Ministering to WOMEN 2016
NATIONAL WOMEN’S MINISTRIES DAY RESOURCES INSIDE! SEE PAGE 19

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LEADERS WHO INVEST

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Welcome to Ministering to Women in 2016!

We know you care about the women in your church. And it is our privilege to come alongside you and provide strategies, inspiration, resources, and networks to help you minister specifically to them.

The following pages contain ideas from local churches, just like yours, who make a difference in the lives of women. We pray their stories inspire you to create ministry specifically designed for your unique community.

This magazine also highlights a few new resources and ministries to help you minister specifically to the needs of women. You will find Bible studies, books, the 2016 annual theme (page 19), and products (pages 22, 23) to assist you in planning your small groups and events for the coming year.

We pray with you for every woman in your church to have many opportunities to connect with others, grow in her relationship with Christ, serve your local community, go to those who have yet to hear, and worship God in meaningful ways.

Serving Women Together,

Kerry

Kerry Clarensau (Twitter: @KerryClarensau)
Director, National Women’s Ministry
Adult and Family Ministry
Assemblies of God National Leadership and Resource Center

P.S. I would love for you to order a copy of this resource magazine for every woman on your leadership team! Find order information on page 22.

women.ag.org | AssembliesofGodWomen | AGWomen | @AG_Women | #selahrest

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My prayer for women of the Assemblies of God is, “Lord, help us to be aware of and fully dependent upon Your Holy Spirit.” He longs to comfort, guide, correct, help, and strengthen us every moment of our lives. We don’t have to live in our own abilities, yet so many moments we simply depend upon ourselves. And when we do, we experience powerless, disappointing lives. So much more is available to us than our own understanding and strength!

My husband, Mike, and I talk a lot about living in the power of the Holy Spirit. I absolutely love his heart and his insights on this topic. Join our conversation as we talk a little about his personal journey and his new book, A Spirit-Empowered Life.

MIKE: I’ve spent my entire life as a part of a Pentecostal church. Hearing people talk about a life driven by the power of the Holy Spirit significantly shaped my understanding of God and His plan for those who serve Him. As a child, I sat mesmerized by the tales of missionaries, bursting with amazement at their victories and wiping tears as their compassion cultivated something similar in me. The stories of compelling Bible characters repeatedly inspired me with potentials I could only begin to dream.

Like millions of others throughout history and around the world today, I’ve walked the path to that Upper Room and the life that it promises. I can almost see Jesus’ passion, and the way His final instructions to wait on the Holy Spirit weave the way that give our roads clear direction.

KERRY: Mike, how does the Spirit-empowered life begin?

MIKE: The pursuit begins with hunger. God has opened an extraordinary door to us, adorned with remarkable promises. But until our desire and recognition of our need explosively combine, we will stay on the sidelines among those who only wish for the abundant life they thought a connection to God would bring. Everything starts with hunger.

KERRY: Continually, I’m reminded of my limited capacity to forgive, to walk in obedience, to love, to—so many things. When I allow that recognition to draw me closer to God, I put myself in the place of encountering God in a deeper level.

MIKE: That’s right, encounter flows from that hunger—it is the moment when promise melts into fulfillment. The Spirit-empowered discover that everything ultimately flows from the side-by-side spigots of relationship and experience. The God we know, and will continually know more, arrives ahead of our challenges to pour into our lives what He knows we must pour out. His work is unfinished and He longs to give us exactly what we need in every encounter to partner with Him on earth.

KERRY: Tell us a little about what readers can expect in your book.

MIKE: After exploring hunger and plunging deep into the reality of encounter, the largest portion of this book describes the demonstration of such a life. How
do others live the Spirit-empowered life? What makes them different as they connect, grow, serve, go, and worship? What drives them forward and how do they express themselves to the God who has sent them forth? These are not traits to aspire to, but the fruit that readily falls from a vine with such power within.

A few final pages describe the horizon for those who live that power. Where do we focus? What do we prioritize? If the demonstration is the fruit of our tree, then the next steps describe how that tree is tended, cared for, and perpetuated.

KERRY: Make no mistake—our God’s unbounded creativity is often best seen in the unique journeys He has imagined for each of us. But the road to find that life can be familiarly marked. Otherwise, we couldn’t help each other pursue God’s absolute best in our lives. I know that Mike wrote this book hoping he could help you as you explore the idea of dependence upon the Holy Spirit. He genuinely wants you to find a Spirit-empowered life.

And, I guarantee that God wants that even more!

Resources for a lifelong journey of abiding in Jesus

A Spirit-Empowered Life
By Mike Clarensau
Discover the world-changing journey God has designed for you. Learn to experience and show love greater with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 224 pages

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The Word and the Spirit
By David Hertweck
Dive into Scripture, and embark on an exciting journey of personal Bible study. Feel the thrill of personal discovery as you find how the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit work together. Good for young adults.
Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 152 pages

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Being a leader is challenging, and in an ever-changing world it’s hard at times to lead effectively. Leading well requires a great deal of skill and energy—and with our roles in society always shifting, being a leader can feel daunting at times. Whether you’re a pastor, mother, teacher, or volunteer, you have the opportunity to lead well. Understanding how to invest your greatest energy is where the challenge lies.

Let’s follow the model set by Jesus, discipling a few and reaching many.

When we consider how to lead, let’s remember the example set by Jesus. He ministered to the thousands, but He intentionally discipled twelve men. He cultivated strong relationships with His disciples, and helped them to develop their unique talents and abilities. Through His investment, Jesus recognized that these men would help carry out the Great Commission and change the world. Jesus didn’t personally try to fill every gap. Instead, He cultivated strong relationships with a select few, who in turn helped spread the gospel.

