cummings, where they studied the Bible together.

Every study was an engaging conversation about the love of Jesus and truths from the Bible. Jodi made the Bible study more enjoyable, because

she always had questions and was curious about different topics that strengthened her faith. After finishing the Bible studies, she was very excited to know that she would be able to get baptized in the Pecos River.

The baptismal day was beautiful at the river! All the members from the Los Alamos Seventh-day Adventist Company were able to join Jodi for her baptism, and shared a picnic lunch afterward.

Also present was an enthusiastic young man, Jadon Harden, who was baptized in January of this year after being prepared by his loving parents. Jodi and Jadon’s decision to be baptized has inspired others to draw closer to Jesus in anticipation of His soon coming.

We will continue to pray for these precious young people that whatever they do, they will do it for the glory of God. May God bless them and their family in a special way.

Edith Cummings



▲ Jodi Thomas (left) and Jadon Harden (right), with Pastor Leonard Cummings on Jodi’s baptism day. Jadon was previously baptized in January of this year by Pastor Cummings.

▶ Jodi is ready to give her life to Jesus as Pastor Cummings prepares to baptize her in the Pecos River.





Southwestern Adventist University Continues Plans for Growth

“I want us to dream but I want us to have our feet on the ground,” affirmed president Ken Shaw to a local newspaper not long after he accepted the role as Southwestern Adventist University’s new president. In the June issue of the *Record*, the Southwestern feature shared the new five-year strategic plan. The strategic plan is now in its first year of implementation.

Two of the supporting recommendations in the strategic plan include building a new nursing and administration building and increasing the university endowment. Barely into the first semester, the success stories are already rushing in.

Feet on the Ground

In 1982, Grace Thomsen created the Eugene V. Thomsen Memorial Scholarship in memory of her beloved husband, a former academic dean for Southwestern Adventist University. It has become one of the largest endowed scholarships Southwestern offers. Each year, an outstanding junior in Southwestern’s Honors Program receives this scholarship.

Today, because of Grace’s generosity, 31 scholarship recipients are making a difference in their local communities. Among these recipients there are five pastors, four physicians specializing in emergency, internal, and family medicine, two teachers, a nurse, a computer programmer and analyst, as well as a future nurse, a future dentist, and three future physicians.

That gift began a legacy of giving to Southwestern as Grace continued to support the University. In 1993, Grace was awarded Philanthropist of the Year by Southwestern Adventist University. This award commemorated her generosity, dedication, and personal sacrifice. In 2000, Grace became a Lifetime Member of the Committee of 100. This distinguished honor is given to those who have contributed \$25,000 or more to Southwestern Adventist University.

The community lost a valued supporter and friend when Grace passed away earlier this year. But she wasn’t done giving. Grace gifted over \$41,000 through her estate towards her endowed scholarship and towards

the university’s student scholarship fund.

A thank you note from a recipient of Grace’s scholarship beautifully describes the gratitude of many students. “I am so thankful that you have chosen to invest yourself in young people like me. I was truly touched by your story of how you started all those years ago with the little you had to offer, and with that you have blessed the lives of many young people. You are an inspiration and a blessing to me. Thank you.”

Another lifetime supporter of Southwestern Adventist University, former nursing faculty chair Laurice Kafrouni Durrant,



Dr. Durrant presents her gift for an endowed scholarship to Joel Wallace, VP for finance, Ken Shaw, president, and professor Jorge Rico.

recently decided to create an endowed scholarship to honor her father who was passionate about witnessing and education. This is the third endowed scholarship Dr. Durrant created; the two previous scholarships were created in memory of her husband and mother.

The scholarship earnings from the \$25,000 endowment will be given to a theology student who exhibits dedication and passion for witnessing. The scholarship will be named the Ishak Hanna Kafrouni Memorial Scholarship.

Dr. Durrant credits a picture she received of her father on Father’s Day as the impetus for the creation of this new endowment. She remembers her father as a man who lived his faith and was an enthusiastic witness to others, including his own children. Of his five children, two became nurses, two became teachers, and one became a surgeon.

