

60

GREAT IDEAS

for Women's Ministries in the Local Church

*Every event is an
opportunity to
model attractive,
Christ-centered,
relevant, active,
relational ministry,
where women
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**Women's
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NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
of SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

A ministry for every woman



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ANNUAL SPECIAL DAYS

March

1st Sabbath**

**Women's International
Day of Prayer***

June

2nd Sabbath**

**Women's Ministries
Emphasis Day***

July

2nd Sabbath

**NAD Women's
Ministries Offering**

*This is a North American Division offering and is sent
to the conference by the church treasurer.*

August

4th Sabbath**

**enditnow
Emphasis Day***

*Sermons and other resources are available from the
NAD Women's Ministries website: www.nadwm.org
in English, Spanish, and French

**These are suggested dates; work with your pastor to
find the dates that work best for your church

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Plan as many activities as possible to include former members, friends of other faiths, the unchurched, and occasionally the entire church membership.

1. Promote your church's participation in the NAD Women's Ministries Offering (second Sabbath in July).
2. Observe enditnow Emphasis Day every year in your church (nadwm.org).
3. Have a Breast Cancer Awareness speaker in October.
4. Invite a neighbor or inactive member to a women's ministries event.
5. Start a grief support group.
6. Have a ministry for women in your community who have lost a baby.
7. Begin a women's Bible study group using NAD Women's Ministries DVD studies, *Journey of Joy* and *Surprised by Love*.**
8. Start a Heart Call* ministry to reconnect with inactive women in your church.
9. Start a Nurturing New Member ministry in your church.
10. Begin a purity ministry for girls ages 12-18 in your church.
11. Start a girls club to mentor the girls and teens in your church.
12. Ensure your women's ministries leader is a member of the church board.
13. Sponsor Women's Ministries Leadership Certification seminars for the women of your church.
14. Collect personal hygiene items for a women's shelter.
15. Send care packages or greeting cards to boarding academy students in your church.
16. Have a women's prayer breakfast.
17. Make quilts for new babies in your church, community, and for children in shelters.
18. Establish a women's prayer group in your church or neighborhood.
19. Have a retreat for the teenage girls in your church.
20. Have a banquet for the girls/teens of your church.
21. Schedule a healthcare professional to talk about women's health issues.
22. Conduct a *Prayer and Love Saves* (PALS) series in your church.*
23. Prepare "Welcome Home Baby" gift baskets for new mothers in the community.
24. Plan and carry out an evangelistic series by women.
25. Sponsor something special for the singles in your church.
26. Pray for your pastor and his/her spouse.
27. Write a note of encouragement to someone.
28. Spend time with a sick or shut-in member.
29. Take food to shut-ins or take them to doctors' appointments.
30. Organize helping teams to assist elderly or shut-in members with difficult tasks such as raking leaves or shoveling snow.

31. Show *The Hideout*, the 15-minute video about child abuse, to your church and/or your Women's Ministries group.
Available free at www.vimeo.com/130719283
32. Go on prayer walks in the community with your Women's Ministries team.
33. Hold a self-defense class at your church and invite community women.
34. Mail or e-mail the church bulletin to absent members.
35. Make quiet-time play sets for young children to use during church services.
36. Have a financial seminar for women.
37. Make pamphlets on abuse prevention available to your church members.
Place them in the women's restrooms.
38. Get acquainted with a young girl in your church and tell her she's special.
39. Have a class on organization and time management.
40. Start a Young Women's Ministry for ages 13-22.
41. Have a mother-daughter banquet or retreat.
42. Start a support group for those who are caring for aging parents or terminally ill family members.
43. Begin an after-school tutoring program for community young people.
44. Sponsor parenting classes for teen mothers.
45. Encourage the women in your church to have prayer partners.
46. Start a women's Sabbath School class in your church.
47. Start a support group for women who are married to unbelievers.
48. Have the women of your church take charge of a church-wide week of prayer.
49. Conduct vegetarian or vegan cooking classes and invite the community.
50. Hold English-as-a-Second-Language classes.
51. Get involved in a Bags of Love ministry (www.itsmyveryown.org/QCMS/).
52. Adopt a shelter for homeless or abused women and minister to them regularly.
53. Sponsor a community impact event such as God in Shoes.
54. Get your church involved in the enditnow: Break the Silence About Abuse campaign.
55. Organize a widow-to-widow ministry.
56. Have a free Spa Day for women in shelters once a quarter.
57. Give Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes to single moms.
58. Begin a MOMS ministry in your church and community for mothers with young children.
59. Start regular Woman to Woman meetings, inviting women in the community and non-attending members.
60. Volunteer to lead out in Bible studies.