Jesus’ example of leading through one-on-one discipleship is the task we should all take to heart. Reaching the world with God’s love isn’t easy. Often, it seems overwhelming as we take on multiple roles.

As a leader, ask yourself these questions:

• Who am I intentionally investing in?
• Am I nurturing the talents and abilities of those around me?
• Am I encouraging others to strategically invest in a few?

Being overextended wasn’t Christ’s model, nor should it be ours. Spreading ourselves too thin can detract from the good works God is trying to accomplish through us.

Let’s follow the model set by Jesus, discipling a few and reaching many. Through these intentional relationships, we’ll help raise future leaders. These efforts empower others to share the gospel and fulfill the Great Commission—one disciple at a time.

KERRY CLARENSAU is National Director of Women’s Ministry for the Assemblies of God.
Connecting Generations: GIVING THEM WINGS
By Darla Knoth

A few years ago in Sioux City, Iowa, then youth sponsor Shery Miller noticed that young girls—including her daughters—were reaching their 20s still struggling to use the gifts God had placed within them.

Shery had a ministry idea of providing a framework for young women to reach their potential socially, spiritually, and individually; she called it Wings. “We offered a support system as these girls reached for their dreams, explored their callings, and developed their abilities,” Shery explained. The group met at a neutral location, a local arts center, so unchurched or other denominational friends would also feel welcome.

Women in their forties and fifties joined Shery in committing time to the women of Wings in their early twenties. “We did surveys with the girls, researched their needs, then prayed.” She continued, “The women committed to listening to the girls’ heart passions, and encouraging them to step into God’s timing and plan. We offered the benefit of our adulthood—without judgment or control. We became vulnerable about the years we personally spent searching for answers. We gave the girls a safe place to work through their ideas.”

For each meeting, the leaders chose a specific word theme; the group then explored that word from different perspectives. One theme was the word inspire. A human resources professional presented tips about demands in the job market.

The group discovered the spiritual aspect of themes through “Think About It” segments of meetings. For the Inspire theme, the girls and leaders discussed how God placed gifts, talents, and abilities inside each of them—equipping them to accomplish an adventure He created just for them!

Wings meetings also included art activities, mixers, book and movie reviews, and snacks. Segments of each meeting were fast-paced, allowing girls to come and go as needed to accommodate their busy schedules without feeling guilty.

The women formed long-lasting, deep friendships. Shery led this group until she moved to another location to minister. She concluded, “What resulted from Wings was great fun—and in seeing these girls begin to lead in their churches and communities. We loved watching these girls try out their wings!”

DARLA KNOTH is Communications Strategist for Adult and Family Ministry.

Mirror, Mirror
By Dianne Wilson

Mirror Mirror touches anyone who has felt: unattractive, left out, self-conscious, confused, misunderstood, outcast, abused, useless, worthless, or forgotten. Mirror Mirror gives hope, courage, and practical keys to take control of your life. Based upon life principles and skills that, when incorporated, help increase self-esteem and resilience.

The Mirror Mirror Project can be provided as an assembly, book club, or multi-week course.

Paper, 5.5 x 8.5”, 308 pages

Resource

[ Visit ThelImagineFoundation.com ]
Believing the truth of Ecclesiastes 11:4, Connie Weisel, women’s pastor, First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, says, “If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done!”

The women of First Assembly understand that principle, as they offer many options for growth to the women of their community. Connie says, “Our prayer during each women’s board meeting is, ‘Lord, what would you have us to do?’” She explains that they don’t want to offer ministry to women just because “it’s always been done.” Connie says that they don’t actually have a once-a-month Women’s Ministries meeting. “We also have no fundraisers; we are fully supported by offerings,” she adds.

Connie took leadership of Women’s Ministries at the church in 1993. She says, “The DNA of First Assembly is reach, teach, and send.” The core of Women’s Ministries here is prayer, a weekly discipleship Bible study, and a weekly compassion outreach called Help for Hurting Women.

“Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest” (Ecclesiastes 11:4, NLT).
Started by Connie in 1991 as a class for women on Monday nights at the church, Help for Hurting Women (HHW) reaches women of all ages, social strata, and ethnic backgrounds. They come for a night of praise reports, prayer, Bible study, and personal ministry. Since it began over 23 years ago, HHW has met every Monday night, except holidays, and has seen 46,000 women attend, and 3,450 come to Christ. The ministry team is trained to be aware of hurting women wherever they can be found—in restaurants, grocery stores, or other businesses—and to invite them to attend the Monday night sessions. HHW also has a television program that airs four times per week.

This unique ministry also offers many other ways women can either be ministered to, or find a place of ministry, including the following:

- **Nights of Healing**—a healing service held three nights per year, with trained altar workers.

- **Artful Missions**—a ministry for artisans to support missions; includes two different art shows annually.

- **Media Ministry**—women volunteers produce and distribute over 2,000 DVDs or CDs annually.

- **Women to Women**—a compassion ministry team of twenty-seven women who visit shut-ins, or those facing personal crisis. Thousands of phone calls, notes, or visits are made annually.

- **Living from the Life of Christ**—This intense discipleship Bible study offers support and fellowship.

- **Casual Conversations**—Women of all ages come together for fellowship, to establish deeper connections, and to encourage spiritual growth in each other; meets quarterly.

- **A New Season Widows’ Connection**—group of widows who meet in a home monthly for food, fun, fellowship, and a devotional.

