

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

MAY 2013



Always In His Presence

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT | AUG. 1-4, 2013



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ALWAYS IN HIS PRESENCE

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT
 AUG. 1-4, FRISCO, TEX.**

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**Women's
 Retreat
 Featured
 Speakers**



Donna Jackson



Ella Simmons



Elizabeth Talbot



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On the Cover

Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director for Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, will be a keynote speaker at the Southwestern Union women's spiritual retreat to be held in Frisco, Texas, August 1-4, 2013. The closing session of that event will culminate with a Communion service conducted by Talbot for the English and Spanish groups combined. Cover photo by James Bokovoy.

Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Women: God's Special Gift to His Church

It has been my observation that if it were not for the selfless ministry of women in our church, very little would be accomplished. Look at our Sabbath Schools, the deaconesses' work, fellowship meals, evangelistic support, and the women leading out in worship. The list could go on and on.

My mother certainly had a profound influence in my life. She guided and encouraged me all along the way. It made her happy that I chose to follow Jesus in ministry. She told me one time that she didn't think she would have any stars in her crown, but I reminded her that she shared in any decisions for Jesus that I had seen.

We can all think of women we have known that have influenced us for Jesus. We need to thank them if they are still around. We need to honor them and minister to them. Our women's ministries leader here at the union, Carmen Griffith, and the leaders in our conferences, deserve our respect and support for all they do to encourage our women.

I can look at it in no other way except that our women are God's special gift to His church. Remember Jesus' words to John as He hung on the cross, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He told John, "Behold your mother!" And from that day, he took her to his own home" (John 19:26, 27).

Jesus had tender regard for women. They loved Him and many followed Him. And so it is today; many of our churches are composed of a majority of women. May God bless them and may their tribe increase. Let's do all we can to encourage them.

Larry Moore



Stepping Stone to Success

LM: "The influential reach of Southwestern's graduates is greater than you may think, be it over the airwaves or in a public classroom. Meet two of our university's graduates who are following God's path for them to reach people in their professions.

CE: "From the time I was a child, God's hand was guiding my path to Southwestern and beyond. At the age of five I decided I wanted to be a teacher. God worked out everything for me at Southwestern and my pathway was laid out before me before I even stepped on campus. I graduated from Southwestern with my degree in English and I am currently teaching 108 students in a small public high school in Oklahoma. God placed everyone that I met at Southwestern in my life for a reason: to mold me into the person I am today, and I still turn to so many of these people for guidance in my work and spiritual life alike."

MA: "The relationships I had with my professors as a student at

Southwestern helped shape my life. They took an interest in me and helped me make good decisions for my future. After three years of radio experience at Southwestern and an internship at KCLE in Cleburne, I was able to get my first after-college job in Weatherford. Eventually I ended up at Idaho's Christian station KTSY, building that station from the ground up. I was there for 20 years, earning three Dove Awards and a Marconi Nomination. And then I got a call to come back to my alma mater. A few

years ago I would've been proud of my awards and nominations. Being noticed by peers and rewarded for it is a milestone in any career. Now I'm older and place more value in seeing lives changed. I'm proudest of the people I've impacted. That's why I'm back at Southwestern. It's not about the awards and the dusty plastic on the shelf. It's about the people I've come across and watched grow, prosper, and be successful."



Chelsea Evans
Class of '12
High School English Teacher



Mike Agee
Class of '81
KJRN General Manager





CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN » SENIOR MANAGER OF MISSION DEVELOPMENT, FLORIDA HOSPITAL

Living In A "Me-ism" World

Do you ever wonder if people are becoming too self-absorbed? A strong case can be made that we live in an ever-increasing me-centric world. What are my rights? What are my benefits? What do I get? What's in it for me?

Me. Me. Me.

Something has to change. And that "something" is that we need to focus less on "me" and more on "we." Simply put, we need to start caring again and living for something greater than our own good.

C

Choice

R

Rest

E

Environment

A

Activity

T

Trust

I

Interpersonal
RELATIONSHIPS

O

Outlook

N

Nutrition

RADICAL GRACE

Jesus overflowed with caring love. He cared so much that people were healed when they simply touched the hem of His robe. But what is even more amazing is how He searched relentlessly for misfits—the hurting, the discarded, the abandoned—to stop their pain and restore within them the image of God.

Jesus reached out. He took the first step. He initiated the greatest search and rescue mission in the history of the universe. And He didn't do it because it was His career or duty, or because the nominating committee asked Him to. He did it because it was His nature to do so; Jesus cares.

HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

I wonder how much we really care. To care without an agenda. To love, serve, and minister because it's in our nature to do so. Beautiful transformations happen when we care. Consider the following evidence regarding the power of interpersonal relationships and caring.

In a landmark study published in the prestigious medical journal, *Lancet*, Dr. David Spiegel of Stanford University found that women with breast cancer who participated in psychosocial

support groups lived significantly longer than those who did not.

Here is the interesting part. In this study, Dr. Spiegel intended to disprove the idea that interpersonal relationships—psychosocial interventions—could prolong the life of women with breast cancer. But, to his utter amazement, what he discovered instead was that the women who had a weekly support group lived an average of twice as long as those who didn't. *People caring for people.*

In a UCLA study, a group of malignant melanoma cancer patients participated in a six-week, 90-minute weekly support group; another group did not participate. The sessions included education, stress management techniques, ways of enhancing coping skills, and social support. Six years later, the people in the support group had a 70 percent reduction in death rate, and almost half as many recurrences of the cancer. *People caring for people.*

In a study of 2,320 men who had survived a heart attack, interpersonal relationships were identified as the greatest source of healing. Even after researchers statistically controlled for genetics, exercise, diet, weight, smoking, and alcohol, men who were socially isolated and had high stress, presented more than four times the risk of dying sooner than those who had a stronger social network.

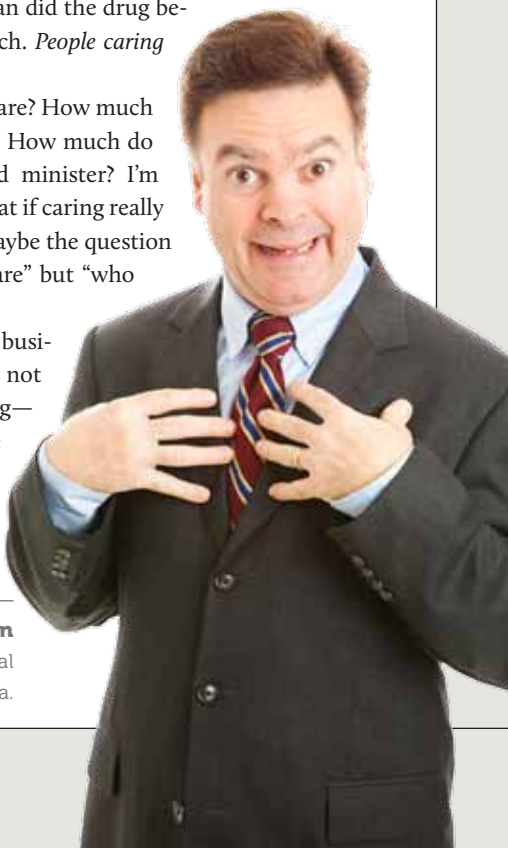
Get this: the psychosocial factors had a much stronger relationship to mortality than did the drug being tested in this research. *People caring for people.*

How much do we care? How much do we give of ourselves? How much do we affirm, nurture, and minister? I'm struck by the thought that if caring really is our character, then maybe the question isn't "how much do I care" but "who am I caring for today?"

Caring isn't a job, a business, or a chore—I'm not even sure it's our calling—it's simply who we are when Christ abides within our hearts.

That's CREATION Health!

Lynell LaMountain
writes from Florida Hospital
in Orlando, Florida.



Blessings From God

I HAVE HAD A HARD TIME ACCEPTING GOD AND HIS ACTIONS. Just this past summer, I watched and cared for my grandmother while she died of cancer, something no ten-year-old should ever have to experience. I prayed to God that He would save her life. He didn't, at least not in the way I had hoped. I now know that our method of saving could mean more pain and suffering.

The month she died physically, I died spiritually. I was angry with God for letting her die. I wouldn't let Him or anyone else who loved me or cared about me into my heart. It was stone cold, so that only the devil could get in. In that way, I died too. But I wouldn't talk about my troubles to anyone. I kept it bottled up inside of me and would have frequent outbursts. It has not yet been a year since this tragedy happened, but I am softening my heart, knowing that in my head I want to let God in, knowing I need to want that in my heart, as well.

God has saved my grandmother in a way that I may never understand. But I do know that, long before I came, she accepted Him into her heart. I hope to follow in her footsteps, and accept God into my life, as well. In the short time that I was with her, I got to know a lot of things about her. Some of her likes and dislikes, her favorite foods, and her not-so-favorite gummy bear flavors.

I didn't know much about her, before that. But I do know that when I arrive at God's city, I

will have a wonderful second chance to see her again, and have thousands of years to get to know her. There will be no death there, and all will be well. Sometimes, we may not see the blessings in our life through our anger and sadness. But as the song *Blessings* states, "And what if your blessings come through raindrops,

and what if your healing comes through tears, and what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near." Through that song, I have let God soften, and enter my heart, knowing that all of my greatest disappointments are His mercies in disguise.

I have been taking baptismal classes with fellow church members, to prepare me for my baptism in a couple of weeks. I am thrilled to say that I am getting baptized, because I believe that it means getting that much closer to God, and to help me realize all that He has done for me and my family.



Mikahla Waybright with her mother, Heidi Waybright. Mikahla struggled with questions about God after losing her grandmother (inset picture) to cancer.

Mikahla Waybright, a homeschooler, is in fifth grade and attends the Richardson church. She, along with several of her peers and her sister, is currently enrolled in a baptismal class.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY VIVIAN JOHNSON

You Are My Witness

Like so many people are, I was terrified to share my faith with friends and family, not to mention strangers. I felt it better to say nothing than the wrong thing. The devil had me trapped in fear, causing me to miss opportunities to help the many people who needed to hear of God's love and of His tremendous sacrifice.

A 2011 ShareHim trip to Africa changed that, though. I learned that if you commit yourself to God in prayer and preparation, He will do the rest. He will fill you with the Holy Spirit, leaving no room for fear. Also, the more I shared, the more knowledge I had. I learned truths I never imagined I could know just by instructing someone else.

"The humble worker who obediently responds to the call of God may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To accept so great and holy a responsibility is itself elevating to the character. It calls into action the highest mental and spiritual powers, and strengthens and purifies the mind and heart. Through faith in the power of God, it is wonderful how strong a weak man may become, how decided his efforts, how prolific of great results. He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 354).

Now, I give Bible studies in homes each week. For me this is less intimidating than speaking before an audience, because when visiting in homes I feel I'm studying with a friend and we're learning together God's wonderful

truths. What could be easier than sharing between friends? I had become friends with someone who I picked up each evening for meetings. After she was baptized, I was asked to continue studying with her. After the second visit, I realized she had not given up smoking. How was I to approach this difficult subject so early in our friendship? I prayed much about it throughout the week and especially the night before the study. Before we began our study, I was impressed to ask her if she had anything specific she wanted us to pray about. She said, "Yes, I want to quit smoking."