A ministry for every woman

* Available from AdventSource, 800-328-0525 or www.adventsource.org

** Available from AdventSource, adventistbookcenter.com, or your local Adventist Book Center

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WOMAN TO WOMAN

Friendship Evangelism Events

Friendship evangelism is an important need in every local church. Woman to Woman (WTW) is a non-threatening “party with a purpose” for women ages 18-108 to which you can feel comfortable inviting your friends from the community, family, new members, and inactive members. It is a time for fun and lifting up Jesus. In churches that regularly hold WTW meetings, the attendance from the community averages 50 percent.

The program for each meeting is simple:

- Welcome
- Simple supper
- Devotional, given by an Adventist
- Special feature by Adventist or non-Adventist
- Closing thought

The secret to the success of WTW is doing everything well, even though it is simple:

- Attractive decorations
- Tasty food
- Christ-centered devotional (not doctrinal)
- Variety of special features—spiritual and secular—such as guest speakers, style show or home decorating ideas

To start Woman to Woman in your church, first ask for God’s guidance. If He impresses you that it’s the right ministry for your church, then:

1. Plan a budget.
2. Talk with your pastor.
3. Form a small committee to plan program themes, decorating, and menus.
4. Make sure special features appeal to most age groups.

5. Find good speakers. Try to get a tape of the speaker or talk to someone who has heard her before inviting her. Watch the newspaper for women in your town who are good speakers.
6. Menu should include entree, salad, vegetable, bread, and dessert.
7. Women should call ahead for reservations so you'll know how much food to prepare.
8. There is no charge for the meal, but a donation bowl is placed on each table.
9. Always start and end on time. Tell speakers in advance how much time they have. Remind them that this is not a place to talk about doctrines.
10. Have someone at each door to greet the attendees and give them a name tag. If it is a large group, have a hostess to help the guests find a seat. Be sure to seat guests with church members who will include them in the conversation. Friendliness is a key to success.
11. Women should work in the areas in which they are gifted (i.e., those who decorate should have the gift of creativity; food should be prepared by women who cook well; greeters should have gift of hospitality, etc.).
12. Offer free babysitting. If a meal is not provided for the children, at least offer them a snack.
13. Centerpieces may be sold at the end of the program to help defray expenses.
14. It is a good idea to have several WTW events each year so that community and non-attending members are kept in regular contact with the women of your church.



for more information

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MOMS

Moms Offering Moms Support

MOMS is a support group for mothers in the church as well as the community. It is geared for both married and single women who are pregnant or who have children from birth to the early teen years and is designed to encourage mothers and provide practical help by ministering to the whole woman—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual. Emphasis is given to helping with their parenting and homemaking skills, marriage, family health (including nutrition and emotional health), and spiritual growth.

Meeting during the daytime at least twice a month is encouraged, since most stay-at-home moms need the fellowship and support.

Guidelines for Beginning a MOMS Group in your Church

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- Find a few other mothers to brainstorm and plan with you.
- Enlist the support of the pastor and the church board.
- Decide where to meet. It could be at the church or in someone's home if the group is small.
- Offer free babysitting for the children (get volunteers from the church to be babysitters).
- Provide food for the mothers. (Suggestion: Have snacks at one meeting and a brunch at the next meeting.)
- Advertise in the church bulletin as well as in the newspaper (many newspapers have a free "community events" section).
- Send the program schedule to former and inactive members.
- Begin the meeting with a short "get-acquainted" time.
- Have a brief, Christ-centered devotional.

Program Ideas

- Special speaker
- Finding time for prayer/Bible study
- Holiday decorating ideas
- Family nutrition
- Time management
- Finding worth as a single mom
- Preparing your child for school
- Healthy marriage/relationships
- Hair/skin makeovers
- Healthy snacks
- Family budgeting
- Weight loss classes
- Positive discipline
- Your child's self-esteem
- Crafts
- Home safety
- Raising responsible children
- Teaching your child to share
- Self-esteem for women

It is advisable to plan the programs a year in advance. It is also helpful to advertise meetings at least a quarter in advance. Be sure to encourage members to invite their neighbors and friends from the community.