If God calls, and we obey, we are less likely to quit—and more likely to commit!” Connie points out that excellence in all things is their continual goal. She says, “The Lord deserves no less than our very best!”

1Beth Grant, “Women and Evangelism,” *Enrichment*, Volume 19, Number 4 (Fall 2014), 111.
“Who is my neighbor?”

The women of Christ’s Church of the Assemblies of God, Clear Lake City, Texas, know how to answer that question: “Whoever is in need.”

After a summer retreat to Galveston Island, the church’s youth and adults began praying about needs they had seen on the island: hungry children, families huddled close in collapsing housing projects, drug addicts, gangs, and people unable to break free of poverty.

Within months, the people of Christ’s Church were back on the island, serving meals, providing “dignity bags” with hygiene essentials, and offering prayer to any islander who received it.

The first month, fifty people ventured out for a sandwich and a dignity bag. The next month, Christ’s Church’s women worked with a local compassion kitchen to serve smoked brisket, potato salad, corn on the cob, beans, and cookies for 150 people—and 300 showed up. The food stretched and no one left hungry.

Now the established ministry of Christ’s Church is named Go! Galveston Outreach. Every fourth weekend of the month, volunteers spend around 14 hours preparing the meal, including over 350 homemade cupcakes. Then they pack cars and vans with food, dignity bags, clothing, and more, to take to the island for Sunday’s meal.

“Crime rates have dropped dramatically and lives have been transformed.

God is moving noticeably in this community.”

—Diane Ott Jones
The outreach team also provides spiritual counseling, teaching, coaching, prayer, and encouragement to the island people in all areas of life. They talk about financial needs, getting jobs, getting off welfare, developing parenting skills, help with relationships, taking pride in the community, receiving salvation, and knowing God more.

Between meal days, volunteers shop for clothes at resale shops, sort donated clothes, assemble dignity bags, prepare Bible stories for the children of the island, and pray. That effort is rewarded as each month, on the day of the outreach, homes in the neighborhood are emptied when the Christ’s Church team appears. The outreach draws entire families.

Diane Ott Jones, Christ’s Church associate pastor, explains, “Crime rates have dropped dramatically in this area, and lives have truly been transformed. We have seen alcoholics, the homeless, and drug addicts be healed, get a roof over their heads, and begin attending church. God is moving noticeably in this community.”

Diane continues, “The children are the most affected; they have learned to pray on their own. One boy says he is called to be a pastor. The people are learning what love is.”

Farah receives meals from Convoy of Hope Orphanage in Haiti.

Farah, 6, lives at an orphanage in Haiti. When she arrived as a toddler, she was frail and weak. But today she is strong and vibrant, thanks to the meals Convoy provides to the orphanage.

“It makes me feel good to eat,” says Farah.

Through Hands & Hearts parties, women around the U.S. can help feed kids like Farah through Convoy of Hope’s Children’s Feeding Initiative, empower women in the Women’s Empowerment Initiative and train farmers through the Agriculture Initiative.

Hands & Hearts offers women the freedom to become inundated with compassion, kindness, and generosity.

Invite guests to enjoy inspiring conversation and share insight to all the work Convoy is doing. Discover ways you can make an impact in your community and throughout the world—right where you are.

*name has been changed

Visit convoyofhope.org/hhparty to sign up today.

Undaunted
By Christine Caine
Learn to not only overcome the challenges, wrong turns, and often painful circumstances we all experience, but also to grow from them and be equipped and empowered to help others.

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PROJECT IGNITE LIGHT
Lighting the Darkness of Child Abuse

Project Ignite Light, a North Dakota-based compassion ministry, provides necessities to abused children who are medically examined for traumatic physical or sexual abuse, or neglect. The organization establishes ministry from this verse: “. . . though I sit in darkness the LORD will be my Light” (Micah 7:8, NIV).

Pebbles Thompson, founder, explains Project Ignite Light’s beginning: “Though God was leading us, we only had one word: pajamas. We didn’t know any ministry that dealt with pajamas, so we prayed. Then, God spoke to my heart, ‘Pebbles, it’s not about the pajamas, but what they represent. In dark times, when children are afraid, I will be their light.’” She began envisioning abused children—and knew her ministry was forever changed.

A mother of four and an Assemblies of God minister, Pebbles discovered that abused children leave investigative doctors’ appointments with very little, if any, dignity—only compounding the stress and shame—and Project Ignite Light was born. The team and ministry’s goal is that no child in the Dakotas and Minnesota will feel alone in the darkness of abuse. Project Ignite Light will soon offer training to any interested church nationwide.

“Through Project Ignite Light, we give abused children some security by providing them with a backpack—Bag of Hope—filled with life’s most basic needs,” says Pebbles. Bags of Hope include fleece-tied blankets, pajamas, socks, underwear, hygiene items, fruit snacks, water bottle, and more.

“As families, foster parents, and medical staff share their stories,” Pebbles reveals, “we are amazed by how well God provides for children on this difficult journey.”

[ www.ignitelight.org ]
District Missions Trips:
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

INDIA—Beyond What We Could Have Asked
“Our team of eleven received answers to prayer in the weeks prior to our trip—team members faced illness, financial challenges, and passport or visa delays. God helped resolve our concerns, and we traveled to India without delay. The trip was anointed and made an impact on lives for eternity.

“Our first day’s visit with girls at Redemption Home brought laughter and tears to us all. These precious children gleefully received many special gifts.