God always blesses us beyond and above what we could even think of to ask. I don't pretend to have all the answers, and, oftentimes, I only stay one step ahead by studying and praying and preparing. There are people all around us looking and praying for God to send someone to teach them His truth. Allow faith to calm your fears and then watch God work exciting miracles in your life as you become a witness.

Vivian Johnson is associate treasurer and human resources director at the Southwestern Union.



From left: Vivian Johnson, Dallas Keys and Jolie Johnson engage in a Bible study.



La Misión de las Damas

Mi madre comenzó a compartir el amor de Dios y Sus promesas con cada uno de sus hijos, miembros de su iglesia y en su comunidad. Ella representaba lo que está escrito en El Ministerio de la Bondad, página 164, “Maravillosa es la misión de las esposas y las madres y de las obreras más jóvenes. Si ellas lo desean, pueden ejercer una influencia para bien sobre todos los que las rodean...Una mujer verdaderamente convertida puede ejercer una influencia para el bien, poderosamente transformadora,” (HD 147.2), y pensar que este poder está al alcance de cada una de ¡nosotras!

De igual manera, sabemos que desde los tiempos bíblicos las mujeres han sido una parte integral en la misión de compartir el evangelio. Muchas mujeres continúan el camino de la mujer Samaritana, María Magdalena, Tabita y Priscila después de su relación con el Salvador. Hoy tu y yo tenemos la misma oportunidad de participar en este bello ministerio.

Comienza con tu iglesia local. Anima a las damas de tu iglesia y reúnanse a preparar un programa en el que puedan ministrar. Por ejemplo, en nuestra iglesia hispana de Alvarado, Texas, hemos trazado objetivos para fortalecer nuestra fe por medio de hábitos de oración y comunión. Motivamos a nuestras hermanas a traer visitas por medio de volantes, mensajes electrónicos y llamadas telefónicas.

Iniciamos el 2013 dedicando los primeros 10 días del año con lo esencial, la oración. Primeramente por el liderazgo y la membresía de nuestra organización mundial, regional y local. Nuestra segunda resolución fue orar los siete días a las 7:00 AM y a las 7:00 PM por nuestra iglesia y sus familias. Abrimos las puertas de nuestra iglesia los sábados a las 9:00 AM para orar por la pronta venida de Cristo y el derramamiento del Espíritu Santo en nuestra vida e iglesia. Además, tenemos una activa cadena de oración y hemos visto como Dios está obrando.

Las hermanas de la iglesia de Alvarado hispana durante el programa especial de febrero 23 de este año del ministerio de damas.



El salón de oración, con el tema del Santuario y con la descripción bíblico de cada mueble, preparado por las damas.

Tenemos semanas enteras de oración. Preparamos un salón especial para la oración y oramos específicamente cada día; el domingo oramos por nuestros niños; lunes por trabajo y prosperidad; martes por salud y sanidad; miércoles por la familia; viernes por nuestros jóvenes y el sábado por el derramamiento del Espíritu Santo en “mí.”

Un gran motivador para este ministerio es nuestro retiro de damas organizado por nuestra asociación, los cuales han sido de gran bendición para cada una de nosotras. Por tres días la felicidad, paz, armonía, oración y estudio de la palabra de Dios nos rodean. Los programas de cada día enriquecen espiritualmente como hijas de Dios, hijas de la Gracia. Todas sentimos como si estuviéramos en un pedacito de cielo y cuando todo lo bello llega a su fin sentimos tristeza ¡Qué pena, se acabo lo bueno!

Planea asistir este agosto próximo al Retiro de Damas de nuestra Unión del Suroeste. El evento será en Frisco, Texas del 1ro al 4to de agosto. Será un gran evento en donde cinco estados, (Arkansas, Louisiana, Nuevo Mexico, Oklahoma y Texas), ¡nos uniremos en alabanza a nuestro Dios! El tema es “Siempre en Su Presencia.” ¡Qué maravilloso será estar en la presencia de nuestro Dios!, lo que todas deseamos, anhelamos y nos preparamos para disfrutar por la eternidad esta maravillosa promesa. Inscríbete hoy mismo en la página www.southwesternwomen.org.

¡Traigamos a nuestras jóvenes, 13-18 años, y visitas a saborear un poquito del cielo que Dios nos ha prometido. Oremos para que todo esto sea una realidad en nuestras vidas y muchas almas puedan ser bendecidas con nuestra esperanza de estar un día con nuestro Señor; Jesucristo por la eternidad!

Landy Campos Ortiz, directora del ministerio de damas

ALWAYS IN HIS PRESENCE

Carmen Fuentes-Griffith, Southwestern Union women's ministries director

“Always In His Presence/Siempre en Su Presencia.” The title itself gives me such hope and relief. To know that I am *always* in God's presence let's me know that if I just say, “Jesus!” He is there at my side for whatever I need, whenever I need it. Even before I ask, He knows my need and sends His angels to me. Here in our union, we want to draw close to the Lord more than ever before. His coming is so soon. Not only do we want to prepare ourselves for that day, but we also want to be trained to bring others to know the Savior and love Him as much as we do. We could never do enough to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Because we love Him, we want to take every opportunity to learn more of Him and draw closer to Him.

“Always In His Presence” is the theme of the union women's spiritual retreat August 1-4, 2013. The retreat has so much to offer, and I want all the women of the Southwestern Union Conference to be a part of it. The retreat begins on Thursday evening, August 1, with leadership certification training, level 3, led by the conference women's ministries directors and Carla Baker, women's ministries director for the North American Division. Our conference directors are more than able to handle this task. We are blessed to have Melody Radde with Ana Alvarez from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference; Linda Francisco from the Oklahoma Conference; Roxanne Smythe and Lydia Ruiz from the Texico Conference; Sandy Reyes and Cheryl Algood from the Texas Conference; and Rose Carr and Betzaida Castro from the Southwest Region Conference. There will also be visiting trainers, such as Shirley Benton, Columbia Union Conference women's ministries director, and many more. This leadership certification tract is not only for the women's ministries director of the church, but for every woman who wants to prepare herself to work in God's vineyard. This tract offers training in interpersonal relationships, mentoring other women, balancing home and career, recognizing spiritual gifts, relating to colleagues, and more.

The weekend program will be filled with training and preaching in both Spanish and English. The keynote Spanish speakers will be Elizabeth Talbott, Maria Lopez, and Diana Jaworski. The keynote English speakers will be Ella Simmons, Donna Jackson, and Carol Wright.

There will be presentations on women's issues with Wilma Lee and Diana Jaworski; Bible study training with Vivian Johnson and Loida Mota; women's health issues with Evelyn Kissinger and Silvana Utz; winning and keeping women to Christ with Shirley Benton and Rocio Rodriguez; reclaiming lost women with Carla Baker and Suzanna Facundo; inner beauty and self-esteem with Maria Lopez; and evangelism fervor with Donna Jackson.

Each morning will begin with a program called “Early Manna” to start the day on a spiritual high with the Lord, and the spiritual weekend will culminate with communion conducted by Elizabeth Talbott on Sunday morning.

For fun and fellowship on Sabbath evening, we will have “Good Night Facials” with Nilsa Griffith and Glenda Fernando, and craft making with Gerri Morrison and Maria Lopez, along with other fellowship-inspiring events.

The facilities, Embassy Suites in Frisco, Texas, for this retreat are a wonderful blessing. The food will be excellent and the fellowship superb.

I'm so blessed for having a part in the building of this spiritual retreat. Most of all, I want the women of the Southwestern Union Conference to leave the retreat knowing and loving Jesus even more than ever before. I want them to leave with the determination to finish the work so that Jesus will soon come. I don't know about you, but I know that His coming is soon. I want to be ready, don't you? His coming is “even at the door.” Being always in His presence assures us that He loves us so much that He “will never leave us nor forsake us.” Don't let this opportunity pass you by. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you. May God richly bless you.



— SEMINARS —

Leadership Certification Level 3

Leadership Certification Level 3 training will begin on Thursday evening, August 1, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites in Frisco, Texas, where our spiritual retreat will be held.

The Leadership Certification program emerged because we realize the great need of women in our church to develop skills that will help them to serve in the many leadership areas of the church. It is for the equipping of our women in order to fulfill the mission of the church.

Leadership Certification Level 3 will cover such topics as balancing home and careers, social and legal issues of women, learning how to be culturally sensitive, how to prepare a talk or a sermon, how to mentor, how to relate to colleagues, becoming familiar with spiritual gifts, writing with a purpose, and assessing our personalities.

Our presenters will be our own women's ministries directors of the various conferences, along with Carla Baker, our NAD Women's Ministries director, and Shirley Benton, Women's Ministries director of the Columbia Union.

Ellen White states in *Evangelism*, page 465, "There is a higher purpose for woman, a grander destiny. She should develop and cultivate her powers, for God can employ them in the great work of saving souls from eternal ruin."

Seminars in English

Carla Baker

"Am I My Sister's Keeper?"

When a woman stops attending church, whatever the reason, if someone doesn't let her know she is missed, it is likely she will conclude that no one cares. Heart Call is a ministry for women who think they can't do evangelism.

It involves simply befriending a missing member and letting her know the church misses her and wants her back, then keeping up a continuing contact with her. If you have a heart for women who no longer attend church, this is an ideal ministry for you.



Shirley Benton

"Catch 'em, Clean' em, Keep 'em"

Nurturing and keeping new members is a major challenge for the church today. While we are good at bringing them in the front door, too often and too soon they go out the back door. Let's visit Jesus, the Master builder, and see what tools he used to reap and keep them.



Donna Jackson

"You Can Preach!"

In this seminar you will have an opportunity to learn how to deliver an evangelistic sermon *or* how to write and share your own personal testimony in a way that appeals to an unchurched, secular audience—it's your choice.



Vivian Johnson

"You Are My Witness"

Do you want to give Bible studies that lead people to Jesus? Discover the simple yet powerful methods Jesus used to win the hearts of people around Him. Jesus Christ is not only the heart of our witness, He is the best example of how to reach and win people to Him. Learn to overcome your fears by using a simple, powerfully effective way to give Bible studies and share Bible verses with people without overwhelming them.

Evelyn Kissinger

"The Mind-Body Connection in Health and Disease"

How do your emotions affect your health? How does your health affect your emotions? How does self-talk influence your health and emotions? Can you calm yourself down when you feel stressed? How are immune cells influenced by emotion? How can you capture the joy of a healthful mind and body for optimal health? Discover the answer to these questions and more as we explore the impact of nutrition and lifestyle on not only our physical health, but our mental health, as well.



Wilma Lee

"Building Safe Relationships"

Do you know that how others value you is mostly determined by how you value yourself? In this seminar, we will take a look at the boundaries and limits women need to establish in relationships. We will provide information and practical steps to help women who are verbally, physically, economically, or sexually abused to identify unhealthy or abusive relationships and gain skills in building safe relationships.