“I am so pleased to give a scholarship in my dad’s name,” Dr. Durrant shared at

the press conference announcing her new scholarship. “You know every two years I save up for a new car, thinking this will be the year I replace my old car. But then, something happens! Something more important comes up. God has blessed me so much and I really want to share that with others, especially students.”

Recently, another gift was received, this time for the new building. Long time university friend and neighbor Pinnacle Bank recently gifted \$100,000 to the capital campaign. Pinnacle Bank has a long history of supporting the community, which makes this project perfect for their involvement.

Last year, 54% of Southwestern Adventist University nursing students were from Johnson County. The program is expanding quickly. With the building of the new home for the nursing program, space will be provided for community wellness activities. These plans are part of the university’s five-year community engagement plan, and something Pinnacle Bank was proud to support.

Dreaming Big Dreams

Even as we write, we received word that another family wishes to contribute \$100,000 to the new building. While the family wishes to remain anonymous, their generosity is another perfect example of the planning, excitement, and commitment being invested in Southwestern Adventist University.

“As a campus, we’re very enthusiastic about our plans,” shares Shaw. “We are dreaming big dreams. At the same time, I’m so encouraged to see daily examples of ‘feet on the ground.’ I see our students, faculty, and staff investing time, ideas, and even their own gifts into our dreams. Then the community adds their support and you see dreams becoming reality.”

For more information on how you too can be “feet on the ground” and join Southwestern Adventist University in making the strategic plan a reality, contact the Office of Advancement at 817-202-6631 or tiffanyh@swau.edu.

Classified Ads

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home, and transportation as needed. Web site: <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

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House for sale in Leslie, North Central Arkansas: 2,600 sq. ft., 3/2, cathedral ceilings, two-year-old metal roof, large master suite, soapstone woodstove and two-car carport. Gravity spring water, creek, waterfalls, cave, hardwoods, mountain views, organic garden fruit/nut trees, vineyard, and solar greenhouse. Asking \$174,000. Contact Philip Patrick at 870.504.1762 or 870.447.6142.

EMPLOYMENT

Mathematics professor sought by Union College in Lincoln, NE. Doctorate or ABD required for ten-

ure track position. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching, and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and CV to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair, Division of Science and Mathematics, cawolfe@ucollege.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University's Business

Department seeks finance faculty to begin Spring or Fall term, 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas, preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

The School of Education and Psychology at Walla Walla University

is seeking applications for a tenure-track faculty position in psychology to begin September 2016. We are seeking an enthusiastic person who will lead and direct WWU's master's program in counseling psychology. An earned doctorate in Clinical or Counseling Psychology or Counselor Education is required. Applicants should be license-eligible in the State of Washington. For more information and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

Loma Linda University Library

seeks a research and instruction librarian with an ALA-accredited MLS to join the library faculty. Direct job description inquiries and resume to Carlene Drake, library director, at [\[llu.edu\]\(mailto:llu.edu\), or 11072 Anderson St, Loma Linda CA, 92350.](mailto:cdrake@</p>
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Andrews University seeks a faculty member for the Department of Music. This individual is responsible for teaching full-time undergraduate and graduate courses in music history, musicology, and research in music. A preferred qualified person should have a PhD in Musicology/Music History. Evidence of excellence in teaching and potential for scholarly activity are essential. Commitment to teamwork and collegiality. Excellent interpersonal skills. Ability to work with students and colleagues with a wide range of national, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/838>.

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Lunch is provided for all attendees | **Registration is FREE and required.**

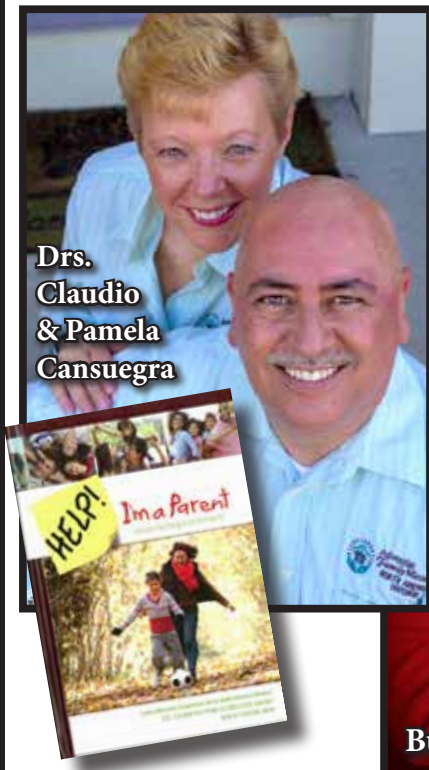
Please call Neyra Greenidge at 817.295.0476 ext. 2438 to register.