Costs: If you don't have a budget from the church, you may want to have fundraisers. It's important to keep the costs to the mothers free or very low in order to make it possible for all to attend.

A MOMS group is an excellent way to reconnect with young adults who have stopped attending church. Bundles of Love (see below) is a way to minister to them at a critical time in their lives—when they have a new baby.

Bundles of Love

This ministry involves taking a bag of gifts to new parents right after the baby is born, being intentional about including current members, as well as former and inactive members. By giving the bags to families in the community, you can acquaint them with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and build goodwill.

To carry out this ministry effectively, organize the women in your church to put together items to take to the mothers/families and place them in an attractive bag. Items can include:

- Baby blankets, quilts, or bibs made by women in your church
- Devotional book for mothers
- A schedule of MOMS meetings and activities
- You might also take along a meal for the family



for more information

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NURTURING NEW MEMBERS

Many people join or remain in churches because of relationships, not just a conviction of the doctrines. Christ was the master of how to build and encourage lasting Christian relationships. According to the *Maxwell Leadership Bible*, p. 1238, Jesus simplified the truth; gave the big picture; did not just lecture, but made his talks relevant; gave a sense of heritage, or belonging; and empowered men and women to soar beyond where He went.

One of the keys to ensuring that new members grow and remain in the church is to nurture them as Christ did. The women of the church can play a vital role by intentionally mentoring newly baptized women, and thus mentoring their families as well.

Fundamental Principles

Establishing a New Member Ministry is vital to the continued growth of church members as well as to the growth, development, discipleship, and empowerment of new members as they discover their gifts and role in carrying out the gospel commission.

Goals

- Encourage new members to develop and maintain a close relationship with God.
- Connect new members with other members and various ministries in the church.
- Encourage them to take advantage of training to identify their spiritual gifts, then train and equip them to use those gifts.
- Be their support, and address or make referrals for issues that may arise as they adjust to a new lifestyle.

- Encourage their involvement in ministry in their home, church, workplace, or community.

Starting A New Member Ministry in your Church

Establish a New Member Ministry committee made up of those who have a sincere love for people, witnessing, and soul winning. They should be patient, forgiving, and non-judgmental and have a clear understanding of what their commitment will involve.

Each potential member or new member should be assigned a guardian or shepherd as soon as she makes a decision to be baptized, or closely following the date of the actual baptism.

Role of the Guardian/Shepherd

- Spend time in prayer daily asking for God's guidance.
- Spend time getting to know the new member and her family, her likes and dislikes.
- Acquaint her with various traditions, organizations, and businesses of the Church, such as taking her and her family to camp meeting, visiting the Adventist Book Center and introducing them to books, CDs, and DVDs of some of our outstanding denominational speakers and musicians.
- Encourage her to attend prayer meeting, Sabbath School, and Adventist Youth programs, especially if there are young people in her family. Involve her and her family in the social activities of the church.
- Make her aware of our schools and healthcare institutions, and acquaint her with our rich denominational history.
- Watch and listen for red flags that may signal a need for additional support.
- Encourage prayer, Bible study, family worship, and witnessing as she grows in Christ.
- Be her friend, love her unconditionally, and, together, prepare for the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

for more information

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www.nadwm.org

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YOUNG WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Ministries for Ages 13-22 in the Local Church

The generational differences between age groups, as well as the unique needs of 21st century young women, call upon the local church to develop ministries that will involve and empower young women. An organization designed specifically for young women is a proven way to get them involved and equip them for leadership. Older women need the vitality and creativity of young women, while young women need the life experience and mentorship of older women.

Goals

- To encourage young women to develop and maintain a close relationship with Jesus.
- To foster a strong community among Adventist young women and to connect them to Women's Ministries with an emphasis on mentoring.
- To train and equip young women to use their gifts in outreach and leadership for God's kingdom.
- To address some of the significant, unique issues facing young women.
- To encourage involvement in service to the community.
- To reclaim young women who have left the fellowship of the church.

Suggestions for Starting a YWM in Your Church

Organizing a YWM is most effective when it is developed under the auspices of Women's Ministries.