“At the pastors’ wives conference, women swarmed the altars responding to a call for Holy Spirit baptism. We concluded a women’s conference with a ‘Jericho march,’ resulting in a spiritual breakthrough for slum women bound by depression. Our teachers’ and leaders’ training event provided incredible tools for volunteer workers. One Sunday, our team ministered in three area churches. We held a pastors’ conference where we ministered to pastors who had suffered persecution and imprisonment just weeks before.”

RUTH PULEO, PennDel Ministry Network Women’s Ministries Director

MADAGASCAR—Labors of Love
“The women of the Potomac District visited Madagascar, South Africa. Two teams with a total of sixteen women went for ten days each. We did medical missions at three churches, painted dorm rooms at an orphanage, held a vacation Bible school, sanded and varnished shutters and doors on buildings at the Bible school, spoke with a class of around fifty women students about ministry, offered two women’s retreats, painted a church and did landscaping at another church—and more! We saw more than we thought possible, and watched God move in the lives of those we ministered to. It was an unforgettable experience.”

LINDA WEBB, Potomac Ministry Network Women’s Ministries Director

“We were hoping to be a blessing—and left overwhelmed by the presence and power of God ourselves.”
—Ruth Puleo, PennDel Ministry Network

Many women join missions trips each year, experiencing God in a way they never could at home—seeing Him provide finances, learning new cultures, contributing in compassion ministry, and making lifelong friends.

Check with your district Women’s Ministries director to experience life-change through missions!
Europe is steeped in history, adorned with beauty and culture. Its darker side hides many secrets, deep wounds, and desperate spiritual brokenness. Twenty-five years ago, communism fell in Eastern Europe—and still each year thousands of children are discarded in Romania. Mothers who abandon their children are often young, uneducated, poverty-stricken, and alone.

Raegan Glugosh, Assemblies of God World Missions missionary, is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Hagar Home, a residential program for young mothers in distress. The ministry addresses root causes of child abandonment in Romania by providing maternal support, counseling, education, and job opportunities. Hagar Home spiritually nurtures these socially excluded women in need of restoration and healing in Jesus.

Single mom Gina’s life has been transformed through Hagar Home. The ministry team helped Gina receive Jesus. She shares that “although the life of a single mother in Romania is difficult, when we believe in God, we see Him at work.” Gina is now an excellent mother and a professional cook, providing financially for her family.

Hagar Home stands with the marginalized, assisting one woman and family at a time, and bringing them to a place of wholeness.
A woman who struggled with suicidal depression, a woman blinded in one eye by retinal degeneration, and the daughter of a witch doctor—what do they have in common? All three—Pooja, Geeta, and Sandhya—are currently students at Lucknow Theological College (LTC) in India. Transformed by Jesus, they are equipping themselves to disciple women and children.

Pooja, Geeta, and Sandhya live in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). With a population over 200 million, less than one percent claims to be Christian. The majority has never heard the name of Jesus.

Scholarships for International Students (SIS) give Pooja, Geeta, and Sandhya the opportunity to prepare at LTC to enter the spiritual harvest. Pastor Sam Abraham, principal of LTC, says, “Studying here is a great risk for these girls, yet they want to reach their nation.” Many of the female students at LTC face severe opposition. These SIS scholarships supply the financial means and remind the women they are part of the family of Christ.

KARLENE GANNON is Missions and Ministries Coordinator for the National Women’s Ministry team.
Acts of Worship in Our Life

By Natalia Guerreiro

“It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God.” ~Brother Lawrence

As Christians, we experience the Sunday morning worship service. We hear wonderful music, an excellent sermon, and fellowship with a body of believers. We give a portion of our busy weekend to honor Him, out of love and respect for His name.

Although the church service itself reflects such an important act of worship, it only accounts for a small fraction of our week.

Our worship to God extends far beyond the length of our pew.

Our worship to God extends far beyond the length of our pew. In reality, everything we do is an act of worship. In fact, our daily lives should glorify God. What we do, how we act, what we say, and where we go, are all reflections of our love for God.

Worshiping God in church is great, but the witness of what we experience on a Sunday needs to reach beyond the church building. May God be glorified in every aspect of our daily lives, and may people know His character through the outward expression of our worship.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1, ESV).

Every day is an opportunity to glorify God.

NATALIA GUERREIRO is Leadership Specialist for the National Women’s Ministry team.

“We only learn to behave ourselves in the presence of God.” ~ C. S. LEWIS

“As worship begins in holy expectancy, it ends in holy obedience. Holy obedience saves worship from becoming... an escape from the pressing needs of modern life.” ~ RICHARD FOSTER

“What if you were willing to see every act of service as an act of worship?” ~ KERRY CLARENSAU
Sometimes Angela leads or invites a younger associate worship pastor to lead worship, connecting the younger generation into the event. Or guest worship leaders come to lead, and coordinate with the special speaker ahead of the event.

All the Encounter events are open to the public, promoted through Facebook, flyers, and short video clips announcing the events during church services.

Cori Nunez, who attends River of Life, explains her reaction to WOW Encounter Nights this way, “WOW has confirmed for me that I am not alone; that other women love Jesus and are still fighting the good fight. Since joining WOW as a volunteer, God has not only given me opportunities to be poured into, but also has blessed me to be able to pour out. WOW has shown me that I am not worthy (none of us really are), but that I am significant. I mean something. I am thankful for a living God.”

ENCOUNTER NIGHTS:
Providing a Worship Experience for Women

At River of Life Worship Center, Fredericksburg, Virginia, the Women of Worth (WOW) ministry to women offers Encounter Nights several times each year.