Special Guest Presenters:

Drs. Claudio & Pamela Cansuegra,
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Also Featuring:

Buddy & Carmen Griffith, Southwestern
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Drs.
Claudio
& Pamela
Cansuegra



Buddy & Carmen Griffith



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Demand is high for Automotive Service Management with an expected job growth rate of 17 percent between 2010-2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree in automotive service as well as a bachelor's in automotive service management. Both programs feature hands-on experience with ASE master mechanics and a focus on incorporating Christ-centered values in the classroom as well as the workplace. Southern students have an 85 percent pass rate on ASE certification exams. Part-time work opportunities and internships are available in the auto shop on campus. Visit southern.edu/tech for more information.

The Construction Management job outlook is strong with an expected growth rate of 16 percent between 2012-2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree as well as a bachelor's in construction management. Students learn to unravel the complex components of commercial and residential construction projects and gain management techniques and leadership skills needed to supervise a job site. Southern's program features hands-on experience while incorporating Christ-centered values into both learning and working environments. Visit

southern.edu/tech for more information.

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Eastern Oklahoma / NW Arkansas Route

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, October 19		Arrive	Depart
Gainesville	3411 N Weaver St, Gainesville TX 76240	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Ardmore	828 Locust St, Ardmore OK 73401	11:20 AM	11:50 AM
Davis (Arbuckle View)	5500 Highway 7 W, Davis OK 73030	12:30 PM	1:00 PM
Moore (Hope Adventist Fellowship)	9309 S I 35 Service Rd, Moore OK 73160	2:45 PM	3:15 PM
OK Conference Office	4735 NW 63rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73132	3:55 PM	4:25 PM
Enid	1501 W Purdue Ave, Enid OK 73703	6:10 PM	6:40 PM
Tuesday, October 20		Arrive	Depart
Stillwater	3823 W 19th Ave, Stillwater OK 74074	9:20 AM	9:50 AM
Bristow	401 E 6th Ave, Bristow OK 74010	11:20 AM	11:50 AM
Sapulpa	201 S Linden St, Sapulpa OK 74066	12:30 PM	1:00 PM
Tulsa (Adventist Fellowship)	15303 E 21st St S, Tulsa, OK 74134	2:10 PM	2:40 PM
Bartlesville	4811 Nowata Rd, Bartlesville OK 74006	3:40 PM	4:10 PM
Ketchum	35369 S Highway 82, Vinita OK 74301	5:25 PM	5:55 PM
Claremore	20555 S 4170 Rd Unit B, Claremore OK 74017	6:45 PM	7:15 PM
Wednesday, October 21		Arrive	Depart
Gentry	21090 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry, AR 72734	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Springdale	4001 W Don Tyson Pkwy, Springdale AR 72762	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Huntsville	1357 W Main St, Huntsville AR 72740	12:00 PM	12:30 PM
Harrison	4877 Highway 392 W, Harrison AR 72601	2:00 PM	2:30 PM
Clinton	125 Skyhill Drive, Clinton AR 72031	4:15 PM	4:45 PM
Conway	1265 Robins St, Conway AR 72034	5:45 PM	6:15 PM
Clarksville	2514 W Main St, Clarksville AR 72830	7:35 PM	8:05 PM
Thursday, October 22		Arrive	Depart
Fort Smith	4321 Jenny Lind Rd, Fort Smith AR 72901	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Sallisaw	2080 W Lenington Rd, Sallisaw OK 74955	10:20 AM	10:50 AM
Muskogee	170 N Country Club Rd, Muskogee OK 74403	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
McAlester	620 E Delaware Ave, McAlester OK 74501	2:10 PM	2:40 PM
Durant	225 Sunny Meadow Dr, Durant OK 74701	4:10 PM	4:40 PM
Denison Sherman	3409 S Eisenhower Pkwy, Denison TX 75020	5:20 PM	5:50 PM