Seminarios in Español

Suzanna Facundo

“¿Soy yo acaso guardián de mi hermana?”

Cuando una mujer deja de asistir a la iglesia, cualquiera que sea la razón, si alguien no le deja saber que se le extraña es probable que llegará a la conclusión de que a nadie le importa. Heart Call (Llamada al Corazón) es un ministerio para damas que piensan no poder evangelizar. Implica simplemente acercarse a un miembro ausente para hacerle saber que los miembros de iglesia le echan de menos y desean verle, y posteriormente mantener un contacto constante con ella. Si tu corazón arde por las damas ausentes de tu iglesia, este ministerio es ideal para ti.



María López

“Espiritualmente y Físicamente En Forma Para Nuestro Rey”

“¡Yo He venido para que tengan vida, y para que la tengan en abundancia!” “¡Porque el gozo de Jehová es nuestra fuerza!” La combinación de la abundancia y el gozo del Señor hoy? En esta enseñanza y como entrenadora personal de acondicionamiento físico vamos a estudiar bíblicamente sobre la vital importancia de

estar espiritual y físicamente fortalecidas y en forma para nuestro Rey y Dios.

Loida Mota

“Salvada para Salvar”

Enseñar a las hermanas como hacer evangelismo—especialmente como dar estudios bíblicos y como guiar a tomar decisiones. La recompensa es una familia salvada.



Diana Jaworski

“El Banquete De Dios”

La mesa está puesta. La comida está lista para ser servida. Dios espera que te unas a él en la mesa. Acepta Su invitación y deléitate en este banquete espiritual que Él generosamente ha preparado para que tu puedas disfrutar ahora y por la eternidad. en este banquete tu podrás probar y ver qué bueno es el Señor. ¿Estás

lista para ser cambiada y llena de todas las cosas buenas que Dios tiene para ti? ¡No te olvides dejar espacio para el postre!

“No A La Violencia”

Un cuchillo, una cuchara y un tenedor. Estos utensilios sencillos son utilizados diario pero sin embargo muchos no se dan cuenta o aprecian su valor. En esta presentación vamos a transformar estos tres utensilios en lecciones importantes acerca de la violencia. Aprende a hacer una diferencia, no sólo en su vida, pero en la vida de los demás. Es hora de decir no a la violencia y sí al poder de la Verdad y del Amor.

Rocio Rodriguez

“Encuétralos, Límpialos, Retenlos”

Fomentar y mantener nuevos miembros es un gran desafío para la iglesia de hoy. Sí bien les traemos por la puerta de la iglesia, muy a menudo y fácilmente se nos van por la puerta trasera. Visitemos a Jesús, el maestro constructor, y descubramos cuales herramientas utilizo para cosechar y retenerlos.



Silvana Utz

“Una Propuesta Integral Para Una Salud Integral”

Dios nos creó como un todo indivisible. El ser humano es el resultado final de la actividad divina, una realidad a la vez física y espiritual; por lo tanto cuando hablamos de salud nos referimos a mente, cuerpo, y espíritu (1 Tesalonicenses 5:23). Disfrute de consejos prácticos para el desarrollo armónico de nuestra salud que será una gran bendición no sólo para usted como mujer sino para toda su familia, iglesia, y comunidad.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN THE SOUTHWEST

We are God's tender plant. With God on our side, we are powerful forces to contend with. I tell my women that I so much agree with the statement, "God made man first because He needed a rough draft to make the masterpiece called woman." We are relational by nature, and so we believe that in the Southwestern Union it is our responsibility to train, empower, and nurture women.

Women's ministries trains women on how to win other women to God's Kingdom. We learn how to give Bible studies, how to reach women who are in need, and how to share the goodness of what God has done for us. We preach and teach others of Christ's soon return. We empower our women to evangelize.

It's going to take all of us to finish the work. We do this through our leadership certification tract—four levels of intense training.

We believe that all women have a gift that God Himself has given

her. Therefore, we help women discover what that spiritual gift is and how to implement the gift for reaching out to other women. We believe that, truly, we are our sister's keeper.

We encourage all women to have a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We encourage the reading of the Bible in its entirety, and have challenged women to read the *Conflict of the Ages* series. We encourage our women to pray without ceasing, for the enemy is angry with us. Women are powerful! Phillipians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." There is nothing we can't accomplish when we have our God with us. He is awesome! We feel humbled that He has called us to finish the work so that we can go home and live with Him through the ceaseless ages of eternity. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).



Rose Carr

Southwest Region: Lifting As We Climb

"To empower! To nurture! To reach out!" The Southwest Region Conference women's ministries department is excited about what God has in store for us. Our vision is to "lift as we climb," by going into the communities and touching the lives of women who are suffering, hurting, seeking, and hungering for the Word of God. Our vision is to inspire every woman to hope in Jesus, and to cultivate a love for Christ that will motivate and encourage women to reach out and touch others who are in need of God's saving grace.

We are working to empower and nurture the future leaders of our churches while upholding godly principles. With the rapid growth of the Hispanic ministry, it becomes vitally important to recognize the needs of women from all walks of life, and the responsibilities God has placed upon us. The conference's women's ministries department is focused on establishing viable women's ministries throughout our communities, with an emphasis on reclaiming members, mentoring young women, and sharing the love of Christ with others.

Our Hispanic women's ministries coordinator, Bezaida "Betzy" Castro, is working

hand in hand with me to achieve our goals. As we lift together, the burden will be lighter, and the climb will be easier. The Lord says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. It is our prayer that, as we continue to do God's service, each one will embrace what is written in Jude 1:24, 25. "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Rose Carr and Bezaida Castro



Bezaida Castro

Arkansas-Louisiana: Arise and Shine

The women in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference live by the mission, “Arise and shine,” taken from Isaiah 60:1. There is no more awesome privilege than being a small part of leading someone to Jesus. To see them filled with the love of Jesus is to get a glimpse of heaven. 2 Peter 1:3 says that God has given you everything necessary to be what He wants you to be. He has also equipped you with everything that you need to advance His kingdom. He’s given you the place—your home, your workplace, or your neighborhood; the position—again, your workplace, your neighborhood, or your sphere of influence; and the power—the power of the Holy Spirit, promised by God.

God has given each of us unique gifts: The gift of our eyes to see what Jesus sees in others. The gift of our ears to hear the heartfelt needs of His children. The gift of our hands to help those around us. The gift of our arms to hug those who need to feel a loving touch. The gift of our feet to go where Jesus leads. The gift of our mouth so that we can encourage those who need to hear a kind word, not words of judgment or condemnation. The gift of a heart to love those who need to feel someone cares. And the gift of our smile, that we can use it frequently and often to “arise and shine” for Jesus.

Melody Radde



Oklahoma: Every Woman a Disciple

“Women’s ministries,” what does that mean? According to Webster’s Dictionary, *ministry* means:

1. An act of serving or ministering.
2. One that serves, a specific kind of service.

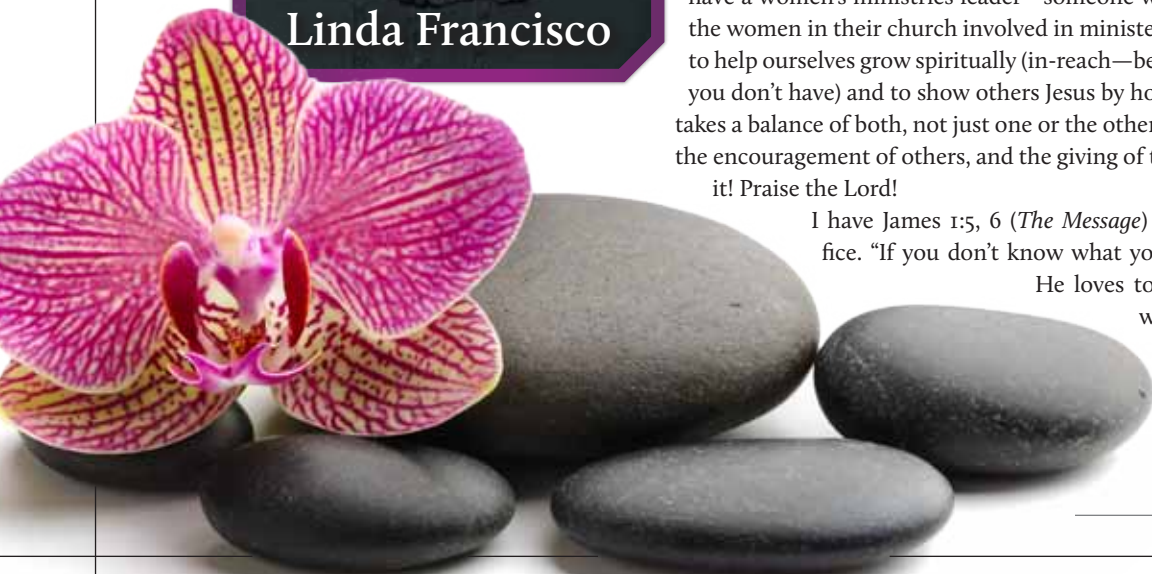
Hmmm. Let’s try that again. What does “women’s ministries” mean? To me, it means to lift up Jesus Christ by empowering women to discover and realize their leadership and ministry potential—within their homes, churches, and communities. I believe that we each want to be empowered to find our ministry potential, especially to other women. Most women are drawn to be friends with other women. We are nurturers. We want children to grow up to be healthy, happy, and successful. When Jesus comes, we want everyone to be ready to go home with Him. But to share Jesus, we first must know Jesus as our personal Friend. We must also be willing to serve and disciple women.

This is our goal in the Oklahoma Conference. The women’s ministries committee and I desire very much for all churches in the Oklahoma Conference to have a women’s ministries leader—someone who is passionate about getting the women in their church involved in ministering to other women. We need to help ourselves grow spiritually (in-reach—because you cannot pass on what you don’t have) and to show others Jesus by how we treat them (outreach). It takes a balance of both, not just one or the other. Ministry such as this requires the encouragement of others, and the giving of the ministry to God. We can do it! Praise the Lord!

I have James 1:5, 6 (*The Message*) framed on the wall in my office. “If you don’t know what you’re doing, pray to the Father.

He loves to help. You’ll get his help, and won’t be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believing, without a second thought.” That is my prayer for you this day!

Linda Francisco





Sandy Reyes

Texas: God’s Ideal. Our Vision.

God’s ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. In the Texas Conference, we have a vision that our women become all that God wants them to be. We are looking for women of faith and courage, women who will do not only the ordinary, but also the extraordinary for the Lord. The only way we can do this is to be one with Christ.

There is a saying that everything is bigger in Texas, and if that’s true, then our vision for our ministries should be bigger, as well—it should be as big our God.

As the Texas Conference Women’s Ministries Department travels throughout the conference to do leadership training, we encourage our women to have a daily spiritual connection with God so that He may speak through them. In the past four years, nearly 2,000 women have been trained and certified to help others in their churches and their communities in the fulfillment of God’s task and vision.

