Hi friends,

What do each of the following innovators of highly-impactful ministries have in common?

- Established and directed an E-Van-gelism ministry to take the gospel directly to the people on the streets of New York City along with literature, food, health screening and intensive prayer counseling. Hosted and produced a television program, “Power to Cope,” which aired in New York and nationally. In their retirement, she and her husband set up a non-profit Christian message tourist ministry, A Key Encounter, which she has directed since 2007. --Juanita Kretschmar

- After a career in education as a teacher and principal, she began to train women in evangelism in her 50s. She has witnessed more than 2,000 people accept Jesus Christ
during her own preaching and with those of whom she trained. --Nicolle Brise

- Founded a non-profit organization, Women's Health & Empowerment Network, which addresses domestic violence and sexual abuse from a Christian perspective with four healing centers in the United States and affiliate programs in the UK and Africa, and has done training in many countries. --Mable Dunbar

- Re-enrolled in school in her 50s, completing family counseling studies, and soon after began a Hispanic family evangelism ministry. Preached around the world and on television, resulting in the Holy Spirit bringing more than 40,000 individuals to God's kingdom. --Adly Campos

You probably guessed it: They are all ministerial spouses in our Division who possess a passionate love for God, their families and the people in their world. In this issue of Fresh Strength, you can view these and many others who weren't afraid to say, "Yes!" to God's leading - from Alaska and northern Manitoba in the North to Texas and the tip of Florida in the South, and from Guam in the far West to Bermuda in the East. Praise God that He invites each of us to partner with Him -- whether from a wheelchair or at full-run -- in a ministry tailor-made to suit our unique self and the needs that surround us.

Friends, do you also know that we have launched an exciting ministerial spouses evangelism initiative that you can be a part of, along with your pastor-husband and church family? You can download the brochure here to find out more about it. In two weeks look for a special Fresh Strength newsletter featuring stories of ministerial spouses who have been involved in this initiative.

We'd love to feature your ministry story in another issue. Please send in a 90-second or so video, or short article, and help us spread the good news of how God is at work in your life and ministry. May God bless your "Yes!" to Him!

TAKE OUR SURVEY ...

comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

II Corinthians 1:4 NLT

On the MSA Facebook page, share with the other ministerial spouses how the Lord comforted you this week.

Submit a personal prayer request. Each prayer request will be prayed for individually.

Edward DeVasher

Please pray for continued healing for 17 month old Edward, son of Pastor Kameron and Emilie DeVasher and grandson of Elder Ted and Nancy Wilson. If you want to keep up with Emilie and Kameron's blog, go to: posthope.org/edward

Ministerial Spouses Evangelism

Please pray for the ministerial spouses evangelism initiatives throughout the North American Division.
Ministry Spouses Tracks

We extend a warm invitation to all spouses of ministers (of both genders) employed by the Adventist Church in the North American Division to attend the June 28-July 1, 2015 Ministerial Convention in Austin, Texas. This convention will feature tracks for ministerial spouses and children 3 years and up.

Please take a couple of minutes to complete a survey regarding the topics that you would like featured at the ministerial spouses meetings.

Click here to take the survey.

FAITH ALIVE!

The Other Side of Stewardship

Barbara Livesay’s parents made difficult decisions that honored God, but sometimes their commitment resulted in financial challenges and losses for their family. Listen as Barbara tells how their faithful examples blessed her and her husband, Pastor Don Livesay, who wrote about his in-laws in his President’s Perspective, (page 3).

Barbara serves as an associate superintendent of education in the Lake Union Conference of SDAs. She lives in Berrien Springs, Mich., with her husband, Don, who is president of the Lake Union. They have two married daughters, and were blessed with their fourth grandchild in August.

TEAM MINISTRY

Rachel Hyman Gutierrez Sings "V'ahafta"

Listen to Rachel Hyman Gutierrez sing "V'ahafta," a song from her Jewish heritage. She grew up in a Jewish family and became a Seventh-day Adventist in 2000. Since then, she has been involved in several capacities, including doing Bible work, literature evangelism and Jewish music ministry. She performs for religious Jews and Christian audiences alike, singing about the Lord she loves and introducing many, for the first time, to the soulful quality of Hebrew music and opening hearts to the majesty of our Maker. Rachel also is co-host of the 3ABN program, "Back to Our Roots," which explores the Hebrew roots of our Christian faith. Last year, Rachel married Gabriel Gutierrez, a pastor in the Rocky Mountain Conference, and they reside in Wyoming.

