

*“A Ministry for Every Woman:
Touch a Heart, Tell the World”*

Planning Guide

“When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to do this work, and it will feel the loss if the talents of both are not combined.

Evangelism, p. 469



PREACH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO EVERY PERSON

Dear Sisters,

The future holds many challenges for our church. Ellen G. White tells us that “When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to do this work, and it will feel the loss if the talents of both are not combined” *Evangelism*, p. 469. Truly this is a time for us to work even harder than we have in times past. This is a time for each man, woman, boy, and girl to become involved in the ministry of the church.

So, what is the role of Women’s Ministries in this endtime movement? In this handbook you will find information outlining the goals and vision for WM. We encourage you to take this information and adapt it to your part of the world field.

Our aim in putting this information together is to give you a vision of how everything we do in WM can be used to touch hearts and tell the world. This small booklet gives us direction, vision, and information.

Our call is to go into all the world and preach the Good News of Jesus to every person (Mark 16:15).

We pray that you will find the information in these pages useful to you and our sister-leaders around the world.

Joyfully,



Heather Dawn Small

Heather-Dawn Small

General Conference Women’s Ministries Director



MAKING WOMEN AND
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
A VIBRANT FORCE IN
YOUR CHURCH.



How to use this booklet

This booklet contains **information** as well as suggestions for your use as Women's Ministries leaders. These ideas support the theme of "A Ministry for Every Woman: Touch a Heart, Tell the World." The Women's Ministries Department encourages you as a WM leader to **make copies of this booklet** to provide to churches in your district.

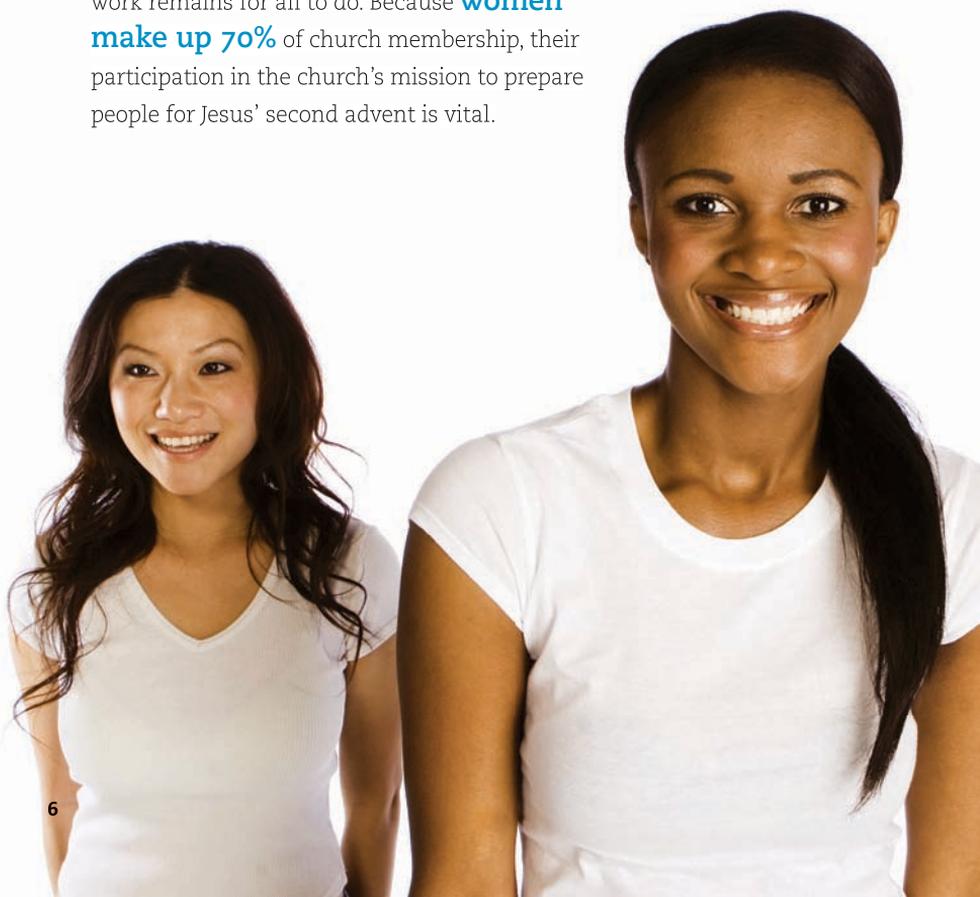
You may obtain more information about "A Ministry for Every Woman: Touch a Heart, Tell the World" at our website: <http://www.adventistwomensministries.org>

Thank you for your commitment to making women and Women's Ministries a **vibrant force** in your church.

Why the theme

“A Ministry for Every Woman: Touch a Heart, Tell the World”?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a rapidly-growing denomination, yet much work remains for all to do. Because **women make up 70%** of church membership, their participation in the church’s mission to prepare people for Jesus’ second advent is vital.