By gathering together like this, and seeing what each of us is doing in our communities, we are inspired to work for the Lord in our own communities. We have women who are leading small groups, giving Bible studies, having monthly community outreach meetings, leading vegetarian cooking classes, or giving health seminars. Because of these activities, many non-Adventist women have come into our churches and stayed.

Our women’s ministries’ yearly spiritual retreats are also a blessing to our conference women, with nearly 900 attending the Spanish retreat, and about 500 attending the English retreat.

These events have the potential to revive our faith, which will move us to action for the Lord. May God bless those daring women that are willing to serve the Lord, and are willing to say, “Here am I Lord, send me!”

Sandy Reyes



Texico: Sharing Jesus’ Love

The vision for women’s ministries in Texico is to prepare leaders for God’s last-day church. I take every opportunity possible to engage women in leadership training, and encourage them to take the gifts and skills given them by the Lord to forward His work in their homes, church, work, and community.

The Texico Conference Women’s Ministries Department is very aware that ministry is for everyone, and that the hope of Jesus and His gift of salvation is for the world! This knowledge led us to do our first event for couples in February this year. By inviting the husbands of our women, and teaching them the value of women’s ministries, many barriers were brought down. We also focused on abuse prevention and relationships, and emphasized the need to include as many women as possible in the work of women’s ministries. Busy ladies are blessed ladies! The bottom line is this: women’s ministries in Texico is about sharing the love of Jesus with everyone, and preparing a people for the soon coming of Jesus.

Roxanne Smythe



Roxanne Smythe

Scars that Show



Some time ago, I had the privilege to conduct the morning worship service at our church school. We have Pre-K through eighth grade. Such a wonderful assortment of kids with bright eyes and smiling faces, I love every one of them. That morning, I spoke to them about scars. Everyone had a scar, from our little kindergartener, who'd had open-heart surgery, to the big, strong eighth-grader.

There on the front row was an adorable little guy, who happened to have a Band-Aid on his knee. We compared our injuries. I had a Ninja Turtle Band-Aid on

my knee, as I have very active grandsons. I explained to the young people that our scars make us empathetic to each other. I showed them what I meant by hugging and telling my Band-Aid buddy that I loved him because of his scar. He grinned from ear to ear. The next Sabbath, he came up to me and said, "Mrs. Radde, Mrs. Radde, remember me? You love me because of my scar." Yes, I did. Months later, while I was visiting the school, two little girls came up to me. "Mrs. Radde, remember us? You love us because of our scars."

Our scars show us where we've been, but they do not define who we are. We are so

much more to the God who made us. We are His children, made in His image, made to reflect Him. He does not say to us, "Later when you're greater." Every one of us who is a follower of Jesus has a story to tell. This is who I was—the past—and this is who I am now—the present; a new man or new woman in Christ! Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has a plan for us, scars and all. I pray that Jesus reveals today His abundant plan for your life.

Melody Radde, ARKLA women's ministries director

Women Experience "His Story of My Life"

NEW IBERIA, LA. » Last summer, the women from the Lafayette and New Iberia churches were invited to spend a weekend at Lake Fausse Point to experience "His Story of My Life." The focus of the weekend was to look back at our lives and see God's story written out in our own personal history as well as our present. He has been there all along and can use everything we have experienced in our lives for His glory—we just need to recognize that He has been at work.

Elizabeth Fresse led the event by exploring experiences of women of the Bible, as well as recounting personal examples from her own life. Through stories and worksheets, the women were guided through a process that helped them realize how God has been at work in their lives, giving them the confidence to place their future in His hands. The women were then given opportunity to share some

of their own experiences, if they desired.

The ladies enjoyed each other's company and testimonies immensely—some were getting to know each other for the first time and others were continuing long-time friendships. Everyone worked together to prepare the meals and there were many fun and energetic conversations while seated around the table. It rained

on Sabbath afternoon, but it cleared up enough so those who wanted to could enjoy a relaxing walk in nature. The weekend was a refreshing escape from our routines and the women left on Sunday feeling invigorated and ready to continue growing in Christ, each now willing to recognize His story in their own lives.



The women enjoyed a refreshing retreat together learning about God's story in their lives.

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Slidell Church Hosts Vegan Cooking Class

SLIDELL, LA. » In February, the Slidell church hosted a free vegan cooking class with the renowned Chef Mark Anthony. Chef Anthony gave an entertaining message while cooking a delicious and healthy meal for a group of 50 people. Anthony is currently on tour around the country. He has done cooking shows in every continental state in the country and in 2010 he had more than 240 events. He has been highlighted by dozens of newspapers



and magazines around the country, has four books published, and does cooking programs on 3ABN regularly.

The evening was inspiring and educational for all who attended. Anthony had cookbooks for sale, which he autographed for the guests.

Vernella Rogers

Chef Mark Anthony cooks up a storm.

Bonnerdale Students Share Evangelism Series

BONNERDALE, ARK. » “Impressive!” “Outstanding!” “Very well done!” These were some of the comments made at our recent ShareHim! evangelism series at the Bonnerdale church. The commenters are not lauding the skills of a professional evangelist, nor are they praising the local pastor for his polished presentation. The compliments are aimed at academy students who

utilized the ShareHim! program to preach an 18-part series.

The nine student preachers are in grades seven through 10, and have each preached two sermons. The response from both the attendees and the students has been positive. “It is so good for my child to be up front speaking about Jesus. The sermons have been a good reminder for me about

the times in which we live,” said one parent.

“It’s fun and a bit scary,” said one of the students about preaching up front. At each meeting, the students were responsible for the entire program. They rotated through different responsibilities, including greeting people at the door, offering childcare, and even providing and setting up refreshments each evening after the meeting. The Lord blessed as each student, in his or her unique way, presented timely messages filled with grace and assurance.

As a pastor, I like what one church member said: “If these young people are able and willing to get up front and proclaim Bible truth, us older folks don’t have any excuses!” There is a lot of truth in that.

Brandon Westgate, pastor



Students who are “Sharing Him!” Back row, from left: Mycah Henderson, Jonathan Mooney, Cory Hollingshead, Autumn Albright. Middle row, from left: Juan Mosqueda, Becky Buendia, Madison Cox. Front row, from left: Jamie Hernández, Ericka Martínez.

The Little Church That Could

WEST HELENA, ARK. » The little West Helena church, with a top attendance of about 20, has accomplished much through God's direction and the dedication of its members and many friends. When Clarence Hoag, pastor, arrived 12 years ago, the roof needed to be replaced and the restroom doors had to be widened to accommodate a wheel chair; the air conditioner was in a window, and the

church was heated with two space heaters. But through God's direction and caring people these problems were solved. Through His provision, attendees now enjoy a central heat and air system. Hoag had a dream of a radio station to reach the community, and through prayer and many gifts, the

station is now on the air. The community is able to hear the worship service every week.

God always has a plan. When Hoag passed away in 2010, God sent a new pastor to continue ministering to the community. Jerry Kenyon handed out books and literature at the Tri-County fair. He directed the church

to do pulpit re-construction and carpeted the sanctuary while helping to get a new sound system. In September, Kenyon held a series of meetings with two baptisms as well as on-going Bible studies. His plans are to start a prison ministry in a nearby town.

Every first and third Tuesday, the church's women gather with other women from the neighborhood to work on making baby quilts to give out in the community. The women also work together to provide food baskets that are given away to needy families at Christmas. There is a dire need to replace the cabinets and flooring in the church kitchen, along with some electrical work, but we trust the Lord will provide these also, because it is His house and needs to be representative of His love and care.

The radio ministry continues to promote the Discover Bible School, and the church has had the joy of one convert and is working with several other interests.

Betty Hoag



▲ Jerry Kenyon, pastor of the West Helena church, giving a seminar.

◀ Two people chose to be baptized at the conclusion of the Hope for the Future seminars.



Just Singing for Jesus

GONZALES, LA. » In February, the Gonzales church hosted an evening vespers filled with music, refreshments, and the opportunity to help the children of Bangla Hope, an orphanage in one of the poorest and most populated countries in the world—Bangladesh. Christie Creighton, a member of the Gonzales church and Ken Blundell, pastor, teamed up to provide an hour-long concert to benefit the orphans and Christian education for these children. The program began with a short video that shared the ministry and needs of Bangla Hope, a self-supporting Adventist orphanage and school founded by David and Beverly Waid in 1985 with the help of ASI and the McNeilus family. David Waid is now in his 80s, but he continues to oversee and visit Bangla Hope, as his heart has truly been taken with these needy children.

Following the concert and love offering,



church members visited together and had refreshments as they checked out some of the crafts—such as bookmarks and cross-stitched cards—that the women of



▲ Gateway view of Bangla Hope, an orphanage in Bangladesh.

◀ Christie Creighton and Ken Blundell, pastor, sing to benefit the children of Bangla Hope.

Bangladesh made. Members can sponsor a village child for one year at the school for \$300, which provides meals, a uniform, and Christian education. If you sponsor an orphan, you will receive that child's picture. If you would like a concert at your church that would help this ministry, contact Ken Blundell at ksblundell777@hotmail.com.

Ken Blundell

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Women's Spiritual Retreat



A mountain-top experience is coming our way! Mark your calendars, prepare your family, reassign your responsibilities at church, take off a day from work, carpool with friends, and let's go to the women's retreat in Frisco, Texas!

The Southwestern Union Conference is sponsoring a women's spiritual retreat, August 1-4, 2013, at the Embassy Suites, in Frisco. It takes a lot of planning for mothers to get away for a weekend—that is why we need to start now. It's not just a reason to get away, but to be refreshed

by sitting at the feet of Jesus and be spiritually fed. Our cups need to be filled so we have something to share when we get back home. Our goal is to be better mothers, wives, or workers in our workplaces, and ultimately take our loved ones to heaven when Jesus comes.

I hear it all the time: "I work hard at work, school, or at church—I feel like I am doing everything. I need help and no one will help me!" Let me tell you a secret. This is the kind of event that you need to come to. Come, listen, and participate—let your cup get refilled!

Breakout sessions will be in English

and Spanish, and will cover issues such as finances, abuse prevention, keeping women in the church, women's health, and more.

A special program is being planned just for teens (13-18) and young adults. Encourage and sponsor the young women in your churches that would benefit from these meetings.

Please come with your family and friends. I want to meet you there!

Linda Francisco

A Busy Little Church

ANTLERS » December 2012 was a very busy month for the Antlers congregation. During the month, the church officially welcomed the Rosa family into the Antlers family. Ernest Rosa joined by profession of faith while his wife, Sandra, and daughter, Jazzelle, were baptized. The church was also blessed with an agape feast, led by the women's ministries leader, Jennifer Roberts. The department presented simple, healthy foods for the community and congregation, who also enjoyed a time of testimony, singing, and fellowship. The church ended the year with an evening of basketball at the local gym. Athletes young and old came for an evening of fun and fellowship. The community was encouraged to attend, and there was a large turnout, which encouraged the church to continue the activity in the future.