YWM can vary widely from church to church,

depending on the size of the church and resources available. The following guidelines should be used as they apply to your church:

1. Essential: Pray earnestly for God's guidance.
2. Share your vision with your pastor and women's ministries team and ask them to pray for the process of establishing a YWM and to clarify the flow of accountability.
3. An excellent way to kick off the ministry is to offer one or all of the seminars in the series by Tamyra Horst called *Real Beauty*, *Real Love*, *Real Friends*, and *Real Me*.*
4. Form a YWM committee composed of young women with diversity in age and ethnicity, the women's ministries coordinator, and one mentor (such as a female elder or woman of influence who is also a spiritual leader).
5. Appoint young women to leadership positions such as leader, prayer coordinator, communication coordinator (takes minutes, creates advertising, etc), and treasurer.
6. Survey the young women of your church to find out their needs; then help assess how their unmet needs may influence the mission and objectives of the organization.
7. Encourage the young women to formulate a mission statement and/or objectives for the ministry.
8. Establish ministries to address the selected objectives based on the ages of those in the YWM.
9. YWM activities might include:
 - An annual weekend retreat
 - A Bible study group (suggestion: the two DVD Bible studies for women—*Journey of Joy* and *Surprised by Love***)
 - A regular prayer group or prayer conference
 - A monthly outreach activity such as God in Shoes Ministry (see page 16).
 - A puppet ministry for children in hospitals
 - A purity banquet
 - Seminars on healthy relationships, etiquette, etc.

* Available from AdventSource, 800-328-0525 or www.adventsource.org

** Available from AdventSource, adventistbookcenter.com, or your local Adventist Book Center

for more information

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HEART CALL

*A Ministry to Reconnect With Women Who Have
Stopped Attending Church*

1. Make a list of the missing women in your church.
2. Pray over this list individually or in groups.
3. Share your dreams of renewing friendships and reconnecting with these missing members with your pastor and help him/her get a feel for each one.
4. Together introduce this program to your church board and then to the church body.
5. Form a Heart Call ministry team. The team should include:
 - A leader—a woman with a vision for the ministry who possesses the leadership gifts to pull the team together and oversee the project to fruition
 - A Bible study leader—a woman with teaching gifts who can effectively lead a small Bible study group
 - An event coordinator—a woman with hospitality and organizational gifts to coordinate social gatherings and/or other events designed to invite the women you hope to reconnect with
 - A mentor for each woman to be reclaimed (see #6 below)
6. Choose a spiritual mentor for each woman on your list. The mentor's responsibility is to establish a friendship with the woman and to simply love her and interact with her in a non-judgmental way. The Heart Call kit contains materials for training mentors.
7. Send a small gift to each woman on your list. It could be a Women's Ministries devotional book or other gift book especially for women. Include

a note from the mentor letting her know that the church misses her and is thinking of her.

8. When each woman has had time to receive her gift, the mentors should make contact with each one, asking if they've received the gift. This is an easy, non-threatening way for the mentor to make the first live contact with the woman she is mentoring. Or, the mentor can personally deliver the gift.
9. The church Women's Ministries team should begin planning events to invite these women to. Perhaps the first one should be held away from the church. Later events could be held at the church. A tea party is an especially nice idea. Recipes and suggestions are included in the Heart Call kit.
10. It would be a good idea to form small Bible study or prayer groups that meet in members' homes to invite these women to. They might not feel comfortable going back to church at first but would go to a woman's home where they could study, pray, and form friendships with other women from the church. Bible study suggestions include *Journey of Joy: Healthy Emotions and Holy Hearts*, an 11-week DVD series with workbooks; *Surprised by Love*, a 10-week DVD Bible study series; and *Women of the Bible ... and Me*, a 14-lesson series. These are available at your Adventist Book Center and from AdventSource.
11. Mentors should reach out to their friend on a regular basis. Invite her to events that have been planned by Women's Ministries and offer to pick her up.

Give your friend to God. Your responsibility is to become a friend. Spiritual conviction will come only through the Holy Spirit.

Remember, do not end the friendship as long as she is willing to continue. It is extremely important to love her unconditionally, even if she shows no interest in returning to church.