To learn more about Rachel, visit her website.
Partners in Ministry

Kathleen and Pastor Ivan Williams have served in ministry together for more than 20 years. In an interview, conducted by Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, the Williamses share some of the things they learned on their journey.

Kathleen is a Human Resources benefits specialist with Westat Research Company, a leading research company in the U.S. Pastor Ivan is director of the Ministerial Department of the North American Division. The Consuegras are the directors of the Family Ministries Department of the North American Division.

View Part I
View Part II

Couples Counseling Couples

After decades of providing pre-marriage counseling, Pastor Dave Gemmell discovered the service was enhanced by great magnitude when his wife, Eileen Gemmell, joined the team. Since then, the
Gemmells have conducted pre-marriage counseling as a team, preparing new couples using the PREPARE/ENRICH Assessment tools. As a result, Eileen says they have strengthened their own marriage.

Pastor Dave is associate director of the Ministerial Department of the North American Division, and Eileen is a family nurse practitioner. This interview is conducted by Pastor Ivan Williams, director of the Ministerial Department of the North American Division, and his wife, Kathleen Williams, a Human Resources benefits specialist.

View here

Growing Closer in Ministry

Pastoral spouse Kathleen McKey and her husband, Duane McKey, reminisce about their long journey serving as a pastoral leadership team in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. This segment is part of the "Keeping It Real" project produced by the North American Division Ministerial Spouses Association for "Pastor's DVD 20," released January 2012 to all pastors of the Division.

Kathleen McKey is the Southwestern Union Conference Ministerial Spouses Association director, and Duane McKey is a vice president and ministerial director of the Southwestern Union Conference.

View here

Ministerial Spouse from The Pas, Manitoba, Canada and co-host of Native New Health, share useful advice for managing your weight with a no-nonsense lifestyle change that works.

Share health tips that work for you, like how you lost weight; healthy, quick, delicious recipes; depression busters, etc.

View here

TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE

Imagine there is a bank account that credits your account each morning with $86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. What would you do? Draw out every cent? Of course you would!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is "Time." Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost whatever seconds you have failed to invest to a good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the deposits, the loss is yours. There is no
Together for a Purpose: Finding a Shared Ministry

Ministering together is not for every ministry couple. It has profound challenges as well as joys, and working on a shared project isn’t always easy. We may still find ourselves doing some of the work alone, and may still struggle with our different ideas about how and what we should do, but many couples find that even a small shared ministry can enhance their closeness and happiness. “Two are better than one,” writes the teacher of Ecclesiastes, “because they have a good reward for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9, NKJV).

Read more to discover God's unique ministry for your marriage.

Prolific author Karen Holford lives in Scotland, where she works as a couples and family therapist. She and her pastor-husband, Bernie, have lived and ministered together for three decades.

COUNSELORS CORNER

Where do I turn for help?

Question: I need help! My pastor-husband and I always have had problems communicating. Though we have been married 12 years, I just can’t take it anymore. He gets very angry when I tell him he is not listening to my heart, and says I am too emotional and needy.

My husband spends most of the day in his church office, and then comes home for dinner before leaving again to visit or give Bible studies. We have two children who attend school, and they hardly see their father. Read more.

Click here to submit questions to the counselors, Carolann and César De León.

MINISTRY STORIES

drawing against tomorrow.

You must live in the present on today’s deposits. Tomorrow, for some, may never come.

What have you done with your time today for the Lord? Have you wasted it, doing what you thought was important, or did you do what the Lord asked you to do?

Make the most of today. Invest in the time you have been given so when the Lord comes, He will be able to say, “Welcome home, my faithful servant.”

The clock is running.

Unknown author. Shared by Becky Johnson
Ministry Spouse Stories
Click on each picture to read their story.

Mabel Dunbar  Cynthia Nguyen  Cheryl Knowles

Maureen Tapp  Juanita Kretschmar  Herbert Eisele

Judy Evenson  Paula Johnson  Adly Campos

Your ministry exploits will inspire other ministerial spouses. Please share them.

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Our practical support for you and your church...