The Antlers church was recently blessed with the baptisms of the Rosa family, an agape feast, and a night of basketball and fellowship.

Marlene Medina



Fourth Annual Chili Cook-off a Huge Success

BROKEN ARROW » Food and fellowship combined with a chili cook-off fundraiser made for a fun night for Broken Arrow friends and family, and raised more than \$900 to fund Pathfinder events. While waiting for the results of the chilli cook-off, attendees placed silent bids on baskets of goodies made by church members and participated in a lively auction for volunteered services, such as yard care and home repairs. Under the leadership of Mike Moon, with his assistants, Greg Marquette, Elizabeth Glovatsky, Barbara Calvert, and others, the Broken Arrow Pathfinders have increased their regular attendees to about 20 at their bimonthly meetings. The funds raised will be gratefully used for campouts and many fun and informative trips. The Broken Arrow Pathfinders expressed their thanks to all who made the event such a great success.

Judy Marquette



The Broken Arrow church recently held a chili cook-off fundraiser for the Pathfinders.

Elder Ordinations

ANTLERS » In late January, the Antlers church had a special visit from Vialo Weis, the director of religious liberty at the Oklahoma Conference. He favored the congregation with a wonderful message on freedom and liberty. Prior to the sermon,

Weis ordained Ken Williams as an elder. Williams has been active in the church's music department and



▲ From left: John Plummer, Betty Speyer, Nancy Seebeck, Vialo Weis, and Tyson Thurman.

◀ From left: Leandro DeArmas, Ollie Dillishaw, Ken Williams, Vialo Weis, and Tyson Thurman.



with literature evangelism. He has been a blessing to the church. Before preaching at Antlers, Weis and Tyson Thurman, pastor, visited the Hugo church, where Weis ordained Nancy Seebeck. Nancy is a life-long Adventist and has occupied every position in the church from Cradle Roll to Youth. She is presently the head elder, and also holds the positions of superintendent and junior class teacher.

Marlene Medina

Sabbath School Class Offers “Something Else”

EDMOND » Ellen White wrote that “Christianity is always intensely practical,” (*Messages to Young People*, p. 200). This is the focus of the “Something Else” Sabbath School class at the Edmond church. Patterned after the ministry-driven Sabbath School approach developed by Chris Blake at Union College, “Something Else” is centered on five areas of discipleship: prayer, money, time, social, and study.

Rather than splitting theological hairs, the class focuses on personal and community needs, social activities, and open discussion of God’s Word.

A few examples include purchasing new tires and providing Christmas gifts for a

family in need, cleaning up litter along a major thoroughfare, and hosting regular game nights at the church. The Sabbath morning lesson study invites a diversity of perspectives and challenges class members to live out their faith in the real world.

Each week, 15-20 people ages 18-68 attend “Something Else.” It’s an intergenerational model where everyone contributes and learns from each other. Most of all, it is always intensely practical.

Kris Bryant



The “Something Else” Sabbath School class has a practical focus.

Chandler Church Reaches Out to Orphans

CHANDLER » Last December, the Chandler church had a unique Christmas party. Of course, there were the usual games and tasty treats in a decorated setting, and everyone brought Christmas gifts of clothes, toys, and gum! Chandler had the privilege of sending these gifts with the Oklahoma Academy seniors on their senior mission trip to the Ukraine, where they will work in orphanages. The gifts will be given to children in dire need of such items. Gum is a special treat, as it is not sold in the Ukraine. The Chandler church was blessed to give such gifts and enjoy a wonderful Christmas party, knowing that they were able to help those in need.

Heidi Gilmore



The Chandler church brought gifts for orphans to their Christmas party last December.

A Mother's Last Words



Through my travels, I have often come into contact with women from all walks of life. I am always amazed at the commonality we share as mothers.

Regardless of status, our love and concern for our children will bring us to our knees in prayer. We understand the pain of battling breast cancer; going through a divorce; losing a loved one; or being physically, sexually, or emotionally abused. We are strong, intelligent, beautiful, loving, kind, considerate, and caring women who have faced things in life that have broken our spirits, but have also served to strengthen us through life's difficulties.

A mother's love is sometimes unexplainable, but that love, coupled with God's love, can move mountains. It is strange how that same mountain can feel like a burden when love is stretched to the limit. Suddenly, you understand God's love in 1 Corinthians 13, which suffers long and is kind. The last thing you want to be is kind when your child calls home and says he is in jail, or announces that she is pregnant. We are reminded in verse seven that love bears all things, believes all things, hopes

all things, and endures all things. Then, just when you are at the end of your rope, verse eight says, "Love never fails." In the notes of my Andrews Study Bible, it reads, "Of our spiritual gifts, only love will survive as part of the new creation." Wow!

God has given me two biological children, but has entrusted many more to me from my community, church, and family. Those who nurture children in any circumstance, be it a sister's child or as part of a blended family, encourage me. I am reminded of my childhood and growing up in foster care. I remained in my foster mother's care from the age of seven months until I was 20. God kept me in that home for 20 years, which was uncommon during my time, and as I grew older, I understood that His hands directed my path since I was a baby. This lesson taught me that God is in control and we have to allow His will to be done. I have a friend who puts it best, "God is God all by Himself."

There are some wonderful examples of mothers in the Bible. Among them were women who married the wrong guy, were prostitutes, had children with issues, suffered, killed, were killed, were molested,

encountered death, were barren, lacked self-esteem, or their love for a man was one-sided. Nothing has changed! The mothers of the Bible days had challenges just like we do today, but it did not change how they cared for and loved their children.

I recently attended the funeral of Karlette Tyler Holloway, a young woman who lost an eight-year battle with breast cancer. A story was told that one of the last things she said was, "Take care of my children." She never stopped being a concerned mother to her daughter and son. It is my hope and prayer that the Lord gives each of you the strength to live your lives knowing that God will take care of your children.

As you live, let your legacy be that of the mother who stays on her knees in prayer; the one who is still trusting in God's unchanging hand; the one who sets prayer vigils at night when everyone else is asleep; and the one who knows that God is God all by Himself.

Rose Carr, coordinator, women's ministries

Baptism at Corsicana's Bethel Church



CORSICANA, TEX. » Norman Stiggers, pastor, recently baptized Clifton Scott, who had been away from the church but embraced it again at the Big Prayer Revival at the Bethel church. Scott has been eager to minister to residents in and around the

Corsicana community. The Lord is indeed bringing in the sheaves.

Lorraine James-Stiggers



Norman Stiggers baptizes Clifton Scott at the Corsicana Bethel church.

Youth Pray with People in City Park

DALLAS, TEX. » It was a perfect day for talking to God. One Sabbath afternoon in mid-February, the youth of the City Temple church headed out for a prayer walk in downtown Dallas. Klyde Warren Park was clear, cool, and crowded with park-goers, and the City Temple youth evangelism department teamed up to make a big impact. The goal was simple: pray with people. The youth broke off into about four groups, each group asking the people nearby if they were willing to have a quick prayer with them. After talking to God, each person was offered a small tract.



Kenn Dixon

The City Temple church youth evangelism team prayed with park-goers one Sabbath afternoon in February.



Catherine Dixon



Kenn Dixon

The responses were varied. Some decided not to pray with the youth, but accepted the tract instead. Others looked a little uncomfortable as they bowed their heads along with the young church members. Several people smiled and gladly joined hands with the young people to talk with God. A few people asked for prayer for specific things, like a sick friend or family unity. Some even offered a cheerful "Thank you!" or "God bless you!" after the prayer was finished.

All in all, the youth of City Temple were happy to introduce even just a few people to their loving heavenly Father. They're sure their work was not in vain.

Denee McClain, youth at City Temple

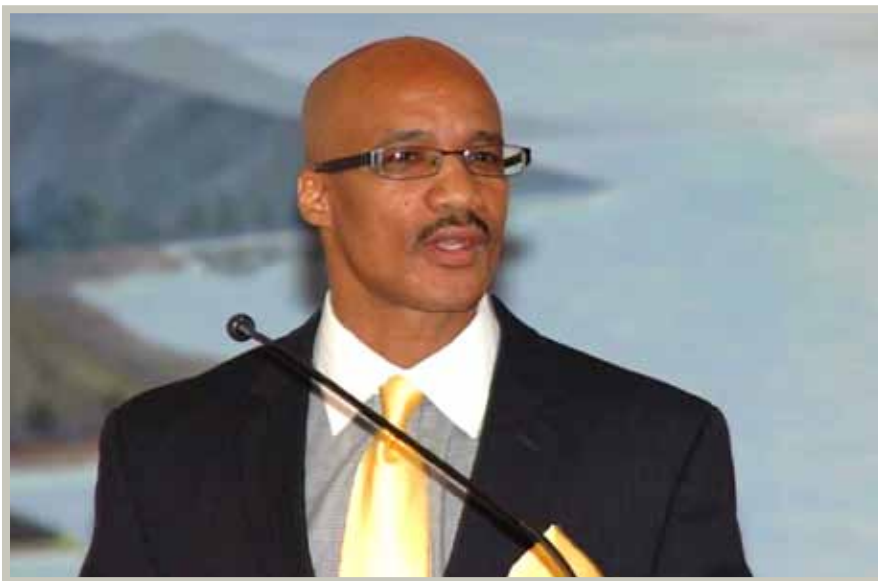


“You’ve Just Got To Believe It”

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. » On March 9, the Tenth Street church held its youth day with guest speaker Timothy McBrown from Houston, Tex. McBrown blessed the

congregation with his morning sermon titled, “You’ve Just Got To Believe It,” in which he advised the youth to rely totally on God to direct their paths, regardless of the past. During the evening seminar, he shared his testimony, describing how God had forgiven and protected him. McBrown’s testimony was inspiring and provoked the youth to continue trusting in God in all areas of their lives, no matter the past mistakes or bad decisions. He encouraged them that God can make a way out of anything.

Sheila Shavers



Timothy McBrown spoke to the youth at the Tenth Street church on the church’s youth day.

89th Anniversary of Bethel Church

CORSICANA, TEX. » Helvius L. Thompson, senior pastor of Grace Temple church in Fort Worth, Texas, and author of *The Handwritings of God*, preached a life-changing message at the 89th anniversary of the Bethel church earlier this year. Thompson is a man of his word, and despite being sick that day, fulfilled his promise to speak at the church. May the Lord continue to bless His ministry as he evangelizes.

Lorraine James-Stiggers



Norman Stiggers, left, pastor of the Bethel church, with Helvius L. Thompson at the church’s 89th anniversary celebration.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

The Holy Influence of Women's Ministry



Women's ministry can be traced back to the Bible when godly women such as Sarah, Deborah, Ruth, Mary, and Martha were used by God for special purposes at special moments in the history of God's church. Its framework is clearly outlined in Titus 2:3-5, which says, "The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things! That they be able to admonish the younger women to love their husbands and to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, respectful of their husbands so that the word of God is not ridiculed among non-believers," (NKJV).