Order Deadline for Eastern Oklahoma / NW Arkansas route is Thursday, October 15. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

Arkansas / East Texas Route

Each stop includes 30 minutes for deliveries

Monday, November 2		Arrive	Depart
Greenville	1211 Commerce Dr, Greenville TX 75401	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Mount Pleasant	302 Lakewood Dr, Mt Pleasant TX 75455	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Paris	1564 US Highway 271 S, Paris TX 75462	1:45 PM	2:15 PM
De Queen (Beacon Hill)	1452 Red Bridge Rd, De Queen AR 71832	4:15 PM	4:45 PM
Glenwood Spanish	210 S 3rd St, Glenwood AR 71943	6:20 PM	6:50 PM
Tuesday, November 3		Arrive	Depart
Hot Springs	401 Weston Rd, Hot Springs AR 71913	8:15 AM	8:45 AM
Benton	2615 Lincoln Rd, Benton AR 72019	9:35 AM	10:05 AM
Little Rock	8700 N Rodney Parham Rd, Little Rock, AR 72205	10:50 AM	11:20 AM
Searcy	2703 W Beebe Capps Expy, Searcy AR 72143	12:45 PM	1:15 PM
Batesville	30 Gap Rd, Batesville AR 72501	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Jonesboro	2317 W Washington Ave, Jonesboro AR 72401	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
New Life	1093 Highway 77, Marion AR 72364	6:45 PM	7:15 PM
Wednesday, November 4		Arrive	Depart
Shiloh Adventist School	2400 Maple St, Little Rock AR 72204	10:15 AM	10:45 AM
Northside (Pine Bluff)	5603 Holsey St, Pine Bluff AR 71602	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Magnolia	2015 Ellis St, Magnolia AR 71753	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Texarkana	3100 Pleasant Grove Rd, Texarkana TX 75503	4:45 PM	5:15 PM
Shreveport (Ark/La Conf.)	7025 Greenwood Rd, Shreveport LA 71119	6:40 PM	7:10 PM
Thursday, November 5		Arrive	Depart
Jefferson Academy	3000 FM 728, Jefferson TX 75657	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Longview	2800 Airline Rd, Longview TX 75605	10:25 AM	10:55 AM
Mineola	1904 Old Tyler Hwy, Mineola TX 75773	12:10 PM	12:40 PM
Terrell	315 Wall St, Terrell TX 75160	1:55 PM	2:25 PM

Order Deadline for the Arkansas / East Texas route is Thursday, October 29. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

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Announcements

2nd Annual Agricultural Conference: "Restoring the Waste Places" Agricultural Conference is November 11-15, 2015 in Glen Rose, Texas. For all seeking to understand and follow God's plan for agriculture. Register at www.AdventistAg.org.

5th Annual Adventist Rodder's Club Show-N-Shine Classic Car Show: The show is a fundraiser for the Grandview church's food pantry, an outreach for the Grandview area. Sunday, September 13, 2015, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Beaumont Ranch, 10736 CR 102, Grandview, TX 76050. Free admission and great family

entertainment! Live music, cars, trucks, and bikes. For more information concerning contest fees, cash awards, or sponsorship, contact Rich Schram at 817.658.2686, or richsc Classics@gmail.com, or Rick Gardner at nomadder55@gmail.com.

Clifton Norse Church's Annual Service: The annual Sabbath service at Clifton Norse church, the oldest standing Adventist church in the Texas conference, will be held October 10 at 10:00 a.m. Sermon by Kenneth Shaw, president of Southwestern Adventist University. The Norse Church in Clifton is about a 90-minute drive from Keene. From Keene,

find State Hwy. 174 in Cleburne and take it south through Meridian. Turn right through town to Hwy. 6. Turn left on Hwy. 6 for about eight miles toward Clifton. Turn right on FM 2136 and travel about three miles and turn left on CR 4155 and drive about a mile. The church is located on the left. Information: Yddo Ortiz, 817.517.4650.

Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend: October 16-17. All Alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are those ending in

a 1 or a 6, starting with the class of 1921 and running through the class of 2011. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office by e-mail at acadalum@andrew.edu, or leave a message at 269.471.6140.

