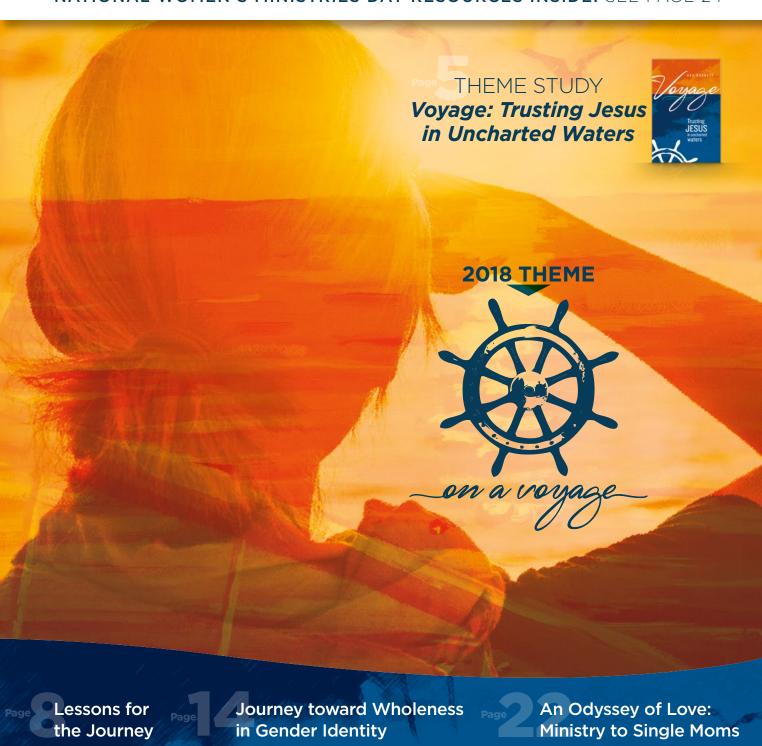
Ministering to Ministering to

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DAY RESOURCES INSIDE! SEE PAGE 24



Dear Women's Leader,

Every woman needs a vibrant, life-changing relationship with Jesus. We as women also need healing, strength, encouragement, biblical truth to set us free, and healthy relationships—so we can live the fullest expression of the life God designed for us. Every woman we encounter, no matter how broken.

Every woman we encounter, no matter how broken she may be, has inherent giftings and a call on her life, placed there by a loving Father. How blessed we are as leaders to come alongside the women we lead, to help them discover and redeem those gifts to fulfill God's plans!

Imagine with me that our lives are like a voyage on the sea. Sometimes the journey is exciting; at other times we face great challenges. Whether we find ourselves in a storm or sailing along in smooth waters, God reminds us He is always with us, and He promises to use every single situation for good. God loves us and has a great purpose for every storm we experience.

Our theme for 2018 is "On a Voyage."

As a leader of women, your voyage will take you into some unexpected storms, but it will also lead you into incredible adventures you could not experience were you to remain tucked away, safe in a harbor, and anchored to the shore. You've said yes to His invitation and call to lead. He wants to transform your life and use you to reach others with His truth and love. He has more purpose in the journey than anything we could ever imagine.

The national Women's Ministries Department prayerfully and diligently seeks to develop and promote resources to equip you for your journey as a leader. We also prayerfully strive to provide resources for women in our churches who long for biblical truth that will lead them into greater spiritual health, personal freedom, and a dynamic relationship with Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully alongside you in the journey,

Hay

Kay Burnett National Women's Ministries Director



Welcome to Ministering to Women in 2018!

We invite you to take some time to read through this resource magazine, then refer to it throughout the year. Within these pages you will find leadership resources, studies for personal use or for small groups, a growing list of recommended ministries, products for help with your events, and more. May you find much to help you minister specifically and intentionally to the needs of women.



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2018 Theme:



Theme Verse:

"But I trust in You, O Lord; I say 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands."

Psalm 31:14.15, NIV

We invite you to launch out with us on this journey:

National Women's Ministries Day Sunday, February 25, 2018

(for Assemblies of God churches across the nation)



Voyage: Trusting Jesus in Uncharted Waters.

by Kay Burnett, national Women's Ministries director ife is like a journey on the great sea that takes us into unexpected places and experiences. Some days are predictable, lovely, and exhilarating, with the sun on our faces and the wind at our backs. Seagulls fly overhead as we delight in the vast ocean all around, filled with joy at the whole experience!

But the full stretch of life's "journey on the sea" is marked not only by days of delight and adventure but by days of storms and rough waters, even threats from unexpected enemies. Life at sea includes danger mixed with the mundane. Our life voyage is anything but predictable and safe.

"If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever."

~Thomas Aguinas

We are called to this voyage and invited to relish every moment of it with the One who spoke the seas into existence and breathed life into our infant lungs. He alone is trustworthy to chart the course for the journey, and He invites us to make Him our Captain. He knows every detail of your personal voyage: the hidden dangers, the thrilling adventures, and the right course for your life.

Listen for a moment. Do you hear the sound of His voice singing over you, beckoning you to join Him in the journey? It's time to put out to sea with your Captain and let the wind of His Spirit fill your sails. Will you trust Him to lead the way? Will you trust Him to navigate safely through the storms? Will you trust Him for the journey?

YOUR voyage awaits . . .

Visit our Web site at **women.ag.org** for more helps in planning the 2018 theme. You will find:

- suggested theme sermon
- suggested theme drama
- · theme graphics
- event décor ideas
- suggested music
- other downloadables, such as name tags, invitations, and more!

Voyage: Trusting Jesus in Uncharted Waters

by Kay Burnett



This study is designed to help you learn to trust Jesus as you navigate through many of life's uncharted waters.

- Never been a single girl on your own before? Jesus knows the way for you.
- Never been a newlywed? Trust Jesus with your relationship.
- Wondering just how to be a mom to those preschoolers
 —or teens? Jesus can speak to your heart.
- Never been an empty-nester before? Jesus can help you navigate.
- Wondering how to steer through this cancer diagnosis?
 Jesus knows.
- Are you a widow now? Jesus can be your comfort.