Today, we see that special work of women encouraging and supporting other women in our churches being carried forward in remarkable ways. In the Texas Conference, we have been blessed for many, many years with women of God who have led out in this all-important ministry, and who have left their mark and legacy. During my nearly 13 years in Texas, I think of strong women of God like Rose Ottis, Esther Dubosque, Betty Lynn Holley, Omy Rodriguez, and Sandy

Reyes, who have led this ministry, and I think of those who have served by their side in making a spiritual impact on the lives of countless women in this conference. As I meditate on the objectives that have been emphasized, I see the spiritual component that has been ever present—Christ lifted up! I am reminded of the words of Ellen White: "If this exceeding and glorious reward that is promised to the faithful, will not lead us to gladly accept greater privations and endure greater self-denial than those that are cheerfully borne by those who seek earthly applause, we are unworthy of everlasting life! The cross, the cross! Lift it high! And in the act of raising it you will be astonished to find that it raises you!" (*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 47).

Another objective of women's ministry that has been emphasized is the importance of inner strength. Everywhere I travel in Texas, it is inspiring to see women who are active and instrumental in the churches. These positive, enthusiastic, and resilient women put their efforts to serve God and His people. Women who carry their own "weather" with them, not succumbing to

the pressures and anxieties brought to bear in the changing world around them. They simply continue to press forward in the battle with a cheerful and victorious demeanor. I have observed the spirit of service that has been fostered and cultivated among the women, due largely in part to the work and mission of women's ministry in all of its facets. I see the positive impact of women's ministry on men. Our mothers, wives, daughters, and the Christian women of our churches play a key role in influencing Christian men for the better. There is no doubt that God knew exactly what He was doing when He placed men and women in the world together to help each other toward the Kingdom. Today, I'm thinking that women's ministry, at least as I have observed in our conference, can be summed up in the words of William Barclay: "The finest gifts are given, not after waiting until need has to ask, but by the person whose eyes see, whose heart feels, and whose hand is stretched out even before any request is made."

Carlos J. Craig, president

Women's Ministries Brunch

CROWLEY » Eighteen women attended the first women's ministries brunch at the Crowley church held on Sunday, February 17. Carol Freeman was the brunch's main speaker. The discussion during the brunch ventured into how important it is for women and all people to serve God as He calls them. Several events were also discussed, such as a bread-baking class, Women Mechanics Powder Puff class, and a prayer walk for the International Day of Prayer on March 2. The Crowley church reaches out to the community during these events, and prayed for more than 90 homes in the local community in the church's prayer walk on International Day of Prayer.

Connie Kirsch



The Crowley church recently held a women's brunch and discussed God's calling in their lives.

A Place to Belong

ALVARADO, TEX. » Recently, Bill Knott, editor of *Adventist Review*, raised the question: What does it feel like to be an outsider at church? Knott's question was in the context of new members or visitors, but his question got me thinking: What about long-time members, either active or non-active? Does the church need to be proactive in ministering to them, too?

I started pondering this question a couple years ago after I had rededicated my heart to the Lord and resigned my teaching job. But now, as I looked for new ways to serve in ministry, my dilemma became this: Who do you reach out to when your entire social life consists of "church" people?

What I didn't realize then, but what God would teach me over two years' time, was that there is a mission field in front of each one of us—and we all can do something about it.

The Small Group Bible Study

It started when my husband and I noticed something missing from all of our Christian friendships: we never got together specifically in the name of Christ. It was always movies, games, or some other form of entertainment—when faith came up, if it did, it was a coincidence. We needed a designated time and place outside of church, my husband and I decided, to talk faith with our friends. So we created one: Friday nights at our house. Not only has this become a warm and welcoming Christian space where our friends can belong—some of them are not yet comfortable being involved at our church (though I pray they will become so, through the small group)—but we have been able to bring a non-Adventist into the fold, as well.

One Friday, six months in, my husband started a religious conversation with a co-worker that stretched past work hours. Incidentally, this woman was just finishing up a week of temp work at his office—and was not supposed to come back. Had it not been for the Bible study that my husband was able to invite her to, she would have gone home that night left to grapple alone with her new knowledge, and with no follow-up. But since that first night of small group

nurture in January 2012, she has become one of our most faithful group members and is now keeping the Sabbath.

Though I have rejoiced for these successes, after our non-Adventist friend joined, I faced another question: what would I have shared with a curious coworker? Unlike my husband, I wasn't good at talking theology, and the thought of trying to reach non-Adventists still stressed me out. But I needed to be prepared, didn't I? Again, God blessed.

The Prayer and Discipleship Team (Straight 2 the Heart)

About a year after we began our Bible study, our church was privileged to receive prayer and discipleship training from Paul Coneff of Straight 2 the Heart Ministries (located in Cleburne, Texas), and this answered my trepidation.

Through more than four months of group prayer in an intimate home setting—kind of like the first disciples in the upper room—Charles, Jay, Mary, Amanda, and I became tightly knit; experienced increasing healing and freedom as we lay down our burdens, bit by bit, at the Cross; and finally began offering prayer to others outside our group—the whole point of *discipleship* training. For my part, the Lord has since used me in ways I never expected: offered prayer to a troubled graduate school classmate (she accepted!); helped a friend through depression through visits and prayers modeled on Straight 2 the Heart's principles; rekindled relationships with two very important women in my life, through similar prayers; and led me to start another small group at church that I never intended to start.

The Church Choir

As a result of Straight 2 the Heart, which



Lindsy Gendke and her husband started a small Bible study in their home to create a warm and welcome space to reach out to friends in the community.

trains individuals to see evangelistic opportunities in the messiness, or ordinariness, of everyday life, I had begun to see needs all around me. I had begun to wake up in the morning with specific individuals on my heart who, I thought, might like a phone call, a card, or a lunch date. As I increasingly allowed the Lord to speak directly to my heart—hence the name Straight 2 the Heart—I listened and responded to the loneliness I found there by reaching out to others. Weren't there tons of others around me, "busy with ministry" just like I was, who were, nonetheless, longing for a place to belong?

Well, then, what about a church choir? The suggestion came to me from the couple at Bible study who "belonged" to another church's choir and who were always singing its praises. (For months I had been pondering how to bring our music committee and church musicians closer together.)

Although I knew nothing about leading a choir, I prayed, made a few announcements up front, and then waited on the Lord. On



a blessing to our church, they said! How had it come together in such a short time?

Well, for one, as it turns out, one of the “new faces” who showed up to choir—I hadn’t even known her name—was actually a former choir director (thank you, Lord; thank you, Tammy!). For several months she had sat in the congregation as a spectator, and without the call to choir, her talents might still be wasting away in our pews. For another thing, people will show up for small groups (read: friendship and fellowship) like they won’t for other church functions. And then, most importantly, there’s the Holy Spirit, who works through these small groups, who even commissioned them by having Jesus

instruct the disciples to go out “two by two.” After our successful choir experiment, by the way, I reworked our music leader schedule so that singers are not leading solo, but in pairs (partly because two of the “new faces” in choir agreed to join our lineup, if they could sing with another person. What a blessing!)

So, all of these events made me think about other opportunities, or friendships, or blessings we may be missing when we avoid taking special time for God with our Christian friends? When we keep to ourselves? When we try to do ministry alone? How many people are sitting in our pews—even if they are members—feeling lonely, or left out, or just needing a place to belong? I’d like to suggest that there’s more than you think...and that anyone, Bible scholar or not, can reach out. In fact, for our fellow Adventists already in possession of “the truth,” a phone call, a prayer, a lunch date, or simply a place to belong, could be the most effective witness of all.

Lindsey Gendke

the day we first met, more than twenty people showed up—almost half of them in leadership positions, and four of them new members in our church. I was flabbergasted. Two months later in December, we performed. People were blown away. What

people will show up for small groups (read: friendship and fellowship) like they won’t for other church functions. And then, most importantly, there’s the Holy Spirit, who works through these small groups, who even commissioned them by having Jesus

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A Woman with Persistence



Matthew 15:21-28 records the story of a woman who would not give up. Jesus had just confronted the Pharisees for hypocrisy, and had encountered stern criticism from them. So Jesus and His disciples withdrew to the hill country of Phoenicia. From those hills, Jesus and the disciples could see the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon with their magnificent palaces, heathen temples, and harbors filled with ships. They could gaze on the beautiful blue waters of the Mediterranean. It was a magnificent day. Jesus and His disciples were resting from ministry in the hustle and bustle of the Jewish kingdom.

Their rest was interrupted by a Canaanite woman pleading for Jesus to heal her daughter. Canaanites were despised and hated by the Jews. They were excluded from any of the advantages that flowed to God's people. She had heard of Jesus' miracles and knew He was her only hope.

Jesus knew her situation, and when she first petitioned Him, He ignored her. But, she kept following Him, shouting for mercy.

This bothered the disciples and they asked Jesus to send her away. He told them, "I am sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Jesus had told His disciples that He came to save the whole world and now He was showing them that they

were still controlled by their Jewish prejudice. He wanted the disciples to learn that God loves and ministers to everyone and so should they. Sometimes, it can be heard in our church, "We need to work only for our own," "forget reaching out," "just close the back door." That was just the thinking of the disciples. Jesus exposed this errant thinking in this lesson to His disciples.

The Canaanite woman is persistent. She bows at Jesus' feet crying, "Lord, help me!" Jesus replies, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." He implied that it was not just or fair to give the blessings of the favored people of God upon strangers and aliens. The woman looks past the words into the compassionate face of Jesus and replies, "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from the master's table." The Jews looked upon her as a dog and humbly she begged like a dog for the crumbs that fall from the master's table. If she may have the privilege of a dog, she is willing to be regarded as one.

Jesus was satisfied and said, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment. This woman was one of the lost sheep that the house of Israel should have rescued. It was their appointed work that they had neglected which Christ was doing. We need to be like Jesus and take this gospel message to every caste, creed, and color. Listen to the words of Peter from Acts 10:28, 34, 35, "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean ... I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

This woman could do only one thing to help her daughter, come to the source of help and be willing to receive. She was persistent and she was rewarded. Regardless of the economic, religious, or social background, may each of us share the crumbs that fall from the table of blessing that God has given.

Dr. James L. Stevens

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Free Dinner and a Message with Chef Mark Anthony

DEMING, N. MEX. » A new year finds many folks wanting to live a more healthful lifestyle. In January, the Deming English church sponsored Mark Anthony, a vegan celebrity chef, who cooked a delicious Southwestern-style vegan meal for the 120 attendees. He showed how cooking can be fun by using healthy, plant-based nutrition.

Anthony appears regularly on 3ABN's worldwide cooking shows. He has also been featured on ABC, ESPN, and NBC, and is a chef for some of the biggest names in show business. He spends much of his time traveling across the country doing his cooking events at churches, hospitals, universities, senior centers, and conventions.

By changing one's lifestyle, he strongly believes that a person can get in physical and mental shape as well as have a stronger spiritual connection, according to his press release.