Angela Donadio, worship pastor and WOW Women’s Director, explains, “Encounter Nights are definitely more of a ‘vertical’ worship experience, between a woman and God, as opposed to other women’s nights, which are designed to be a ‘horizontal’ connection for women to get acquainted with other women.”

“We set aside time for women to worship, as well as to hear from a woman speaker, giving a distinctively female perspective,” Angela continues. “Women are so busy and such nurturers of others. It becomes critical for them to invest in themselves. This theme permeates everything we do.”

Kingdom Woman
By Tony Evans, Chrystal Evans Hurst
Extends a healing message that encourages women to discard distorted perceptions about their self-worth. The new covenant empowers women to embrace a life of victory through Christ. Never settle for less!

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Resource
Welcome to HER GREEN ROOM—your place out of the spotlight!

With hundreds of blogs, videos, and spotlight features, our online community hopes to provide you—the minister’s wife—with much-needed resources. From hot-topic issues, to personal testimonies, Her Green Room exists for you.

Read the personal testimonies of women whose spouses are in ministry—in our Meet Her Series. Here’s an example:

Meet Shawndra Lucas
Meet Shawndra Lucas! Shawndra is on staff with Chicago Chi Alpha campus ministries where her husband, Todd, is director. Chicago XA has active ministries on five campuses in the city. Together, the Lucas’ mission is to reconcile college students to Christ, and transform the city of Chicago one campus at a time!

Watch women converse about valuable ideas relevant to ministry wives, in our Her Green Room video series, such as this:

Leading as a Woman—with Dr. Beth Grant
Are you in a position of leadership? Join Kerry Clarensau and Dr. Beth Grant as they discuss her position as the only female elected member of the Assemblies of God Executive Presbytery. Dr. Grant shares her experiences serving on leadership teams comprised only of men.

Read relevant blogs, like this one by Lori Jacobs, Iowa District Ministry Network Superintendent’s wife:

Grounded: Walking in His Presence
Make it a priority to discover—or rediscover—that spot where your heart is renewed. Find the place you hear His still, small voice most clearly and allow Him to bring order out of the chaos in your life. Find a place to connect with the One who is your best Friend.

Join us for these weekly features—and more at:

hergreenroom.com

You’ll find a place out of the spotlight and a community that cares.
Selah—Finding Rest for Your Soul

Jesus says, “I will give you rest.” What an amazing thought!

Consider this amazing invitation of Christ, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV).

Jesus actually says, “I will give you rest.” What an amazing thought! The same idea is shared in Psalm 23 when the psalmist says, “He restores my soul.” Just think about that for a moment—rest is something He gives to us. As we come to Him and keep in step with Him, He promises that we will find rest for our souls. The Message paraphrase of Matthew 11 shares Jesus’ offer this way, “Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.”

We pray the book Rhythms of Grace, by Kerri Weems, inspires the women in your group to fully embrace the rest Christ offers us in Matthew 11. (See more on page 21.)

Visit our Web site for more help in planning a themed event for women, using our exclusive content online—available October 1, 2015.

• suggested theme sermon
• suggested theme skit
• theme art
• suggested music and downloadable theme mp3.
• other downloadable, such as name tags, invitations, jar wraps, and more!

[ women.ag.org ]

Decorate with gold letters (available from a craft store), baby’s breath, artwork, candles, and a “candy bar” table (lower left and lower center). Try a spa look to convey the idea of rest (upper right). Visit us on Pinterest at AG Women (search under “pinners”) for more ideas.
Kerri Weems is the author *Rhythms of Grace: Discovering God’s Tempo for Your Life*—the 2016 theme Bible study for National Women’s Ministry.

*She visited with Darla Knoth, Adult and Family Communications Strategist, about the message of her book, and her hopes for each reader who picks up this study.*

**DARLA:** What caused you to write this book on rest?

**KERRI:** I came to a place in life where I could not go on. I was a ministry wife, called to ministry myself; so my church was also my work; my family life was strained. I came to a crisis point, and wanted to walk away, but realized I would be giving up so many things I love in order to reduce the stress. So I asked myself, *What am I doing wrong? Maybe instead of quitting everything I could just do it all in a different way?* I began studying biblical thoughts on rest.

**DARLA:** What is the heart message of this book?

**KERRI:** First, I want readers to understand that rest is not a reward for getting our work done. We are never going to be done with work—the world creates a cycle of work in order to create profit. Second, we need to stop our cycle of work in order to create time for rest. Third, the idea of Shalom is a biblical principle we need to understand.

**DARLA:** Could you define these three words: Shalom, Sabbath, and Grace?

**KERRI:** *Shalom*—means peace, but not the absence of conflict or strife. If we look at Jesus’ life, we do not see an absence of conflict, but the presence of peace. Jesus brings ultimate peace. Shalom means wholeness—nothing is missing and nothing is lost. Jesus’ sacrifice was a move to wholeness. It’s such a vast concept.
Sabbath—means to pause; for instance, in classical music, the music stops for emphasis. The stop is as powerful as the sound itself. The deep biblical concept is that setting aside time will bring life and joy to your soul, ultimately bringing wholeness. This isn’t the same as seeking fun or pleasure. We can’t over-legalize these concepts like the Sadducees did. Sabbath gives Shalom (peace) a place to land, and gives us permission to breathe.