In fact, for every storm we negotiate in this life—Jesus will help us, if we trust Him. Let the pages of this beautifully written book speak to the journey you find yourself on now, drawing encouragement, rest, and lessons on trusting Jesus from the words of the author, Kay Burnett.

Jesus is calling you out on the waters. Will you answer?

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than those you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the wind in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

~Mark Twain, great American writer





Kay Burnett is the national Women's Ministries Director for the Assemblies of God. She is a writer, speaker, and passionate about leading women. She previously served as a church planter, pastor's wife, and district Women's Ministries director for the Arizona District of the Assemblies of God, for over eight years.

"Following the light

of the sun, we left

the Old World."

~Christopher Columbus

Leaving the Shore Behind

by Kay Burnett

hen Paul stepped on that ship it appeared to be the start of a journey arranged by human authorities for political reasons. Though people did make the decisions that placed him on that particular vessel at that particular time, God was working above all, beneath all, and on every side to accomplish His plans. There was much in store for this voyage, and the One who rules "over the surging sea" (Psalm 89:9) would orchestrate all the paths and purposes.

If you embrace the perspective of life as a voyage, a first step must be to choose who will be the captain of your ship. In our daily lives, a variety of people with their personal assignments and agendas may be in positions of authority over us, but for the

surrendered follower of Christ this doesn't define who is truly at the helm of the ship. We must know and believe that He is at the helm; He is the only One who can lead us in perfect wisdom and love.

Understanding this principle gives us peace. When we know that Jesus is guiding the ship, our hearts are filled with confidence and hope—especially when we have no control over our circumstances. We can trust that He will take care of every detail of our lives. When He leads us on a new leg of our journey, we must be grounded by our own version of Christopher Columbus's simple statement: "Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World." In our case, we follow the light of the Son, which means we do, indeed, leave the "old world" behind.

Perhaps the toughest part of the voyage is the start, when we cast off and leave the shore behind. It is one thing to recognize that "deep calls to deep" (Psalm 42:7), knowing that God is pulling at the invisible ties of our souls, tugging on us to step out of the safety of the harbor into something more than the pursuit of our own dreams. It is another thing to get

in the ship, cast anchor, and turn the helm over to Him

His call is always active in our lives, no matter who we are, where we live, or how small the next step might seem. His purposes and plans go beyond all that we can imagine. Our perspective of destiny is so different from His—so much smaller. He sees the depth and breadth and height of all eternity! His perspective stretches from before this finite earth

was created all the way to the eternal life that awaits us. Only He can knit together the lives, paths, and appointments that will fulfill His plans.

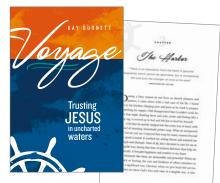
He compassionately encourages us to embrace a dependent way of life and allow Him

to write our story. He longs for us to let Him lead our voyage. When we surrender to Him to be the captain of the ship, we have no reason to fear—no matter our enemy, no matter our storm, no matter the seas on which we travel. He commands the high seas. He speaks, and the winds and waves obey. He alone set the sun, moon, and stars above.

If we fully acknowledge both God's power to do the impossible, as well as His unconditional, unfailing love for us, we move closer to a position of trust. At some point, it simply becomes an invitation to step off the dock and onto the deck of the ship. When life

makes it challenging to leave the shore and let go of the helm, we can trust God in every way.

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Training Your Leaders

A Quick Guide for Ministry to Women is an indispensable training tool for ministry to women in the local church.

Consider holding a mini-retreat with your ministry leadership team to walk through this guide. You can adapt this sample format for a weekend together:

Friday, 6 p.m.

Welcome and dinner

7 p.m.-9 p.m. Session 1: Who are the women we minister to?

Session 2: Why should we minister specifically

to women?

Break

Session 3: What are the needs of women? Session 4: What is the role of the church in

ministering to women?

Saturday, 9 a.m.

Breakfast

9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Session 5: Am I qualified to lead women?

Session 6: Where do I start?

Break

Lunch

Session 7: What do I do? Session 8: How do I do it?

11:30 a.m.-12 noon

12 noon-1 p.m. Session 9: How can we empower women?

Session 10: What is the desired outcome?

Sit at round tables to allow for small group discussion after each session, using the Discussion Questions and Action Steps from the book. End with a time of prayer as a leadership team, that God will direct your steps forward in ministry to women.

Or you could meet weekly with your team for several weeks, teaching one or two sessions per meeting. Another solution would be to ask each leader to read a different session, then come together to discuss all aspects of leading women.



Paper, spiral-bound, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ ", 112 pages, Spanish 120 pages.

English Spanish 02MV4214 02MV4216 \$12.99 \$12.99



Mary Ritter, North Carolina District Women's Ministries director, has this to say about

A Quick Guide for Ministry to Women:

"In North Carolina, we recently completed eleven Women Connect gatherings for women's leaders and their teams. I gave away one free copy of the *Quick Guide* to each church represented. Women's Ministries teams who are just beginning and other churches who are well-seasoned in ministry to women are using this practical tool to assess, adjust, and design ministry to women in their local contexts."

Visit womensquickguide.ag.org for free downloadables and more information.

Lessons for the Journey

by GraceAnn Hector

I'm on an incredible voyage out on the water—following as Jesus calls.

ome with me on this expedition. I grew up in Flagstaff, Arizona—in the beautiful mountains where, despite what people assume, it does snow quite often! When I was 12, my family was part of the launch of a then-new Northland Christian Assembly, at that time being planted by pastors Jim and Kay Burnett.

About two years into pursuing a degree, I began a pilgrimage I wouldn't have naturally set my sights on. I was hired to be the children's pastor of my home church in 2009. My previous experience in children's ministries consisted of dressing as a clown on a few missions trips to Mexico.