“A Ministry for Every Woman: Touch a Heart, Tell the World” is a program developed by General Conference Women’s Ministries to advance the work of **sharing the gospel** using the methods that Christ used. This program provides an opportunity for every Seventh-day Adventist woman to become **involved in the mission** of the church. A primary goal is that of motivating each woman to strengthen relationships—with Jesus, with her family, with other church members, and with the people in her community.

“A Ministry for Every Woman: Touch a Heart, Tell the World” **calls each woman**—to invite her friends to fellowship, to introduce her friends to Jesus, and to share the great truths of God’s Word. We may each show kindness in practical Christian service to others as we **“Touch a Heart” and “Tell the World.”**



Our foundation: Christ's example

“Christ’s method **alone** will give true success in reaching people. The Savior mingled with [people] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. **Then** He bade them, ‘follow Me.’” *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143. (Emphasis supplied.)

This gives us a beautiful summary of Christ’s method of reaching hearts. How may we follow His example to draw others to Him?



CHRIST'S METHOD OF REACHING HEARTS



1

“The Savior mingled with [people] as one who desired their good.”

In order to mingle, we must go into the community and make friends. As we mingle with people and share Christ's love with them, it may surprise us to see how the Lord uses us to help others. Make it a part of your ministry to mingle, to make friends, to meet new people. This is a wonderful first step.

2

“He showed His sympathy.”

As Jesus socialized with people, He expressed His sympathy for them; His actions showed that He cared. We can also do this. In demonstrating our sympathy and concern for our friends, we will spend time with them, offering genuine affirmation, encouragement, hope and a listening ear.

3

“He ministered to their needs.”

As long as we are responsive to the needs of our friends in the church and community, we are witnessing in “the Jesus way.” It is our kindness motivated by love that reaches them. Ordinary, everyday kindness, shown to real people, facing real challenges—this is what opens hearts.

4

“He won their confidence.”

Showing respect and honesty helps win a person's confidence. Jesus was real and honest in His dealings with others which built their confidence in Him. We should follow His example.

5

“Then He bade them ‘Follow me.’”

The good news of the gospel that we share, the invitation we extend to our friends and neighbors, is an invitation to follow the Person—Jesus Christ.

This Women's Ministries booklet

focuses on three areas of ministry:



3. Outreach

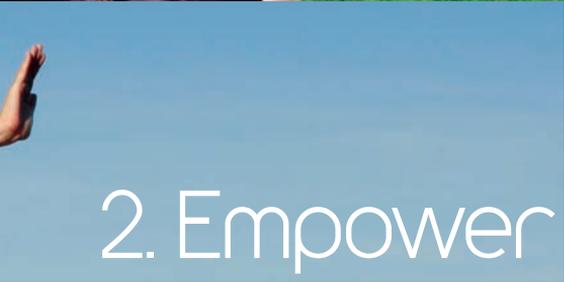
To help women use small group fellowship to reach others in their community.





1. Nurture

To help women in their devotional time and personal growth, enabling them to be nurturers in the church and community.



2. Empower

To equip women for their activities and projects for the women in the church and community.

Guidelines, ideas, and resources are presented for each of these three areas of ministry. They will provide **information and inspiration** that will help the women in your church to “Touch a Heart” for Christ.



Nurture Ministry: Growing spiritually

Nurture Ministry focuses on **enriching the spiritual lives** of women in the congregation and community, in order to **encourage spiritual growth and healing**, and to equip them as Christian disciples.

The goals of Nurture Ministry

1. To encourage each woman to develop a deep relationship with Jesus.
2. To enable women to grow spiritually through daily study of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.
3. To encourage each woman to have a vibrant prayer life.
4. To introduce women to the power of intercessory prayer.
5. To train women in various evangelistic methods, discipling of new members, and visitation.



How to develop the gift of nurturing

1. Invite women who are interested in a deeper relationship with Jesus to attend a one day retreat emphasizing Bible Study, prayer, and the Spirit of Prophecy.
2. Hold a seminar on Intercessory Prayer (See the seminar “Intercessory Prayer Ministry in the Church.”)
3. Conduct training in visitation skills for women. (See the seminar on “Visitation Ministry.”)
4. Use the “Personal Growth and Nurturing Seminars” to help women deepen their walk with Christ.
5. Encourage women to use Bible Study materials in small groups to enhance their spiritual growth.

Helpful Materials

- Spiritual Growth Seminars – GCWM
- *Connect with Jesus* books – Ellen White Estate
- *The Women in the Bible and Me* (Bible Study) – *Review and Herald*
- *Journey of Joy* (Bible Study by Carla Gober) – NADWM
- *Bible Study for Busy Women* – GCWM
- Intercessory Prayer Ministry Seminar – GCWM
- Visitation Ministry Seminar – GCWM
- Retention Ministry Seminar – GCWM

The benefits of Nurture Ministry

- Bible study, prayer, and reading Spirit of Prophecy books will increase.
- Women will become more involved in nurturing ministry of their church.
- Intercessory prayer groups will become a vital part of church life.