Grace—God’s unmerited favor; also means giving ourselves freedom. God’s world is based on grace; our world is not. We need to allow ourselves grace. Take, for example, today’s cultural concepts of parenting. We tend to think, ‘If I don’t raise my kids the right way, or if I don’t send them to the right school, or give them the right opportunities, then I’ve blown it.’ As parents, we think we are entirely responsible for how our children become adults. But history and experience show us that each person—no matter how he or she is parented—will make choices separately from his or her parents.

We also have thoughts such as, ‘If I don’t meet this deadline, I’m a bad person.’ But at times, circumstances beyond our control impact our ability to meet every deadline. God’s grace enters the arena, and helps us. His grace is the freedom maker. Grace is the realization that it doesn’t all depend on us. Grace makes up the difference in what we lack.

DARLA: What do you hope to see in hearts and lives of women who read your book?

KERRI: I hope the women who read this book will experience freedom to live in Christ authentically. I would like for women to realize that rest is not at odds with our purpose in Christ, and that if God calls them to something, it won’t compromise what He has already called them to steward. Our children won’t suffer; our marriage won’t suffer. We don’t need to be frazzled. Nothing will be missing, and nothing will be lost. As each woman learns to give rest a place in her heart—I hope she will also find joy.

“I will be praying for each of you as you approach this study, and personally go on this journey to find rest.”

—Kerri Weems

Rhythms of Grace
By Kerri Weems
Life tends to take on a pace of its own which, when left unchecked, will drive us toward burnout and fatigue. We can easily become driven by care, worry, and ambition rather than led by the Holy Spirit. Author Kerri Weems had let the pace and rhythm of her life get out of control. In this book, she opens up her life and shares her journey as God taught her to walk in time with Him.

Questions at the back of each chapter will inspire life-giving, meaningful conversations for your small group. Take the women in your church on the journey to discovering real rest for their souls.

English 03MV0191 | $14.99
Paper, 5.5 x 8", 224 pages

Spanish 02MV7428 | $14.99
Paper, 5.5 x 8", 232 pages

Also available as an eBook!
“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

**Gift Kit**
Makes a great gift for ministry leaders, believers, friends, and family. Includes: Selah journal, Selah devotional, and Selah mug.

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**Book**
Life tends to take on a pace of its own which, when left unchecked, will drive us toward burnout and fatigue. We can easily become driven by care, worry, and ambition rather than led by the Holy Spirit. Author Kerri Weems had let the pace and rhythm of her life get out of control. In this book, she opens up her life and shares her journey as God taught her to walk in time with Him. 5.5 x 8"

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**Resource Magazine**
Order more copies of this publication for each of your ministry leaders.

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**Bulletin Cover**
Ideal for National Women’s Day and women’s events. Full-color features Selah with thoughts on the Sabbath and grace on the back; blank inside. 8.5 x 11” (Folds at center for 5.5 x 8.5” finished bulletin.) Pkg. of 25.

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**Journal**
Makes a perfect all-occasion gift for any woman. Beautiful black cover with cream Selah imprint, and a black elastic closure band and black satin bookmark ribbon. Hardcover, 80 fully-lined pages. 5 x 7”

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**Silicone Wristband**
Black-silicone wristband with Selah on one side and Mt. 11:28-30 on the other. .75”. Pkg. of 10.

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No returns on opened electronic media unless defective. All orders subject to credit approval. Prices subject to change without notice.

To keep costs down, shipping methods have changed. To ensure timely delivery, place your order early and allow 8-14 business days. For normal shipping, provide address where postal mail is delivered. Rush orders MUST have street address. May generate additional charges.
### Mug
Choose this beautiful mug as a gift for friends, family, teachers, ministry leaders, and others. Features “Selah” on one side and “Finding rest for your soul, Matthew 11:28-30” on the other. Dishwasher safe. 14 oz.

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### Bookmark
Inspires readers to discover God’s rest. Theme design with “Selah—Finding Rest for Your Soul” on the front and encouraging reminders on the reverse side. 2 x 7”. Pkg. of 10.

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Also available in Spanish.

### Selah Devotional
Journey through the Scriptures to find God’s rest for your soul with this 21-day devotional by Kerry Clarenau. Great for Mother’s Day, event giveaways, small group study, and outreach. Paperback, 32 pages. 5.5 x 8.5”

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### Tumbler
Refresh yourself on a busy day with your favorite beverage from this clear tumbler with black “Selah” imprint on both sides. Honeycomb plastic. 16 oz. Non-commercial dishwasher safe.

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### Poster Set
Promote your next women’s event or Rhythms of Grace Bible study. Provides space for customizing your message. Two vertical 10.75 x 16”, one horizontal 16 x 10.75”, and two 8 x 10.75” posters in each set. Spanish on the reverse side.

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### Postcards
Ideal for personalizing and printing a message to a friend, for framing as a gift, or for use in event décor. 4.25 x 5.5”. Pkg. of 20/5 sheets. (8.5 x 11’)

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Planning a Year of Ministry to Women

By Kerry Clarensau

A one-size-fits-all ministry to women simply does not exist. Every group of women has unique strengths, needs, and resources. But here are a few guiding principles as you begin planning your ministry to women.

A TOP PRIORITY

As a leader of ministry to women, you have a multifaceted role. You may plan events, organize small groups, choose and manage resources, inspire the lead team, meet with individual women, help support the vision of your pastor … (Do you feel exhausted yet?) You have a big responsibility! But, possibly the most important role you have is to help create an atmosphere for biblical, healthy one-on-one connections to occur within your local church community.