Love People and Have Patience

When I was hired, I remember saying, "I don't know how to do children's ministry. I don't even know where to start. I just know I love these kids and want them to love Jesus their whole lives." One of my mentors, and the previous children's pastor, encouraged me. She said, "If you love them, you will do fine."

In Northland's children's ministries, I inherited a group of eight or nine five-year-old children. We did a lot of teaching on prayer and worship. I was able to watch that group of kindergarteners grow spiritually for the next five years; they were incredible at praying and leading worship. Now as teenagers, they are great prayer warriors. I learned so much about sowing seed that may not see fruit for many years.

As a children's pastor, I learned to love people and have patience—because God knew I would need both of those lessons as a wayfarer on the journey ahead.



"Just love people. Really love them today. Show them Jesus and you will be fine."

Leap of Faith

On any voyage, we continue moving and learning. I took a huge step of faith in 2014, sold most of my belongings, and drove myself across the country to Pennsylvania. My friends Joey and Lauren Furjanic were planting a church, and called to ask for my help. I never planned to be a pastor—but I followed God.

The city of Philadelphia is incredibly diverse, with much spiritual need. The cultural differences from the desert West to the Northeast are extreme. I felt upside down for the first year. In this pilgrimage, I became acutely aware that I was too comfortable spiritually; I needed the Lord more than ever in this new place.

In my second year in the city, I began adjusting. I knew my faith needed to be stretched. I was desperate for God to travel this journey with me. Helping to plant a church, working full time in a new city, and making all new friends certainly requires His presence! By the end of the first year, The Block Church was

ready to hire additional staff, and extended the invitation to me. To say I was hesitant would be an understatement.

Helping People Love Jesus

I needed to fund-raise half of my yearly salary—that in itself felt like a mountain only God could move.

Through His faithfulness, I became the discipleship pastor of this diverse, innercity, beautiful church with 500 people in two locations. I focus on assimilation, small groups, and helping people love Jesus the rest of their lives.

As a single female in my 20s, I feel so privileged and intimidated at the same time. I tell myself so many mornings, "Just love people. Really love them today. Show them Jesus and you will be fine." I have never known fulfillment like this season I am in now. My faith is still being stretched, my desperation for God is only growing, and I still feel like I only know

how to love people. I need God's wisdom, discernment, love, and capacity every day.

A lot of my friends are still searching for purpose, spouse, family; I am so content where God has me. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else, or doing anything else. I can't believe this mountain girl gets to be part of a spiritual awakening in an urban Northeast context. And I'm still desperate for God; I tell Him often, "I can't do this without You!"

When we follow Jesus and love Him all our days, we have adventures we could never dream for ourselves. Every dark valley, disappointment, and passage through rough waters is worth doing what God has asked of us—and He is present with us on the journey.

GRACEANN HECTOR is a graduate of Southwestern Assemblies of God University. She is now the discipleship pastor for The Block Church, with locations in Port Richmond and Center City, Pennsylvania.



Ministry Resource Consultants

All of these ministries are founded by Assemblies of God members, and are recommended by the National Women's Ministries Department.

ABORTION RECOVERY



SaveOne: Healing After AbortionDirected by Sheila Harper

SaveOne is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping men and women heal spiritually, mentally, and emotionally after making the choice of abortion. **SaveOne.org**

ABUSE AND ADDICTION RECOVERY



Project Ignite LightDirected by Pebbles Thompson

Pebbles Thompson discovered that children left investigative doctors' appointments with very little, if any, dignity—compounding the stress and shame of abuse. Project Ignite Light now provides backpacks to abused children, loaded with essential items such as blankets, pajamas, underwear, socks,

hygiene items, books, stuffed animals, and more. They will also make presentations for starting a similar ministry in your area. No child should feel alone in the darkness of abuse. **IgniteLight.org**



Pure Life MinistriesDirected by Steve and Kathy Gallagher

Pure Life Ministries offers a residential program and more, specifically addressing sexual addictions. **purelifeministries.org**

ABUSE SURVIVORS MINISTRY



Abundant Life Ministry Center Directed by Sue Willis

This ministry offers leadership training and resource materials globally for those desiring to minister to individuals who have suffered the trauma of abuse. Designed to be used within the local church in a small group, one-on-one, or community

outreach setting for men and women to receive hope, healing, and restoration from the effects of sexual, physical, emotional, spiritual, and self-inflicted abuse, as well as human trafficking. **AbundantLifeMinistryCenter.org**

ADOPTION



Compact Family ServicesDirected by Jay Mooney

Compact Family Services' vision, by the year 2020, includes offering children's homes, foster care, maternity homes, adoptions, and therapeutic care. Their campus is located in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

LaDana Pate, Compact Ministries Hillcrest Program Manager, says, "Reflecting on this past year, we have seen many successes. Three residents are going to forever homes this week. What makes these three so special? They are all in our residential treatment program. The purpose of this program is to get the residents to a level where they can maintain in a foster home, then get adopted.

"God is still handing out wisdom, patience, perseverance, and relationships to these residents others have given up on."

compactfamilyservices.org

COMPASSION



Convoy of Hope: Convoy WomenDirected by Doree Donaldson

Convoy of Hope believes every woman is valuable, no matter her age, where she lives, or what she looks like. We are teaching this truth to women and girls all around the world. Many, like Neema, are hearing it for the first time.

"Girls hold the lowest place in our society which makes us believe we're not smart or beautiful enough," says Neema. "But after attending Empowered Girls' events, I now understand my value."

Thanks to our women's empowerment programs, Neema had not only learned how to advocate for herself—she's now passionate about advocating for others, too.

"We are valuable," she says. "Our society doesn't teach us this, but Empowered Girls does." After Neema graduates, she hopes to continue teaching other girls their worth.