Elkhart Seventh-day Adventist Church 100th Anniversary Celebration: Please come and celebrate our 100th year as a church on Sabbath, October 17, 2015. Sabbath School is at 9:30 a.m. and the church service will be at 11:00 a.m. A potluck meal will be served after the service. RSVP if possible. Contact: Shirley Chapline, 903.764.5475. Address: 2253 E. Hwy 294, Elkhart, Texas.

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Obituaries

LOMBARD, Ernest L., born June 7, 1923 in Wichita, Kan., and died July 2, 2015 in Fort Worth, Tex. He was a member of the Mansfield church. Ernest proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII, and was a lay-pastor for many years in the Texas and Texico Conferences. Survivors: wife, Beverly Lombard, of Cleburne, Tex.; son, David Lombard and his wife, Carolyn, of Ivanhoe, Calif.; son, Kenneth Lombard and his wife, Julie, of Portland, Maine; son, Lyle Lombard and his wife, Vicki, of Portland, Tex.; son, Marc Lombard and his wife, Lisa of London, Kent.; daughter Pauline Kelly of Visalia, Calif.; daughter, Tanya Shetler and her husband, Loren, of Ruckersville, Va.; daughter, Aimee Lombard of Glendale, Calif.; sisters, Darliene Gall of Parachute, Colo., and Loreita Harsany of Loveland, Colo.; 20 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

MOHLER, Joanna Jane, born July 16, 1935 in Oklahoma City, Okla., and died August 11, 2015 in Oklahoma City. She was a member of the Shawnee church. She was a public health nutritionist from 1983–1997. Her passion was gospel singing and travel and she donated to music and children programs in the church. She was born in Oklahoma City but lived most of her childhood and adult life in Salinas, Calif. Survivors: husband, Mack Mohler, of Shawnee; son, Dave Slade,

son, of Albuquerque, N. Mex.; daughter, Renee Cravens, of Still Water, Okla.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

NAIL, Jack Edward, known as "Uncle Jack," died April 3, 2015. He was the youth ministries director for the Chesapeake Conference from 1977-1990. He also served at Indiana Academy as boys dean in late 1950, in Atlanta, Ga., as a teacher, in Houston, Tex., as the principal of Houston Jr. Academy, in Kansas City, Mo., as the youth director, in Boise, Id., as the youth director, and in Columbia, Md., as the youth director. In his retirement, Jack and his wife, Ann, were faithful supporters of God's work and Adventist education. Survivors: wife, Ann, and four children: Jacquie Elliott, Ted Nail, Lynda Feldmann, and Jon Nail.

NORMAN, Phyllis, born February 18, 1923, and died June 6, 2015 in Harrah, Okla. She was a member of the Summit Ridge church. Phyllis was an RN and spent many years as director of nurses at the nursing home in Keene, Texas. She and her husband, Richard, moved to Summit Ridge Retirement Village in Oklahoma where they lived out their retirement years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard. Survivors: sons, Bill, of Edmond, Okla., and David, of Orlando, Fla., and two grandchildren.

SHAWVER, J. Russell, born Sept. 15, 1927 in

Treece, Kan., and died July 8, 2015 in Bartlesville, Okla. He was a member of the Bartlesville church. Russ graduated from Oak Park Academy in 1945 and earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Union College in 1952. He also received a MBA degree from the University of Chicago in 1961. Russ worked 40 years for the Adventist Health Care System, which included Glendale Adventist Hospital (CA), White Memorial Hospital (CA), Boulder Memorial Hospital (CO), Kettering Medical Center (OH) and Shawnee Mission Medical Center (KS). He was proud to be involved with the beginning and growth of many hospitals. He was dedicated to the mission of the healing of the soul, as well as the healing of the body accomplished with a close relationship with the Adventist church and