START BY INVESTING IN A FEW

To have a healthy ministry to women you need a group of women who are committed to growing in their relationship with God and one another. Start by investing in a few and encourage them to invest in a few. Jesus chose twelve men to walk with Him, watch Him do life, and participate in ministry. From those few men the gospel made it all the way to us—centuries later and a few continents away. If you desire to minister effectively to the women in your community, you must be committed to creating an atmosphere where this type of life-giving relationships can flourish.

PLAN YOUR EVENTS FOR 2016

The Three-Dimensional Design will help you minister to women through three levels of interaction—Big Events, Small Groups, and One-on-One Connections. Whether your church is large or small, this model can be modified and implemented to meet the unique needs of the women you are called to minister to.

BIG EVENTS

Theme parties, meal events, retreats, or conferences are examples of Big Events that can invite, include, and inform all of the women in your church and community. We’ve included the 2016 National Women’s Ministries Theme and resources to help you plan your first Big Event of the year. But remember, don’t overdo the Big Events—two to four events a year is enough to help the women connect with small groups and other activities in your church.

SMALL GROUPS

As you get to know the unique needs of the women in your church, plan small groups specifically for them. A variety of resources are included in this magazine to help you choose the right material. Effective small groups help women to grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.

ONE-ON-ONE

Remember Big Events and Small Groups are a catalyst for creating healthy relationships. The most effective and lasting ministry happens in one-on-one ministry. We must be intentional about creating an environment for healthy relationships to flourish. We should encourage women to have a variety of relationships—every one of us benefits from having relationships with our peers, as well as those who are more experienced or less experienced.

Life-giving, one-on-one relationships are vital for the emotional and spiritual health of women.
ABORTION RECOVERY

SaveOne

SaveOne is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping men and women to spiritually, mentally, and emotionally heal after making the choice of abortion. SaveOne offers a Bible study that teaches men and women to recover after this choice, or provide an online class that is offered one on one, if a SaveOne chapter cannot be found locally.

[SaveOne.org](http://SaveOne.org)

ABUSE

Is It My Fault? Hope and Healing for Those Suffering Domestic Violence

*By Justin S. Holcomb | Lindsey A. Holcomb*

Acknowledges the terrible physical, social, emotional, psychological, and spiritual effects of domestic violence while extending hope and healing to victims who suffer physically, socially, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 240 pages

**English** 03MV1823 $14.99

WE SUGGEST THESE WEB SITES:

[PureLifeMinistries.org](http://PureLifeMinistries.org)

Pure Life Ministries with Steve and Kathy Gallagher—for recovery from sexual addictions and abuse.

[AbundantLifeMinistryCenter.org](http://AbundantLifeMinistryCenter.org)

Reverend Sue Willis ministers healing and restoration for anyone who is a survivor of abuse.

MARRIAGE

Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts

*By Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott*

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott help you launch lifelong love like never before. Learn to communicate, resolve conflict, and master money management. Pair with the his/her workbooks filled with more than 40 fun exercises.

**English** 03MV2078 $21.99

Hardcover, 6 x 9", 208 pages

Women’s Workbook 03MV2080 $10.99

Paper, 6 x 9", 96 pages

Men’s Workbook 03MV2079 $10.99

Paper, 6 x 9", 96 pages

The Wholehearted Wife

*By Erin, Greg, and Gary Smalley*

Your life could improve instantly or gradually if you move from asking, “How can I have a better marriage?” to “How can I be the best wife I can be?” Paper, 5.5 x 8.25", 272 pages

**English** 03MV1383 $15.99

After the Honeymoon

*By Rod Loy*

Whether seeking to start a marriage off on a solid basis or wanting to rekindle and strengthen their marriage, this book provides couples with 90 devotions to build a thriving relationship. Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 208 pages

**English** 50MV0651 $14.99

Spanish 02MV7382 $14.99

GRIEF RECOVERY

Shattered: Finding Hope and Healing

*By Rita Schulte*

Unidentified or unresolved loss can have a negative impact on our relationships with other people and with God. It’s important to notice and address losses. Paper, 5.5 x 8.25", 224 pages

**English** 03MV1110 $14.99
### PARENTING

**Becoming a Spiritually Healthy Family**  
*By Michelle Anthony*  
If you long to show your children Jesus but don’t know how, find hope in this practical guide to creating a grace-filled home focused on God as first in charge.  
Paper, 5.25 x 8.5", 208 pages  
**English** 03MV0363  $15.99

**The Power of Home**  
*By Ted Cunningham*  
Cunningham encourages you and your household to pause and take stock of where you’re going. Learn to incorporate every family member in the spiritual growth of your home.  
Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 248 pages  
**English** 02MV7371  $14.99  
**Spanish** 02MV7372  $14.99

**But I’m Not a Wicked Stepmother**  
*By Kathi Lipp and Carol Boley*  
Two savvy stepmothers reveal ways to build a healthy marriage while sharing tips on several topics: Extended family, finances, holidays, bonding with step-kids, healing old wounds, and more.  
Paper, 5.5 x 8.25", 240 pages  
**English** 03MV1386  $14.99

**Let’s Do Family Together**  
*By Dr. Gary Smalley*  
Build a marriage and family that honors God and each family member. With spiritual depth and practical insight, Gary Smalley helps you enjoy a home filled with harmony and hope.  
Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 216 pages  
**English** 02MV7368  $14.99  
**Spanish** 02MV7369  $14.99

**Talk Now and Later**  
*By Brian Dollar*  
Get ready to talk to your children about the big issues in life—now and later. Features conversation starters on 10 common topics including God, bullying, money, self-image, and sex.  
Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 328 pages  
**English** 02MV7379  $17.99  
**Spanish** 02MV7426  $17.99

### PHYSICAL CARE

**Spiritually Strong: The Ultimate Guide to Building Your Body and Soul**  
*By Kristen Feola*  
Six-week program helps you get fit spiritually and physically. Presents 6 disciplines: Bible study, prayer, fasting, health, finance, and service.  
Paper, 6 x 9", 208 pages  
**English** 03MV2066  $15.99

### SINGLES

**WE SUGGEST THESE WEB SITES:**

[forasinglepurpose.com](https://www.forasinglepurpose.com)  
Jennie Puleo and Adessa Holden discuss matters of the heart for singles.