Convoy of Hope says, "Thank you for partnering with us as we dignify mothers, daughters, and sisters around the world. You are making a difference for many girls just like Neema!"

convoyofhope.org/what-we-do/ womens-empowerment

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS



Life in Your HandsDirected by Bethzaida Garcia

Bethzaida says, "As a domestic violence survivor, activist, and counselor, my commitment and responsibility will always be to bring current information and services that contribute to the eradication of

domestic violence and other social problems."

lifeinyourhands.org.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESCUE



F.R.E.E. InternationalDirected by Michael Bartel

F.R.E.E. exists until modern-day slavery no longer exists. F.R.E.E. works to abolish sex and labor trafficking primarily in the U.S. with innovative collaborations through public and private partnerships.

freeinternational.org



Project RescueDirected by David and Beth Grant

Project Rescue helps rescue and restore victims of sexual slavery in the love and power of Jesus Christ. **projectrescue.com**



Nuture HopeDirected by Carla Marroquin

Protect Me Project, Serve4Justice, and kNEWu are all anti-trafficking initiatives using prevention methods to address abuse and pornography. **protectmeproject.org**



The Global Center for Women and Justice (GCWJ)Directed by Sandra Morgan

GCWJ is a faith-based organization that exists to advance the global status of women through research, education, advocacy, collaboration, and hope. **vanguard.edu/research/gcwj**

MARRIAGE



Marriage Encounter
Directed by Mark and Becky Rhoades

Marriage Encounter is a weekend away for couples who want to take their marriage from good to great. **agme.org**

MINISTRY TO GIRLS



Girls MinistriesDirected by Mandy Groot

Girls Ministries has one goal: to see every girl moving toward a deep relationship with Jesus Christ and to realize her importance and potential. We want to equip you with resources to mentor and disciple girls. No other resource

has this variety of activities, focused discipleship, or a proven track record of helping girls become confident, godly women who are leaders in the church, home, and world. Your girls will get:

- Adventures, activities, and games that show them how discovering God's Word is fun!
- Lessons in valuable life skills from sportsmanship and integrity, to friendship and outreach.
- One-on-one help in choosing actions, attitudes, and behaviors that please God.

For more information, please email us at NGM@ag.org, or visit **ngm.ag.org.**

MINISTRY TO MUSLIM WOMEN

Say Dired A sir journ

Say HelloDirected by Lynda Hausfeld

A simple act of friendship can initiate a Muslim woman's journey to Jesus.

Research affirms that Christian friendships are key to a Muslim's decision to follow Christ.¹ Christian women may have increased opportunity to engage with Muslim women, but stereotypes and unfounded fears often impede us. "Say Hello" wants to help Christian women everywhere know that they and Muslim women have everything to gain by being friends. We hold many common values, and most of our differences are also wonderful reasons for us to become friends. Our most important likeness is our need for Jesus, and our defining difference is that Christian women know Him, but most Muslim women have never even once heard His story. **sayhelloinfo.com**

RURAL COMPASSION



Rural CompassionDirected by Steve
Donaldson

Forty-three percent of America's counties

are rural. In 2012, an estimated 18 percent of rural America was at or below the poverty line compared to 16 percent of urban America. Steve Donaldson, director of Rural Compassion, says, "If we are not intentional in going to rural communities, no one would go there. We work with the main stakeholders to coach, mentor, and train them on how to bring their communities to a place where children and families can really flourish. We teach the leaders not to just look at needs, but to look at their assets, and ask what resources are within the reach of their hands; what can they pull together to make their community a better place? An organization like Rural Compassion is able to come in and resource that community, and lift their arms in reaching goals they've already set for themselves. We are seeing incredible results."

ruralcompassion.org

SEXUAL IDENTITY



Linda Seiler shares candidly from her own struggles and triumph coupled with a strong scriptural

foundation and the latest scientific research regarding the origins of homosexuality and gender dysphoria. Read her testimony on pages 14, 15, and visit

lindaseiler.com.

¹ As found in http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2008/winter/9.13.html; accessed May 2, 2017.

SINGLE MOMS



Lois Breit is ordained, and a U.S. missionary with the Assemblies of God—and raised her five children as a single mother.

She knows the abandonment and hopelessness many single moms face. When she was desperate, Lois turned to a local church for help. Because this church went the extra mile to love her grieving, angry, broken family, their destiny was forever changed.

You may ask why we need a missionary for single moms. Lois points out that the national average of single parent homes in 2010 was 35 percent, but is closer to 45 percent now. That's almost half of the families in most communities (inner cities average between 74-79 percent)—yet only a handful of these families attend any church at all. However, what they need most can only be found in a relationship with Jesus. Relationship with Him is learned through relationship with His people. Investing in peopleespecially "messy" people—is work and takes time! loisbreit.com

WIDOWS



Marlene Craft is an Assemblies of God U.S. missionary to widows. She enjoys sharing her story, along with encouraging

widows to help them in fulfilling what the Lord has for them in this season of their life. **widowslink.org**

WOMEN MINISTERS



Network of Women Ministers

Directed by Crystal Martin

The Network of Women Ministers exists to connect and inspire women ministers. We are dedicated to building community among our women ministers and provide training opportunities. We want to equip districts and the

local church body to release women to leadership within their churches and allow younger generations to see God's Spirit poured out on all flesh.

womenministers.ag.org



Journey Toward Wholeness in Gender Identity by Linda Seiler

From my
earliest memory
Twanted to be
a boy instead
of a girl.







omehow I just knew that if I could be a boy, my life would be complete. As a child, I became obsessed with my pursuit. It was my little secret for decades.

In the fourth grade, I learned about sex reassignment surgeries and vowed I would have the operation one day. About the same time, some playmates introduced me to pornography, which became 20-plus years of sexual addictions. My parents were unaware that I was spending hours alone in my room feeding my sexual fantasies, always envisioning myself as the male counterpart.

In junior high, when other girls were interested in makeup and boys, to my horror, I found myself attracted to women—especially older teachers who were strong yet nurturing. I desperately wanted to be held and comforted by a woman. I dared not tell anyone.