- Intercessory prayer
- Online training modules and live events
- FREE resources in English or Spanish:

  Truth 4 Youth resource (PP sermons, music and craft ideas for children’s evangelism) – (regular price of $129.00)
  www.youngdisciple.com/truth-4-youth.aspx

  A DVD drama on the life of Jesus (such as the Gospel of John) 
  & group discussion questions – free or a PP presentation series on the life of Jesus and group questions – to be developed – free

  Living With Hope DVD Big Group and Small Group Evangelistic 16 lesson curricula – free

  The Disciple's Path to Follow Jesus – booklets 1, 2, & 3 – for each person that is baptized during a ministerial spouse evangelistic series (reg $2.95 per booklet)

God’s partnership with you...

“Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

“... you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, 
a holy nation, His own special people, that you may 
proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of 
darkness into His marvelous light.”
1 Peter2:9 (NKJV)

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”
1 Thess. 5:24 (NKJV)

“For with God all things are possible.”
Philippians 4:10 (NKJV)

Our prayer for you...

Father God, we love You and we want to share Your incredible love and forgiveness with others. Thank You for the many gifts that You have poured into the lives of each ministerial spouse. We know that each of them is specially gifted, but many have never been given the opportunity to proclaim Your Good News publicly. Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon those You are preparing to participate in this special evangelistic initiative and may Your presence guide them into Your perfect will for their lives.

 In the Name of Jesus. Amen
Our vision…
Spouses of pastors empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim in their communities the good news of Jesus Christ and His soon return.

Your opportunity…
• to present an evangelistic series in your own community, fully supported by your spouse (pastor) and congregation
• to take advantage of special training and support

Your support network…
• will challenge your spouse (pastor) to invest in you and your ministry by introducing and coordinating the overall project in your congregation
• will encourage all members of participating churches to engage in a lifestyle of evangelism (see 6 month chart) which includes for them:
  - Spiritual Preparation
  - Training
  - Outreach Activities
• will encourage the pastoral team to work towards an integrated and collaborative ministry approach
• will encourage the development of a prayer group to intercede for every aspect of this evangelistic initiative
• will encourage congregations to develop small Bible study groups

Vertical arrows indicate the flow of interests from small groups to public programs and vice versa.
Ministerial Spouses Workshop Topics

**1. Share your preference ....**

Please take a couple of minutes to share which workshop topics you would like to see offered at the Ministerial Spouses meetings at the 2015 Ministerial Convention in Austin, Texas on June 28-July 1.

Indicate on a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being no interest and 4 being highly interested)

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Public speaking</td>
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Hospitality tips
Making friends with ministerial spouses of other faith communities
Public proclamation – you can do it!
Hope for prodigal children

Other (please specify)

Done

Powered by SurveyMonkey
Check out our sample surveys and create your own now!
Together for a Purpose - Finding a Shared Ministry

by Karen Holford

Better together

When Bernie and I were very new in ministry, we were sent to an isolated church that was going through a difficult time. Soon we were overwhelmed and discouraged. It felt as if nothing we did was ever right or good enough.

Then our friend Jeff called us. We’d gone to seminary together, and now he was preparing several couples for marriage. He invited us to work with him on a weekend of seminars for engaged couples. We had a toddler and a crazy busy life, but we went along—often writing our next seminar while Jeff was presenting his! At the end of the weekend we were exhausted, inspired, and invigorated.

Completely unintentionally, we had stumbled across our shared ministry! Twenty years later we are still regularly involved in couple and family ministry. Our own marriage has inevitably been enriched and strengthened by preparing seminars, taking further studies, and learning from the couples we counsel. The demands of ministry could easily send us off in different directions, but we reconnect deeply several times a year when we minister to other couples.

Ministering together is not for every ministry couple. It has profound challenges as well as joys, and working on a shared project isn’t always easy. We may still find ourselves doing some of the work alone, we may still struggle with different ideas about how and what we should do, but many couples find that even a small shared ministry can enhance their closeness and happiness. “Two are better than one,” writes the teacher of Ecclesiastes, “because they have a good reward for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9, NKJV).

Six reasons for sharing a ministry

1. Ministering to others can bring you closer together as you talk, make plans, pray, work, and celebrate the joys and challenges together.
2. It may be better for you to share a joint ministry, and work together, than for each of you to work in isolation with separate ministries, which can more than double the time you are apart from each other.
3. Doing something kind for others is one of the best ways to experience joy, peace, and love for yourself, too.
4. Discovering a shared ministry leads you to fill a unique role together as part of God’s purpose for your relationship.
5. The enjoyment and sense of purpose you have in your shared ministry can help you to weather the storm when you face challenges in your local churches.
6. You can spend time together working on projects you enjoy, and your spouse can still count it as ministry time!