[LoisBreit.com](https://www.loisbreit.com)  
Lois Breit is an Assemblies of God U.S. missionary to single moms.

### SPIRITUAL LIFE

**The Day I Met Jesus**  
*By Frank Viola and Mary Demuth*  
Chronicles the encounters of 5 women in the Gospels who struggled with regret, stress, and worry. Each narrative is told from each woman’s unique perspective.  
Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 208 pages  
**English** 03MV2360  $13.99

**True You**  
*By Adele Calhoun and Traci Bianchi*  
A true you is waiting to be known within each of us. A world in need is ready for the stories and wisdom we’re made to share. Use your voice.  
Paper, 5.5 x 8.25", 191 pages  
**English** 03MV1099  $15.99
Looking for a way to reach young women in your community? MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is an open door to invite moms to your church.

MOPS is a comprehensive strategy to care for moms in the early stages of mothering when they desperately need hope and nurturing.

Check us out at mops.org
Request more info at mops.org/startagroup
or call us at 303.733.5353

50 percent off start-up fee for AG churches.

Inspire women through testimonies from Spirit-filled people who all needed to see God move in an amazing way. Dr. George O. Wood adds biblical examples of women who chose to overcome their struggles in spite of challenges—

1. Sarah laughed as she doubted God’s promise.
2. Naomi plodded and persevered through her loss.
3. Hannah wept in brokenness as she longed for a child.
4. Mary submitted and willingly obeyed God’s supernatural plan for her life.

As women see what God has done in others’ lives, they’ll be inspired to believe God for greater things in their life, too.

Includes DVD and Study Guide. 4 sessions.
“Love one another deeply, from the heart”  
(1 Peter 1:22, NIV).

A Beautiful Life

We function at our best, personally, when our relationships are right with God and others. But how do we get there? This book explores how to have more love in your life, to become the person you were created to be. It will show you the way to a beautiful life.  

Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 240 pages

English 50MV0280 $14.99  
Spanish 50MV0281 $14.99

Devotional

Discover how our relationship with God makes a beautiful life possible through this full-color 21-day devotional. Great for Mother’s Day, event giveaways, and outreach.  

Paper, 4 x 6", 32 pages

English 50MV0298 $1.99  
Spanish 50MV0307 $1.99

Gift Kit


50MV0308 $29.99

“A Heart to Know Me”  
(Jeremiah 24:7, KJV).

A Heart to Know Me

Jodi Detrick weaves together memorable stories, biblical insights, and valuable wisdom from her many years of successful leadership. Each chapter includes: coaching questions for small group discussion; a lesson for new leaders; and “Heart-Deep in the Word” for personal application and reflection. Great for individual, one-on-one, or group study.  

Paper, 5.5 x 8.5", 328 pages

English 50MV0164 $17.99  
Spanish 50MV0178 $17.99

Devotional

Discover how our relationship with God makes a beautiful life possible through this full-color 21-day devotional. Includes author notes and overview of each chapter’s content.  

Paperback, 4 x 6", 32 pages

English 50MV0232 $1.99  
Spanish 50MV0233 $1.99

Gift Kit


50MV0308 $29.99

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English 50MV0164 $17.99  
Spanish 50MV0178 $17.99

Devotional

Discover how our relationship with God makes a beautiful life possible through this full-color 21-day devotional. Includes author notes and overview of each chapter’s content.  

Paperback, 4 x 6", 32 pages

English 50MV0232 $1.99  
Spanish 50MV0233 $1.99

Gift Kit


50MV0308 $29.99
“For I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1, NIV).

## Redeemed

### Book
Allow God’s grace to change your life completely. Six chapters include discussion questions, daily readings with prayers, personal reflection questions, space for journaling, and video introductions from the author (accessible by QR code).

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### Mug
Light green speckled Taza mug with brown trim around the top edge. Text in brown. Non-commercial dishwasher safe. 13 oz. Front: Redeemed! Back: “For I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1, NIV.

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<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td><strong>17MV8036</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12 or more</strong></td>
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### 45-Day Challenge
By Kerry Clarensau
One entry per day for 45 days; each entry includes a Scripture Point, Thought Point, and Challenge Point.

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<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
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### Teaching DVD
Enhance your Redeemed! study experience as Kerry shares on each session topic. Introduction and teaching segments are approximately 15 minutes per session. Also includes a promotional video and facilitator overview.

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## Love Revealed

### Book
Six chapters by five unique women authors: Kerry Clarensau, with Jodi Detrick, JoAnna Weaver, Janelle Hail, and JoAnn Butrin. Each chapter includes Scripture Points, Talk Points, Journal Points, and Action Points. Perfect for individual, one-on-one, or group study. Paper, 6 x 9”, 96 pages

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<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
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### 45-Day Challenge
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### Gift Kit
Love Revealed, 45-Day Challenge, bracelet, mug, sticky notes.

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