Conscious Decision

Around seventh grade, I considered the logistical difficulties of sex reassignment surgery. Where would I get the money? How would I tell my family? You can't just be Linda one day and David the next.

I contemplated running away as soon as I reached adulthood to have the surgery without ever telling my family—but I loved them. Even though I wasn't a Christian then, I sensed that sex reassignment would not be God's will. So, I made a conscious decision to conform to society's expectation of me as a girl. But inside, I still longed deeply to be a man; attractions to women became increasingly difficult.

I committed my life to Jesus during my junior year in high school, but within days, I doubted my salvation experience because my struggles didn't go away. I was miserable inside. Yet, I knew Jesus had done something in my heart, and I wanted to follow Him.

In college, I got involved with a campus ministry, and developed a deeper relationship with God, praying and reading my Bible regularly,

even sharing Christ with the lost. I eventually became a student leader despite being deeply attracted to women who mentored me, and still enslaved to sexual addictions. I hated the double life I was living. At one point, I prayed earnestly for God to take my transgender desires away.

My senior year in college, I heard a speaker talk on overcoming habitual sin. He quoted James 5:16, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." I knew I had to confess.

Responding in Love

I mustered all my earthly courage to tell my campus pastor the secret I had kept for 21 years. In fact, I seriously considered suicide, but that would have devastated my family. I expected my campus pastor to react with shock, or condemnation—because I was a ministry leader. Instead, he responded in love, assuring me that he was committed to finding help for me. I couldn't believe it! I walked away from that conversation with a fresh revelation of God's grace. That day in 1994 was my first step in an 11-year journey towards freedom.

My campus pastor eventually connected me with a professional counselor. The next decade was full of ups and downs as I sought healing. I read every book I could find on homosexuality, listened to tapes, attended conferences, and met with multiple ex-gay ministries and other Christian counselors. During the slow process, I did not find many resources to help women struggling with

transgender issues. But the Lord gave me supernatural assurance that He would completely heal me.

As I pursued healing, the Lord gave me a spiritual mother who was only a few years older than I, but spiritually much more mature. I was deeply attracted to her, yet she wasn't fazed by my struggles and invested in me in a wholesome way. I found myself wanting to be like her (as a daughter would emulate her mother). She gave me advice about feminine clothes, makeup, and mannerisms. My outward appearance began to change, but inwardly, I still believed the lie that it was better to be a man, and I was still battling attractions to women.

Embracing the Cross

After many more struggles, in 2005 the Lord led me to an inner healing prayer counselor. For one week, we spent hours praying through a lifetime of deep emotional wounds at the root of my issues. I forgave those who hurt me, let go of bitterness, renounced inner vows, and repented of my wrong responses. I embraced the cross, and closed every open door that had allowed the enemy to influence my life. I could literally feel the Father's hands holding my heart. My lifelong yearning was met through the tender arms of my heavenly Father.

After that powerful encounter with God, I had new contentment in being a woman, and was set free from my sexual addictions. I started experiencing genuine attractions towards men. It was as if I were going through delayed puberty in my mid-thirties, which was both awkward and thrilling—to finally experience the mystery of sexuality according to God's design. God accomplished what seemed impossible!

LINDA SEILER is Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship director, Purdue University. For more information about her story, and to discover resources for reaching those who embrace a transgender identity, including her new book, TRANSformation: A Former Transgender Responds to LGBT Issues. visit lindaseiler.com.



Help Chart the Course

Providing Scholarships for International Students

by Karlene Gannon

artner with us in this National Women's
Ministries missions project to provide
scholarships for international women students
to attend Bible school. Single or married, young
or older, women are called into the ministry. They
desire to prepare and be equipped to launch out in
evangelism and service to others. We can help by
donating money for scholarships for these women
who might not be trained any other way.

"I would like to thank all the women who contributed towards the SIS scholarships for the ladies of Evangelical Theological College in Tirana, Albania. Some of these women are the only believers coming from Muslim families. With great courage, they step out to answer the call of God and prepare for ministry. Without your support, they couldn't fulfill the dream of God for their lives. Thank you for your generosity. Lives are being changed!"

-Kurt Plagenhoef, President of the Evangelical Theological College, Tirana, Albania **Ejona** writes, "Attending school has opened doors of opportunity to learn new things and have something fresh to share with our people at church. I have been encouraged and emboldened to share the gospel with people who do not know the Lord."



Rukie, a divorced woman and single mother, met the Lord at the age of 40. She shares, "In school I have been more rooted in the Word of God. The lessons have helped me to learn new strategies to win the lost where I serve."



Besarta is a first-year student, married, and has a young son. Besarta is from a six-member Muslim family. She writes, "We were all raised practicing the rules and rituals of the Muslim religion. I heard about Jesus from my husband. In a short-term missions trip, we experienced great spiritual growth and saw first-hand the experience of what missions is about."

Scholarships for International Students has provided more than 300 students with a scholarship. Giving to the fund exceeds \$185,000.



Send your contribution to: Scholarships for International Students 1445 N. Boonville Avenue Springfield, MO 65802

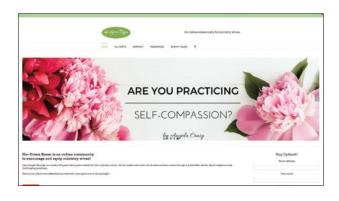
KARLENE GANNON is missions and ministries coordinator for the national Women's Ministries Department.

Join ministry wives all over the world—just like you!



ou may be in a remote area of the nation, or the world, and need to know you are in a community of women just like you—ministering alongside a husband—and in need of a friend. Join us online to read personal testimonies, to watch women converse about valuable ideas relevant to ministry wives through our video series, and read significant blogs from other women in ministry.

You are not alone! Join the Her Green Room community of ministry wives just like you—at **hergreenroom.com**.





Here's a true story from Pam, who serves in East Africa with her husband John:

I heard a goat braying outside my window. I sighed. I needed a friend in this moment and a goat simply wouldn't do.