The Luna County Healthy Kids Consumer Council assisted in promoting this

free event to the public, and the First United Methodist Church provided the use of their commercial-grade kitchen, sound system, and gymnasium. This ensured ample room for folks to enjoy the demonstration, and to eat the delicious fare that Chef Anthony had prepared. While folks were enjoying their meal, he covered his face with his chef cap, and by feel only, he painted a picture of Jesus' face. Many expressed their sincere appreciation of the entire event.

Wanda Beach



Chef Mark Anthony entertained as he taught vegan cooking.

Adventists Active at the State Capitol

SANTA FE, N. MEX. » During the winter months, all eyes in New Mexico are on the state capitol, Santa Fe. This year, the state legislatures' eyes were on Seventh-day Adventists several times as they attended events in the capitol building.

On February 20, Daniel Villalva, pastor

of the Santa Fe Rabbit Road, Southwest, and Las Vegas churches, said prayer to open the daily session of the state's House of Representatives. He prayed for wisdom for the lawmakers to discern what was best for New Mexico, and for a blessing on events that would take place that day. It turned out to be an historic day as several freshmen lawmakers presented their very first bills on the floor as state representatives.

Students from the Adventist Academy of Santa Fe also participated that day in the March of Sor-

rows, an annual event in memory of people who died during last year in accidents involving intoxicated drivers. They joined a group of approximately 250 students, teachers, DWI council members, and law enforcement officers, who marched around the capitol three times before attending a press conference in the capitol's rotunda.

Prior to this, three students from the academy served as pages in the House. Alexis Arguello, Shantae Gallegos, and Isabella Warren were trained to assist state representatives as needed. Representative Mimi Stewart of Albuquerque, chair of the

House Education Committee, sponsored the three students. She introduced them at the beginning of the session, then visited with them several times during their time of duty with instructions and encouragements.

Allen Steele



Far left: Daniel Villalva, pastor, (second from left) said the prayer to open the daily session of the House of Representative at the New Mexico State Capitol.

◀ From left: Isabella Warren, Shantae Gallego, and Alexis Arguello, students at the Adventist Academy of Santa Fe served as pages at the New Mexico State Legislature.

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Rio Rancho's Vegan Cooking Classes a Success

RIO RANCHO, N. MEX. » The health ministries committee of the Rio Rancho church has conducted two vegan cooking classes each year for the past five years. The most recent one concluded with a potluck dinner in early February, and it was the best attended of the series with 31 registered, which was the limit that the church could accommodate in one meeting.

The demonstrations were well presented by committee members and others who have an interest in the subject. A couple that has attended several of our previous classes, and become very interested in veg-

etarianism helped with the presentations, as well. On the first day, the class covered breakfast. The second day covered dinner, and subsequent classes covered desserts, soup, and sandwiches. Each day after cooking demonstrations and food sampling, Dr. Robert Gardner or Dr. Glenn Wiltse presented a PowerPoint lecture on pertinent subjects, including the China Study, heart disease, safe and unsafe sweets, fiber in the diet, and protein.

For about a year, Wiltse has prepared a "Health Hint" for the church bulletin each week, which has also been printed in the Rio Rancho Observer, the local newspaper. The health committee had contacted the paper about running an announcement for the church's cooking classes in the newspaper's community calendar, which the paper agreed to do. A

few days after the initial contact, Wiltse received a call from a reporter of the paper requesting an interview for an article. They spent at least an hour and a half together, and the paper came out the next week with a long, front-page article about him and the vegetarian cooking classes. It just happens that this young reporter is also a vegan, recently out of college. The committee hopes she will be willing to write another article and put it somewhere in the paper—we can't expect to get front page coverage every time!

According to *Counsels on Health*, "We have received great light on health reform. Why, then, are we not more decidedly in earnest in striving to counteract the causes that produce disease?" We are taught that "there are many among us, well-instructed members of the church, and even ministers of the gospel, who have little respect for the light that God has given upon this subject. They eat as they

please and work as they please," (*Counsels on Health*, p. 353, 354).

The health and healing ministry has been described as "the opening wedge." We are trying to drive that wedge deeper in our area of the world. It needs the support of every member of the church.

Dr. Glenn Wiltse

Top left: Tasty vegan food dishes for the participants to sample.

▲ Participants of the Rio Rancho vegan cooking class line up to try the samples of healthy breakfast food.

◀ Thirty-one individuals registered for the recent vegan cooking class and health seminar at the Rio Rancho church.



Hook, Line, and Sinker

“You know when you’re fishing and you’re trying to catch a big fish, the hook will set but you don’t reel it in right away,” says Eddie Michaels, sophomore theology major. “The fish goes its own way, gets tired of fighting, and eventually you just reel it in.”

Michaels sees the moment in third grade when he prayed his school’s salvation prayer as setting the hook for his salvation. But from then on, until age 20, Michaels was putting up that fight.

At his young age, Michaels received the opportunity of his lifetime, a chance to train with some of the best judo coaches in the world. Michaels had been doing judo since he was six, but had never had the opening to train with people of this caliber, so he went down to South Texas to train for a year.

Now 27, Michaels looks back on that time as the turning point of his life. “I feel like God brought me to that point and gave me that opportunity when I didn’t deserve it,” says Michaels.

He started questioning why he was here, what his purpose was, and what he really believed in. “I came to the conclusion that there was a God and the God that I had studied in my few years of Christian schools is the God that I believe in.”

After being baptized as a Christian, Michaels decided to join the military and it was tough. “My first four plus years as a Christian I was in the military by myself. I didn’t have any Christian friends. That was really hard to do,” Michaels recalls. When Michaels wasn’t on deployment, he was stationed in Abilene, Texas, which brought him to the next phase

of his life.

Michaels had been sporadically attending a huge non-denominational church in Abilene. He enjoyed the church, and during those four years he tried to get more involved, but not once did he get the opportunity to shake the pastor’s hand. Looking for something more, another opportunity for growth came when Michaels met James Milam, a senior theology major at Southwestern.

During his stay in Abilene, Michaels struck up a friendship with a trainer at the gym where he worked out. Upon hearing his story, the trainer set up a meeting at a local café between Michaels and Milam, the student pastor at the local Adventist church. “A guy who didn’t even know me was willing to come and meet me, sit down with me, and get in the Word with me before I even heard his sermon,” remembers Michaels.

They had begun their Bible study when a symbolic moment occurred. “My friend says, ‘Hey Eddie, look behind you!’ And guess who is sitting down two tables over? I turn around and it was the pastor of that

church that I had been attending,” recalls Michaels. “So James is sitting right in front of me and behind me is the pastor of the church that I had been going to. I saw it as a new chapter of my life.”

In December 2012, Michaels made his profession of faith and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “These past four years of my life, I had so many plans about where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do,” says Michaels. “Now I’m thinking more in the light of, ‘God take me where you want me to go and wherever that is, I know I’ll be happy.’ It’s not about what I want but where God puts me.”

Now, a sophomore theology major here at Southwestern, Michaels says, “I’ve never been in a better place in my life than where I am right now.

“The hearts of the people I’m around and the knowledge of God here, it’s spiritually uplifting. I couldn’t imagine being anywhere else at this point in my life.”

Emily Nolasco, freshman communication major



Emily Nolasco

From a judo apprenticeship to the military to a chance meeting with a theology major from Southwestern, Michaels feels that God has been “reeling” him in.

Leah Jordache Joins Union as Discipleship Ministries Coordinator

Leah Jordache joined the Southwestern Union as its discipleship ministries coordinator in February. She is a wife, mom, and Christ-follower. A graduate of Southwestern Adventist University, she has served as a pastor in both Texas and California. Her passion in life is connecting people to God in a deep and authentic way.

“Growing up, church was always a part of my life,” says Jordache. “But, as I matured, I found my experience was lacking something deeper. I was already in my 20s by the time I finally had the deep and personal understanding of discipleship that shapes my

identity in life and in ministry to this very day.”

She says that discipleship has become her passion, and she lives to teach people how to connect personally with Christ through biblical community and personal study, and to live life as committed followers of Christ who then intentionally lead others into the same life-changing experience. According to Jordache, current statistics show that many young people who have grown up in the church environment find their experience to be irrelevant and insufficient for daily living, and lacking a very important relational element. Because of this, living out their faith, let alone sharing it, becomes impractical and obsolete and many end up leaving their church community.

For this reason, the leadership of the Southwestern Union, in partnership with initiatives from the North American Division, is taking intentional strides to inspire, support, and facilitate development of discipleship ministries within the union which are specifically designed to engage and empower the young adult generation. Jordache has been asked to join the team on a part-time basis as the discipleship ministries coordinator to work in cooperation with the church ministries department, and to facilitate implementation of a disci-

ple- and leadership-training program for young adults.

“This will involve working together at every level of our church organization to empower and equip young adults for life and ministry,” says Jordache. “One of the ideas being explored is a discipleship and leadership development track for young adults that will incorporate mentoring, retreats, training, and practical application through both innovative and traditional means. This plan includes connecting conference and local leaders with available resources for discipleship, leadership development, and funding for young adult ministries; working with publishing ministries and conferences to develop a union-wide network of student literature ministry programs; and developing an active approach to discipleship, ministry leadership, outreach and evangelism in the Southwestern Union.”

According to Jordache, the main objective of this effort is to equip young people to navigate the transition to adulthood and autonomy while not only maintaining their faith identity, but deepening it, and living out their faith in a tangible way as they live and work in the world around them. “May God be with us in our efforts as we commit this process to Him and work together to this end,” says Jordache.



Leah Jordache is the new Southwestern Union discipleship ministries coordinator.

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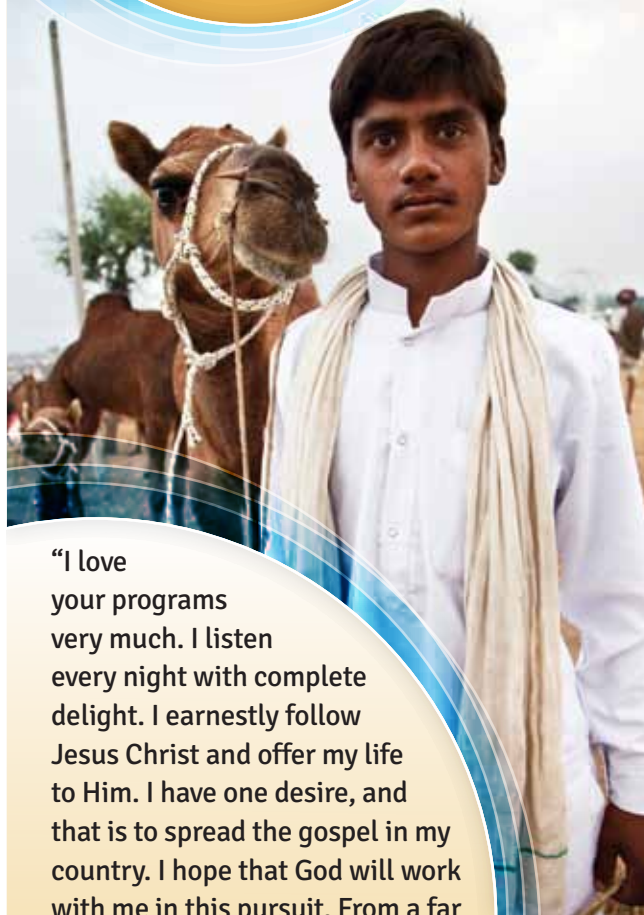
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Announcements

Marietta-New Hope Homecoming: The Marietta-New Hope church will hold its homecoming service in Marietta, Tex., on May 11 at the church.