The Heart Call kit contains valuable material for training your team as well as resources for reconnecting ministries and small groups, and recipes for your social activities. It contains a CD with PowerPoint presentations and printable materials for training your Heart Call team, and a 5-minute introductory DVD.

available from

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GOD IN SHOES MINISTRY

An Innovative Method of Evangelism That Takes the Church into the Community Performing Acts of Ministry to Demonstrate God's Love

The purpose of God in Shoes Ministry is to take a team of women and their resources to a designated area of the community or conference to minister to women in need and their families through home improvement projects, hosting family fun events, and pampering time for women. Free meals and mini-seminars on practical topics provide opportunities to connect with those in need. It also gives the volunteers hands-on training so they are able to return to their own community and organize their church to do outreach.

How to Implement God in Shoes Ministry in your Community or Conference

1. Prayer:
Fast, pray, and ask for God's leading.
2. Cast Vision to Women:
At conference retreats, camp meetings, and prayer breakfasts, cast the vision of a mission experience in their conference or community. Provide sign-up sheets.
3. Determine Location:
Study demographics of a potential area to determine the needs.
4. Meet with Pastor/Church Board:
Enlist their support and participation by presenting your outreach objectives.
5. Begin Networking in the Community You Select for the Project:
Spend time in the community; find out where people spend their time. Where do people go for assistance? When possible, partner with

already existing agencies to make your work easier and to affirm them in what they are already doing.

6. Organize Outreach:

Be realistic in what your group can successfully accomplish.

Here are some ideas:

- Coordinate home improvement projects (if needed, solicit help from the men in the local Adventist Church).
- Provide free evening meals.
- Offer classes on nutrition, Bible study, parenting, or job interview skills. The focus should be to teach *and* to build relationships.
- Organize a family fun day.
- Host a FREE spa day for women.

7. Schedule Team:

For a one- to two-week mission outreach, some women come to help for two to three days, some stay for the entire time. Send out letter/email to those who indicated an interest in participating in the mission outreach. The letter should include daily schedule and work activity.

8. Advertise the Event in the Community:

Use local cable station, radio, newspaper, and circulate fliers.

9. Organizational Meeting with Volunteers:

Organize a meeting with volunteers the evening before the outreach begins. Review schedule, designate who is in charge of various activities, and answer questions.

10. Evangelism 101!

Spend time in prayer, discipling volunteers to do the same. A debriefing each evening is very important for the spiritual growth of the volunteers. Give them opportunity to share stories of their day's happenings.

11. Follow-Up:

- Make a spreadsheet of attendees' addresses.
- Meet with the church to help develop a realistic follow-up plan.
- Encourage local church members to develop an ongoing ministry in the outreach area.
- Give opportunity for the volunteers to share how the mission trip affected their lives at the next retreat or camp meeting.

for more information

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FREE SPA DAY

A Day of Pampering for Women

— A Component of —

GOD IN SHOES MINISTRY

1. Several months in advance, determine the location for the spa—a women's shelter or a neutral location such as a community center.
2. In consultation with the shelter director, determine what services will be provided for your guests (haircuts, manicures, facials, neck/shoulder massages, refreshments, new shoes, gift bags).
3. Designate a team leader to oversee each area.
4. Make a list of items needed for Spa Day (lotions, nail care, toiletries for gift bags, new shoes).
5. Send list to area Women's Ministries leaders to begin collecting items.
6. Recruit volunteers by sending a bulletin announcement to area churches.
7. Purchase remainder of items not received.
8. Organize totes with supplies for each station where spa services will be performed.
9. Decide on a simple refreshment menu.
10. Purchase table coverings/decorations.
11. Make signs to identify the various spa stations: i.e., hand soak, hand massage, nail buffing and filing, nail polish, facials, massages, foot massages, haircuts.
12. Make a registration form that will include detailed information that will be helpful with follow-up.
13. Provide childcare with simple crafts or VBS materials.

14. On the evening before the spa, have an organizational meeting to:
 - Set up and decorate building
 - Organize spa stations
 - Arrange tables for refreshments
 - Set up registration table
 - Assign volunteers to each station
 - Allow team leaders to meet with and organize their team
15. All volunteers should arrive one hour before the guests arrive. Give a brief devotional and allow for a time of prayer.
16. Open the doors and watch GOD at work!

A large, stylized, light purple floral graphic with several leaves and a small flower, curving upwards from the bottom right towards the center of the page.

for more information

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