Living in a foreign culture offers many wonderful opportunities, but sometimes I miss . . . well, everything. Mostly though, it's just wanting to understand and be understood.

Her Green Room has been an oasis in my desert life (literally a sandy location). I watch the videos and feel like I'm sitting down with a friend, drinking tea, discussing life. I glean so much from the women sharing their hearts. I feel as though I've made a friend because I've gained understanding about her life and perspective about my own.

I thank the Lord for Her Green Room as I walk out of my village home smiling a bit broader knowing that I have sisters all over the world journeying with me... and perhaps a goat following.

Tiffany Wood: Do Hard Things

As Tiffany Wood heard the radio announcement, she began to cry.

er husband George Paul pulled the car over to ask, "What is going on?" As a newcomer to the Bible Belt, Tiffany could not comprehend the statistic she had just heard. Greene County, Missouri, had the highest number of children in foster care of any county in the state.

"How could that be?" Tiffany questioned. She had moved from the West Coast to mid-Missouri, having never lived more than 10 minutes from the ocean. Here—in the city of the national office for the Assemblies of God—a need was stirring her heart.

Tiffany grew up in Southern California, with a twin brother and a younger sister. She graduated with a BA in political science from the University of Southern California and an MBA from Pepperdine University. Tiffany ran large law firms in downtown Los Angeles.

George Paul and Tiffany met in their 30s, married, and began pastoring in Santa Barbara. In 2008, the couple had a son, Reese. Then Dr. Jim Bradford, Assemblies of God General Secretary, called them to the National Leadership and Resource Center, in Springfield, Missouri.

Hearing the Need

"We were driving down Glenstone, the main drag in Springfield, on January 1, 2010, when the radio announcer reported the high number of children needing foster care in Greene County," Tiffany remembers. "I knew I needed to do something about it."

Tiffany became a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) volunteer to give opinions to the



court about foster care cases. "I didn't feel like my assigned case really needed me," Tiffany confessed.

"I had turned 40, and was a happy mother—but sometimes felt I needed to 'apologize' for only having one child. People commented, 'You are a good mom! Have more children.'" However, Tiffany's doctor disagreed, due to health issues. She realized the door was open to becoming a foster parent.

"When you do hard

check your notions

things, when you

at the door—God

will show you the

~Tiffany Wood

plan He has for you."

Reese was in preschool, almost five, as George Paul and Tiffany began training for foster care through Greene County. They received a license, and told the state they would like boys—out of diapers.

On December 13, 2014, the state requested that the couple consider taking two little girls—both still in diapers. "I thought, 'But I'm a boy mom! I like loud! We have bunk beds," Tiffany recalls. When the Woods called back to say no, they learned the girls had already been placed.

The next morning, the phone rang again. The two girls needed a home; the previous arrangement had

not worked. Tiffany remembers telling George, "Maybe these girls are right for us. We didn't get into this for it to be easy." They picked up the two girls that day.

It's Not Easy

The Woods' home now had Allison, a two-month-old, sixpound blonde with icy blue eyes, like a porcelain doll, and a non-verbal 19-month-old, named Cynthia, who had suffered

neglect. People donated clothes and car seats to supply what the couple lacked.

"It was really hard," Tiffany continued. "I now had three kids under the age of five with two in diapers. In my arrogance and pride, I thought 'I can do all things . . . through myself!' But that's not how that Scripture reads!" Tiffany called the state to say, "I can't do this!" The state requested two weeks' notice to return the girls. But Tiffany knew in her heart she didn't mean it.

"George Paul is the true hero," Tiffany interjects. "Here's a guy who has no real call to foster parenting, but supports me in this role. The Bible calls us to care for widows and orphans. George is doing what's right because he knows, rather than feels, it is right. He said, 'Let's do this one day at a time. We can opt out later if that's what you need.""

Tiffany struggled with anger toward the girls' parents. She recalls, "I wanted to say, 'How dare you do this to these children!' But George Paul could love the parents—he knew Jesus died for them as well. It's so powerful to love people you don't think are worthy."

When the judge gave the birth parents more time, Tiffany questioned why—until something broke. She finally said, "God, I trust you. I know You love these kids. I'm going to love their parents." Tiffany decided to do the hard thing, and admits she was blessed many times over in return.

The Woods worked with the biological parents for months, and in July 2015, the girls returned to them. It was a success; the family was reunited.

As they prepared for more foster children, the Woods got another call from the state, requesting to bring back the girls. "We were broken. The mom had messed up. It

> was not what we had praved for." George Paul and Tiffany did not plan this journey—but in December

2016, they adopted the girls.

If God Leads, Then Do It

"If you make fostering about a selfish need to have children, then don't get into this," Tiffany advises. "When you do hard things, when you check your notions at the door-God will show you the plan He has for you.

I cracked, but then I found strength I didn't know I had. Hard things will come, but God will help me!"

This experience has changed who Tiffany is, changed her perspective on faith, and changed her love for children. She encourages, "Even if it's not fostering, and even if it's hard—if God is leading you to something, then do it." She now understands that choosing hard things shapes our character. When we choose hard things, we will see His faithfulness.

Listen to more of **TIFFANY WOOD'S** story and pointers on helping foster parents—at HerGreenRoom.com. Enter her name in the search field to bring up a series of videos telling the Woods' story of adoption.

Visit women.ag.org to find tips from Tiffany for helping foster parents in your community.

Three Districts Connecting with Women in Amazing Ways

Women across the nation, and in each district of our fellowship, are connecting to mightily accomplish great things for the kingdom of God.

ind out who your district Women's Ministries director is—and connect with her today! She will be offering amazing opportunities throughout the year, through leadership training, conferences, retreats, missions trips, and more. Visit women.ag.org to find your district director's contact information. Here we highlight three of our district Women's Ministries directors who are doing unique things for God, and offering creative ministry to women. Vanessa Hall, South Texas District Women's Director, has served three years as the first African-American director in her district, where she has aligned her ministry with the "multi-ethnic, multigenerational reach" started by her district superintendent, Tim Barker.