Read the Record ONLINE

Visit: www.swurecord.org

Obituaries

BROWN, William H., Jr., born April 20, 1921 in Kansas City, Mo., and died February 15, 2013 in Fort Polk, La. He was a member of the Deridder church. He attended Southern University of Baton Rouge, Louisiana earning a bachelor's degree in Education. He became an Adventist in 1956 while in the Baton Rouge area and then attended Andrews University where he finished his master's degree in secondary education. He was an educator for 41 years, and spent 31 of those years in the Adventist educational system. During that time, he served as a teacher and principal in the South Atlantic Conference, the South Central Conference, and the Allegheny

East Conference. He was principal for several years at the largest Adventist junior academy in North America at the time, Ramah Junior Academy in Savannah, Ga. He was a faithful member of the church and lived in Alexandria, La. until he moved to live with his son in Fort Polk, La. during his last years. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Erik Q. and Vanessa Brown, of Fort Polk; daughter, Delcina Brown, of Atlanta, Ga.; and three grandchildren.

BURGHART, Aimee Dawn, born July 19, 1979 in Orlando, Fla., and died January 24, 2013 in Little Rock, Ark. She was an active member of the Little Rock church, regularly attending and serving on the church's praise team. Aimee gradu-

ated from Union College and got her master's degree in social services from the University of Arkansas Little Rock. She was a vibrant, happy, joyous, young adult Christian. She was a board member of Precious Beginning Day Care in Little Rock, and was a wonderful mother, a special friend, and in love with the Lord Jesus. She and her husband, Daniel, were killed in a tragic one-car accident when the car in which they were driving left the road and hit a line of trees on their way home from young adult small group ministry meeting. Their two-year-old daughter, Lillian, was not with them at the time. Survivors: daughter, Lillian Burghart; mother, Beverly Royal, of Brighton, Colo.; brother and sister-in-law,

Brock and Sofia Bennett, of St. Charles, Mo.; sister and brother-in-law, Linea and Pablo Soriano, of Commerce City, Colo.; father, Terry Bennett, of Orlando, Fla.; father- and mother-in-law, Mark and Debbie Burghart, of Little Rock; sister- and brother-in-law, Becky and Sangeeth Samuel, of Little Rock.

BURGHART, Daniel Mark, born April 10, 1980 in Rochester, Minnesota and died January 25, 2013 in Little Rock, Ark. He was a very active young adult in the Little Rock church. He did much to improve the sound and lighting for the ministry center and church sanctuary. He was a member of the praise team at the church and did much to help grow the Kingdom of

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God. He loved and served the Lord in all the things he did. Daniel loved hiking and mountain climbing and being outdoors in nature. He graduated from Union College and received a master's of science from Texas Wesleyan University. He worked at First Baptist Health in Little Rock and then at Howard Memorial Medical Center in Nashville, Ark., as a nurse anesthetist. Daniel and his wife, Aimee, were killed in a one-car accident when the car in which they were driving left the road and hit a line of trees on their way home from a young adult small group ministry meeting. Their two-year-old daughter, Lillian, was not with them at the time. Survivors: daughter, Lillian Burghart; father and mother, Mark and Debbie Burghart, of Little Rock; sister and brother-in-law, Becky and Sangeeth Samuel; grandparents, Lyle and Wanda Scott, of Neodesha, Kan.; mother-in-law, Beverly Royal, of Brighton, Colo.; father-in-law, Terry Bennett, of Orlando, Fla.; brother-and sister-in-law, Brock and Sofia Bennett; sister- and brother-in-law, Linnea and Pablo Soriano, of Commerce City, Colo.

DOUGHERTY, Joel David, born February 6, 1931 in Hereford, Texas and died March 5, 2013 in Abbott, Texas. He was a member and elder of the Hillsboro church for 30 years. David attended New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Las Cruces, spent two years in the army in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and prospected for ura-

nium in Utah. He married Virginia Rose Lee in 1959, and they lived on her family's farm north of Endee, N. Mex., where they raised two daughters, Donna and Dalene. After spending time in Corrales, N. Mex., and Walla Walla, Wash., David and Virginia moved to Central Texas in 1982 with Dalene and her son Justin. As a retired farmer, rancher, and cowboy, David had many hobbies and interest, including gardening, wood working, and welding, among others. He had a great sense of humor and loved the outdoors and spending time with his family. Survivors: beloved wife, Virginia Lee Dougherty, of Abbott; daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Robert Schmidt, of Albuquerque, N. Mex.; daughter, Dalene Dougherty, of Abbott; sisters, LaNelda Kresge, of Logan, N. Mex., Ruth Daniel, of Tucumcari, N. Mex., Allynda Treas, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., and Jane Westbrook of Albuquerque; brothers, Wylie Dougherty, of Rio Rancho, N. Mex., Pete Dougherty, of Monroe, La., and Bill Dougherty, of Trinity, Ala.; one grandson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

INNIS, James Orville, born August 16, 1933 and died February 11, 2013 in Edinburg, Tex. He was a member of the Edinburg church. Over his career he served as a teacher, administrator, pastor, and hospital chaplain. Survivors: wife, Shirley Innis, of Edinburg; daughters, Wendy Innis-Whitehouse and Vicky Innis, of Edinburg.

LAMBETH, Willard, born October 1, 1922 and died January 2, 2013 in Keene, Tex. He was a retired constable in precinct 4 in Atlanta, Tex., and a member of the Cass County Peace Officers Association. He is survived by his wife, two sons, two sisters-in-law, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

PARTIDA, Adela Cantu, born January 6, 1923 and died February 4, 2013 in Edinburg, Tex. She was a member of the Edinburg church. She is survived by five sons, three daughters, three brothers, 21 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

REQUENEZ, Héctor, born August 16, 1974 and died February 8, 2013 in Edinburg, Tex. He was a member of the Edinburg church and a former assistant professor at the University of Texas-Pan American. Survivors:

father, Hermilo Requenez, of Edinburg; mother, Raquel Requenex, of Edinburg; grandmother, Anita Requenez, of Edinburg.

WALL, Betty Lane, born January 8, 1930 in Bryans Mill, Tex., and died September 27, 2012 in Marietta, Tex. She was a homemaker had been a member of the Marietta New Hope church since 1947. She was proceeded in death by her husband, Willie Wall in 2004. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Traci and Vernice Kirkland, of Jefferson, Tex.; son, Bradley Wall, of North Carolina; sister, Virginia Anthony, of Dallas; brother and sister-in law, Charles and Kitty Tenbrook of Texarkana, Tex.; brother, Weldon Tenbrook, of Texarkana.; brother- and sister-in-law, Alton and Nina Wall, of Marietta; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and other numerous relatives.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31	Jun 7
Abilene, TX	8:22	8:27	8:32	8:37	8:41	8:44
Albuquerque, NM	7:54	7:59	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:19
Amarillo, TX	8:35	8:41	8:46	8:52	8:56	9:00
Brownsville, TX	8:02	8:06	8:10	8:14	8:17	8:20
Dallas, TX	8:11	8:16	8:20	8:25	8:30	8:33
El Paso, TX	7:47	7:53	7:58	8:02	8:06	8:10
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:13	8:18	8:23	8:28	8:32	8:35
Gallup, NM	8:03	8:09	8:14	8:20	8:25	8:28
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:00	8:04	8:09	8:13	8:17	8:20
Gentry, AR	8:07	8:13	8:19	8:25	8:29	8:33
Little Rock, AR	7:56	8:01	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:20
Muskogee, OK	8:10	8:16	8:22	8:27	8:32	8:35
New Orleans, LA	7:39	7:43	7:48	7:52	7:56	7:59
Oklahoma City, OK	8:18	8:24	8:29	8:35	8:40	8:43
Roswell, NM	7:43	7:48	7:53	7:58	8:02	8:06
San Antonio, TX	8:12	8:16	8:20	8:25	8:29	8:32
Shreveport, LA	7:58	8:03	8:08	8:13	8:17	8:20
Tulsa, OK	8:13	8:19	8:25	8:31	8:35	8:39

On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



Come Fulfill Your Calling!

Come to the Southwestern Union Women's Retreat

IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME WHICH FEMALE BIBLE CHARACTER BRINGS TO MIND THE SUBJECT OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES, I'd quickly call the name of

Tabitha, although there are many excellent examples I could name. Why Tabitha? That story holds a special place in my heart as I think about a woman who made such a profound difference in her community that it was devastated when she passed away. She spent her life doing kind deeds for others, caring for the needs of those around her, *and*, she was known by her "zeal in the cause of truth" (*The Story of Redemption*, p. 281). Think about it. Not only in life but also in death, Tabitha (or Dorcas), was a tremendous witness for Christ. There's no doubt that her kind and softening influence in the community around her drew others to Jesus, but even after she was miraculously raised from death, even *more* people in Joppa were converted to the Christian faith. Wouldn't you just love to have such a powerful Christian influence? I would.

No doubt as you perused the pages of this issue of the *Record*, you couldn't help but notice an emphasis on women's ministries. There's a reason for that. Women's Ministries is a vital aspect of the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. *But not only that*—there's an important event coming up that *every* woman in the Southwestern Union—regardless of age, ethnicity, place of abode, or walk of life—needs to attend. It's the first-ever union-wide women's spiritual retreat to be held in the Southwestern Union. Excitement is brewing as women from all around our

territory prepare to bask in God's presence August 1-4 in Frisco, Texas.

Women (sorry, men, it's for ladies only!), this is an event that you and every woman and girl in your life won't want to miss. Be sure to check out pages 8-10 in this issue for the great line-up of keynote and breakout session speakers and their topics. By attending this special event (whose plans have been bathed in prayer!), I'm confident that you'll leave empowered to fulfill the unique calling that God has placed upon you—even if you're not sure yet what your calling is! Appropriately



Women praying at the NAD women's retreat held in Dallas in 2009.

named "Always in His Presence," this spiritual gathering for women is designed to enable you to expand your faith and fulfill your calling.

And if you want to enhance your skills in ministry even further, the leadership training certification offered just prior to the retreat will equip you in several areas of church leadership.

Registration for the Southwestern Union women's ministries retreat is currently underway. For more information, visit www.southwesternwomen.org. Please don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be nurtured in your own faith *and* to learn better ways to nurture and impact the lives of others for Jesus Christ. I'll be there for sure. How about you?

Pat Humphrey

Record

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Southwestern Union Women's Spiritual Retreat
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Also featuring: Maria López, Diana Jaworski, Carla Baker,
Dr. Kim Logan-Nowlin, and more!

See pages 12-13 inside for breakout
sessions and retreat details!

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