Adventist hospitals. Survivors: wife, Lila; son, James; daughters, Debra Wold and Robin Enders; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WILKERSON, Fred, born March 29, 1930 in Crestview, Fla., and died August 16, 2015 in Harrah, Okla. He was a member of the Summit Ridge church. Fred proudly served in the US Navy during the Korean Conflict and later retired after 20 years. He enjoyed playing his guitar and was an avid gardener. Fred served as head deacon of the Summit Ridge Church for many years and was very faithful in all his duties. Survivors: wife, Sue Wilkerson, of the home; two sisters; two brothers; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Nov 6
Abilene, TX	7:24	7:15	7:06	6:58	6:51	5:45
Albuquerque, NM	6:51	6:41	6:32	6:23	6:15	5:08
Amarillo, TX	7:31	7:22	7:12	7:04	6:56	5:49
Brownsville, TX	7:17	7:09	7:02	6:56	6:50	5:46
Dallas, TX	7:12	7:03	6:54	6:46	6:39	5:33
El Paso, TX	6:51	6:42	6:34	6:26	6:19	5:13
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:14	7:05	6:57	6:49	6:41	5:35
Gallup, NM	6:59	6:49	6:40	6:31	6:23	5:16
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:07	6:59	6:51	6:44	6:37	5:32
Gentry, AR	7:02	6:52	6:42	6:33	6:25	5:18
Little Rock, AR	6:54	6:44	6:35	6:26	6:19	5:12
Muskogee, OK	7:05	6:56	6:46	6:37	6:29	5:22
New Orleans, LA	6:46	6:38	6:30	6:22	6:16	5:10
Oklahoma City, OK	7:14	7:04	6:55	6:46	6:38	5:31
Roswell, NM	6:43	6:34	6:25	6:17	6:09	5:03
San Antonio, TX	7:20	7:12	7:04	6:57	6:50	5:45
Shreveport, LA	7:00	6:51	6:42	6:34	6:27	5:21
Tulsa, OK	7:08	6:58	6:48	6:39	6:31	5:24

Note: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Nov 1.



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

More Than a Tea Party

I REMEMBER BACK IN THE EARLY 90s when the phenomenon of women’s ministries was introduced at my local church (in an area of the country that is many miles from Texas!). The idea was met with a bit of skepticism and confusion about what this “new ministry” was really all about. I was very surprised to learn some years later that the first women’s ministries director in the Adventist Church, Mrs. S.M.I. Henry, was appointed to serve at the General Conference in 1898! Indeed, women’s ministries has come a long way since then and has blossomed into a vibrant, vital ministry that touches the lives of countless people around the world. Here in North America and around the Southwestern Union, consecrated women, guided by the motto “A ministry for every woman,” are engaged in numerous creative, Christ-centered ministries that are making a real difference in people’s lives.

To be clear, women’s ministries isn’t just limited to ministry *to* and *for* women, but that is certainly one important aspect. A recent personal experience helped me to gain some deep insight into ways that women’s ministries can better meet the needs of the women in our own church. I participated in a focus group comprised of six women of various ages, cultures, and backgrounds, who shared from their hearts their thoughts about women’s ministries in general, along with their heartfelt desires for ways in which

the church can better meet their needs. Several key themes surfaced, which were echoed among the group members.

One theme I heard expressed more than once was that women have a deep need for inclusion and belonging. One person lamented, “Our church has little support for people who are divorced. If you are not married with kids, you just don’t fit in.” Women want to be able to bond with one another, to share their concerns with one another, and to feel that they can trust others to keep their

concerns confidential. One person emphasized the great need for having access to professional Adventist counselors who can provide counseling from a biblical, Adventist perspective.

Another woman said, “The church should be a place where I can feel safe addressing real life issues. We need seminars on such topics as how to deal with husbands who are into pornography or kids who are doing drugs. We need for the church to give women the tools to be who they are. We need this more than to just get together and chat.”

Finally, a common perception among the group was shared by someone who so aptly said, “When I think of women’s ministries I think of tea parties.” Our thoughtful sharing session left me with a greater sense of the real-life issues that women in our church are dealing with today. And I was challenged to do my part to help meet the heartfelt needs of my sisters in Christ.

Pat Humphrey

Record

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University Experience

October 29-November 1

Gala Fundraising Dinner

November 12

The Power of Children exhibit

November 14-January 3

Christmas break

December 16-January 10

University Experience

March 17-20

University Experience

April 14-17

Dates subject to change; check
our website to stay up to date.



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