Now, the women of South Texas are embracing Hall's initiative called "Taking Care of the Sisterhood," where women are personally involved in each other's journeys and families, and truly a body of believers.

Vanessa hosts a leadership retreat for women leaders once per year; she also encourages friendship across the 10 sections of the district. "We enjoy a 'relational' gospel where women get to know each other, and I promote relationship-building so the gospel can be shared," Vanessa says. South Texas offers two conferences per year, in spring and fall, open to women from any of the 314 churches of the district. Vanessa also invites women to go on a missions trip each year. Plus, she offers Project Destiny for women to become involved in missions giving.



Below: Vanessa Hall (third from left) enjoys building relationships with women in her district.



Above: Women from the Southern Latin District gather for a spring retreat.

Krista Hampton, Kentucky District Women's Director,

views her role from the unique perspective of also being the lead pastor of her church for 13 years, River of Life Ministries, Paris, Kentucky.

our goal!"



Krista says, "We encourage women of Kentucky to live fully in all He has for them! Our missions project this year is Special Touch Ministries for those with physical and mental disabilities. We set a goal to raise a minimum of \$10,000 for Special Touch. During our District Council women's luncheon, the spirit of God moved so powerfully that even after we dismissed, people continued to sit in their seats weeping. After the luncheon, we counted the offering—people had given double what we needed to reach

Krista also offers a discipleship ministry for the women of Kentucky, called W.O.W. (Women of Worth). The three-phase program includes reading, spiritual growth, prayer, training on issues related to women, and mentoring. Kentucky women also attend a retreat during the summer that includes powerful worship, preaching, drama, and more; in the fall, Krista oversees Fall Connections one-night services with fellowship parties in locations throughout the district.

Doris Quiros, Southern Latin District Women's Director.

believes the message behind Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

She is a single mother who enjoys working as a vice president in the Credit and Supervision Division of the Federal Reserve Bank; Doris is also the Southern Latin District Women's director, and an associate pastor for Lilburn, Georgia, Assembly of God. She says, "I count all of it as ministry, knowing that God uses us wherever we are."

The women of Southern Latin District have a vision titled, "Equipping Women of Impact." Doris and her team offer an annual women's retreat in the Georgia mountains, and offer leaders training. They also are planning a "Girl's Night Out of Worship" with Girls Ministries and youth leaders, to bring girls and women of all generations together in worship. The women of Southern Latin District also partner with Convoy of Hope for outreach.

You and the women of your church and community will be blessed by joining with other women in your district—for leadership training, fellowship, spiritual enrichment, missions trips, and more! Connect with your district director today for opportunities in your district.



An Odyssey of *Ove*. Angela's Treasures

by Darla Knoth

Above: Janie Clark, left, stands with (left to right) Joanne Pauley, Angel Barnett, and Angela Pauley (the store's namesake). Angel is holding the first items sold in the store called Angela's Treasures, Phoenix, Arizona.

When Arizona Women's Ministries hosted a conference for single moms in 2012, Janie Clark attended.

he was not a single mom, but taught several business classes through her experience as president and founder of Clark and Associates Financial Services in Scottsdale, and some experience working with Teen Challenge. Janie has also been a member of Dream City Church (previously named Phoenix First Assembly) for 34 years.

"I was deeply moved during that conference with the conditions of the single moms who attended. Some lived in their cars, because they didn't have money for a deposit on an apartment, some had part-time jobs, and struggled to balance work and care for their children." Janie kept asking questions of the single moms. "I realized they needed help," she concluded.

God moves in hearts

Janie went home that weekend extremely emotional about the needs of the single moms she had met. "I felt the Lord moving in my spirit, and told my husband, Ed, 'These single parents have so many challenges."

That Saturday evening, the Clarks had been invited to friends' house for dinner. As they ate, Janie shared her burden with Perry and Joanne Pauley. Perry had also been involved with Teen Challenge, and immediately understood the need.

"I remember we laughed together as Perry said, 'How much will this cost me?'," Janie recalls. "We had both helped with other ministries financially, but had not been hands on. The challenges before us would be new. Our idea was to start a thrift store, where we could not only help single moms with wardrobe and other items they might need, but provide a place to train them to get jobs. Perry and Joanne agreed to help."

With God, nothing is impossible

Janie found a space right next to the Dream City church, but it was a mess. The location had been a delicatessen for 30 years, and the landlord had not cleaned it. The space was 1500 square feet, and on that Monday, Janie signed the lease.

"With God nothing is impossible—we are business people, we understand the challenges," Janie reflected, as she recalled working to clean, scrub, remove flooring, and more—staying many nights working on the leased space until 11 p.m. "We spent \$20,000 out of personal funds on carpet, paint, and equipment," she remembers.

Perry and Janie pulled a board of directors together for the thrift store, including Pastor Tommy Barnett, founder of Los Angeles Dream Center, and Angel Barnett, wife of Luke, current senior pastor of Dream City Church. Some of the board members also helped with renovation.

The board decided to call the new ministry "Angela's Treasures." Angela is Perry and Joanne's daughter, who as a single woman, chose to adopt a little boy whose birth mother was a drug addict in prison. When her adopted son's sister was born, she chose to adopt her as well. Angela is now marrie

adopt her as well. Angela is now married, with one more biological son.

Some of the Phoenix Dream Center staff also helped build dressing rooms and other items for Angela's Treasures. Two and a half weeks after Janie signed the lease, the doors of the thrift center opened.

God reaches single moms

Janie remembers inviting single moms to volunteer in the thrift shop where they receive items in exchange for their work. In the first five years, 32 single parents—the majority of them women—have been trained to work in the store. "We first had them volunteer, then started paying the single parents to work the store. Of the first volunteers, 19 still have full-time jobs throughout the city."