Discovering God’s unique ministry for your marriage

Take a piece of paper each and write seven lists:

1. My spiritual gifts: These are the gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in the Bible, such as being generous, teaching, being kind and merciful, serving, leading, etc. Read Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, then list the gifts you believe God has given to you.
2. My natural talents: These are the special gifts that you were born with and nurtured over the years, such as being able to sing or play an instrument, writing, public speaking, financial skills, creativity, etc.
3. My skills: These are other skills you’ve learned and practiced over the years, such as being able to fix a car, grow vegetables, decorate a home, ride a bike, cook, etc. They aren’t spiritual gifts or talents, but they are very useful skills that you have learned over the years.
4. My education: You have learned how to do some things because of your education and training background, such as nursing, teaching, accounting, creating a web site, leading a choir, etc.
5. My interests: These are the things that interest and inspire you. Again, they may be similar to things you have put in the other lists, but there may be some interests you have that don’t fit under any other category, such as an interest in health, learning about other cultures, traveling, community affairs, reading, etc.
6. My passions: These are the things you feel passionately about. Maybe it’s working with children, sharing your faith, health ministries, or serving the poor, etc.
7. My ministries: These are all the ministries you have enjoyed over the years. Perhaps you enjoyed working at a summer camp or helping disabled people get out and about. Maybe you enjoyed creating a prayer room at a retreat or being the hostess at an evangelistic event. List the ministries you’ve been involved with that left you feeling fulfilled in some way.

Blending your gifts

Now look at each of your lists and prayerfully consider what God has given you. Pray that He will guide you to fill an important need in your community or circle of influence. Look for any common threads in your lists, such as passions and skills for working with children, running a cooking class, developing an outreach website, or running family life seminars.

As you discuss and explore your unique blend of gifts, talents, interests, skills, passions, education and ministries, you may discover some ministry that excites you both. Maybe, like us, you’ll minister a couple of times a year at a marriage retreat. Perhaps you’ll work together in a Pathfinder class for an hour a week. Maybe you’ll go overseas and build schools for one week a year.

Couples ministering together

Steve and Meg are passionate about making church a place where children and families want to be and where they are always learning about Jesus. Meg is especially good at finding fun ways to involve the children in Steve’s worship services.

Paula loves teaching children about health and making it fun. Her husband, Bob, is great at playing the guitar and writing easy-to-learn songs. So they visit local schools during health-emphasis weeks, helping children to learn about healthy choices and teaching them fun songs to reinforce their message.

Now it’s your turn. How could God show His love for the world through your unique couple ministry?

Prolific author Karen Holford lives in Scotland, where she works as a couples and family therapist. She and her pastor-husband, Bernie, have lived and ministered together for three decades.
Where Do I Turn for Help?

Question: I need help! My husband, a minister, and I always have had problems communicating. We have been married for 12 years, and I just can’t take it anymore. He gets very angry when I tell him he is not listening to my heart and says I am too emotional and needy. He spends most of the day in his church office, and then comes home for dinner before leaving again to visit or do Bible studies. We have two children who go to school, and they hardly see him. When I tell him we should go talk to a counselor, he responds that he is too busy or that it’s too expensive and says I just need to be less selfish and start doing more for others so I’m not so focused on myself. What do you recommend I do? We live in a small town, and I don’t think there are very many resources in our area. Where do I turn for help? -- A Disconnected Ministerial Spouse

Answer: Very often, spouses in situations like yours forego their desire to seek professional help because they fail to engage their spouse to join them. We recommend you seek counseling for yourself, even if your spouse is not interested in doing so at this time. As you reach out for help, your proactive action will cause a ripple effect in your marriage. If you have not already read and completed the 40-day journey recommended in the bestselling book, The Love Dare, by Stephen Kendrick, we recommend you do so prayerfully. Many couples have said that going through the 40-day “Love Dare” was life-changing and unlike anything they had ever experienced before. You mentioned you don’t have many resources in your small town, so we recommend using a search engine on the Internet to locate a Christian counseling center or Christian marriage counselors in your region. A few Internet resources you may find helpful are: http://pastorswives.org, http://www.pastorcare.org, and http://www.clergyrecovery.com.