"I ran the thrift store 2½ days a week, while still owning my financial services business, and running it as well. Perry, Joanne, my husband, and I stepped into this thrift store financially and emotionally, but we wouldn't change or trade anything about it," Janie adds. She remembers many stories of individual single moms she has helped through the store's ministry; Janie still hears from some of them.

After five years of operation, Janie is giving Angela's Treasures to the Phoenix Dream Center to operate. She will still help train single moms. "I tell the story of the shop to every customer who comes in," she admits. "The Lord told me this is not my ministry,

but His." She added that the thrift store has become a help to others besides single moms. "If someone is looking for clothing for a job interview, we help them; we have furniture to help someone get on their feet as well."

"So many people could help with just an hour to volunteer—you never know how just that one hour will touch people."

Give to touch lives

When asked what advice Janie would give to other churches who might want to start a thrift store like Angela's Treasures, she said, "Find a couple of business people who could support a start-up store financially. They may not have time to give, but could donate.

We so often throw money away on fancy cars or restaurants instead of helping others. People will give to a thrift store. We found that donations just poured in. Thrift stores can support themselves. Every church could have a thrift store—it's not that difficult."

Janie continued, "So many people could help with just an hour to volunteer—you never know how just that one hour will touch people. We have to get rid of selfishness; we can change people's lives. Nothing is impossible with the Lord."

"We love ministry; we love the Lord. And we just try to figure out who needs our help," Janie concluded. Angela's Treasures is a testimony to Janie's odyssey of love.

DARLA KNOTH is communications strategist for the national Women's Ministries Department.

2018 Theme Product



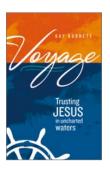
The Voyage gift kits make excellent favors for women's events, as well as gifts for anyone in your life! With both Basic and Deluxe kits, you're sure to find the option you need.

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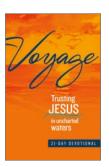
Voyage: Trusting Jesus in Uncharted Waters

by Kay Burnett

The voyage of life is anything but predictable and safe, but God calls each believer to this journey. With practical insights, Kay Burnett reminds us to trust in God, our Captain. Paper, 5½ x 8½", 144 pages



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Prepare your heart to trust God even through uncharted waters with this 21-day devotional. Paper, $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ ", 32 pages



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on a voyage

Example of art framed.

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Ideal for National Women's Day and women's events, this bulletin also gives a choice of two beautiful framed art pieces. Full color one side, blank on the reverse. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ " (Folds at center for $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ " finished bulletin.) Pkg of 10

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(any combination of sizes, English and Spanish)

See sizing chart at MyHealthyChurch.com/VoyageShirt

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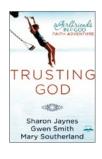
gain better results! Being a woman isn't an obstacle to your leadership, it's your asset! Paper, 5½ x 8½", 256 pages



English

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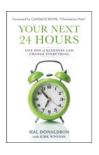
I Want It All

by Gwen Smith

God created you for exceptional impact, power, and blessings. Gwen Smith knows how easy it is to dismiss God's plans with negative thoughts, but God created us to join Him in doing amazing work. I Want It All will ignite a fire in your heart to experience

everything that God has for you. Paper, 5½ x 8¼", 256 pages

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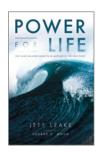


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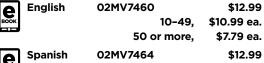


Trending Up

by Mark Forrester, general editor Leading church communications specialists break down complex social media themes, providing accessible, practical answers to questions that all churches face. With this book, your

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by Kerry Clarensau

This 30-day devotional journey will help readers walk through all that God offers us, and how we can embrace being "Fully His." Paper, 51/2 x 81/2", 104 pages, Spanish 112 pages.

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by Kerry Clarensau

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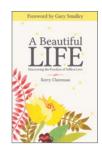
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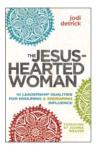
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by Kerry Clarensau

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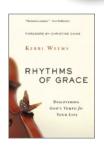


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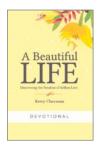
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he headlines today can leave us feeling shaken and uncertain about the times in which we live. However, God is never shaken or uncertain! He offers encouragement and strength for our hearts through His Word, stating in Psalm 75:3, ESV, "When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars."

We can rejoice that He is the answer for every need, every question, every dilemma! It is our responsibility—our joy and delight—to share that message with the world.

When you partner with us prayerfully and financially, you say yes to a great missional voyage. We need you to come alongside us to help put resources in women's hands that equip them to reach the lost, and embolden them to believe that God wants to do exceedingly, abundantly above all they could ask or imagine in their lives. This is why the national Women's Ministries Department exists!

God is doing something beautiful during this time in history. Now is not the time to stay safely on the shore. It's time to get both feet in the boat, join hands and hearts, and set sail—with Jesus at the helm and the wind of the Holy Spirit driving the ship. We invite you to partner with us as we move forward in this call to effectively disciple women, and to spread the gospel. Whether through prayer or financial giving, we are so thankful for your generosity.



Did you know?

You can support these efforts by receiving an offering on or around National Women's Ministries Day—February 25—or anytime in 2018!

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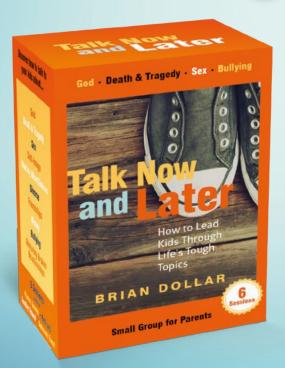
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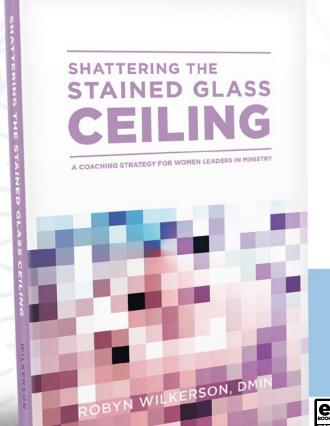
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National Women's Ministries Day

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