Empowerment Ministry: *“Touch a Heart”*

The purpose of Empowerment Ministry is to **equip and empower women** for activities and projects for the women in the church and the community. With “A Ministry for Every Woman: Touch a Heart, Tell the World” as a central theme for the Department of Women’s Ministries, the objective is to **involve women in evangelism** and ministry (service) in their homes, in their churches, and in their communities. We encourage women to become **God’s instruments in a world** that is dying for a touch of love and a word of hope.



The goals of Empowerment Ministry

1. To train, equip, and prepare each woman to be a witness to the power of the gospel.
2. To encourage each woman to step out in faith as she witnesses.
3. To motivate women to support and participate in the evangelistic programs of her church.
4. To encourage women to begin ministries of service to others using the gifts God has given them.

How to start

1. Invite women who are interested in learning methods of outreach to a seminar. Help them identify their spiritual gifts and things they are passionate about, and discuss some of the many ways they can be involved in evangelism.
2. Use the “Outreach is for Everyone: Women’s Ministries Evangelism Manual.” This training program covers 15 topics and can be used for a weekend of training to help women do what women do best—share the love of Jesus.

Helpful Materials

The “Outreach is for Everyone: Women’s Ministries Evangelism Manual” contains:

- 15 seminar topics for the presenter
- 15 PowerPoints that illustrate the topics
- Handouts for the women who attend



The benefits of Empowerment Ministry

1. Women will discover the many ways they may witness.
2. More women will be trained and empowered to participate in sharing the gospel.
3. Churches will encourage and value the contribution of women to evangelism.

Outreach Ministry: “Homes of Hope and Healing”

The “Homes of Hope and Healing” program involves **opening our homes** to our neighbors for fellowship and learning. In these perplexing times, when hopelessness abounds, our homes can be places where neighbors, family, and friends **gather in fellowship** to share HOPE and HEALING for spiritual and emotional nurture. Here friendships among women are formed; **hope, healing and encouragement** are given; and needs are met.



Who needs hope?

- Your neighbor
- Your friend
- The sick
- The discouraged
- Dysfunctional families
- Those in pain
- The homeless
- A co-worker
- The jobless
- And many others



“ Women as well as men can engage in the work of hiding the truth where it can work out and be made manifest. They can take their place in the work at this crisis, and **the Lord will work through them**. If they are imbued with a sense of their duty, and labor under the influence of the Spirit of God, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Saviour will reflect upon these **self-sacrificing women** the light of His countenance, and this will give them a power that will exceed that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their work is needed. Discreet and humble women can do a good work in **explaining the truth** to the people in their homes. The Word of God thus explained will do its leavening work, and through its influence whole families will be converted. ”

Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 128, 129.

How can I create interest?

1. In this ministry, we open our homes to women in our community. We work in small groups. The goal is to make lasting friendships for Jesus.
2. Invite women to come to your home or other non-church location (if possible).
3. You may want to offer a meal, or a few refreshments, or just a drink. (optional).
4. Share your personal testimony of what Jesus has done in your life.
5. Invite them to participate in an eight-week “Homes of Hope and Healing” journey.
6. Explain that this is an ongoing program with breaks every eight weeks. (The number of weeks is flexible. Keep it short to accommodate people’s schedules).



How do I organize the program?

1. Choose one topic to focus on for eight weeks. Involve the group in choosing a topic so it fits their needs. Possible topics might be: health, spiritual nurturing, family, parenting, communication, etc.
2. You may use DVDs, PowerPoint, printed lessons, or other media in your meetings.
3. Invite speakers to present topics as needed. You do not have to lead out each time you meet.
4. The presentation of the topic should be about 30 minutes.
5. Follow with a breakout time/group discussion of about 30 minutes.
6. The total time for the small group meeting should be about one hour (The length is flexible, but remember, you may have working women or mothers of young children who cannot stay out too late).
7. End your time together with a short prayer.

How can I keep “Homes of Hope and Healing” going?

1. When you finish the eight-week series, take a break of a few weeks. Then begin again, choosing another topic of interest to the group.
2. The number of times you do an eight week series is flexible. It might be once every three or six months. Each small group leader is free to set her own schedule.

Helpful Materials

- *Abundant Living Health Lectures* – ASI
- *The Bible and the Human Emotions* - Sabbath School Bible Study Guide by Julian Melgosa
- *Women in the Bible and Me* Bible study lessons
- *Celebrations* by GC Health Ministries
- *Journey of Joy* by NADWM
- *Bible Studies for Busy Women* by GCWM
- Other materials may be available in your Division

The benefits of “Homes of Hope and Healing” Ministry

1. You will build strong friendships with other women and help lead women to Jesus by meeting their varied needs.
2. Your community will be strengthened as women’s concerns are addressed.
3. Your faith will be strengthened as you share and witness.
4. Your church will be strengthened as new friendships are formed.





Remember: *Special Days for Women's Ministries*

1st Sabbath of March
International Day of Prayer

2nd Sabbath of June
Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

4th Sabbath of August
Abuse Prevention Day

You can download the resource package
for each of these special Sabbaths
at the Women's Ministries website:
www.adventistwomensministries.org

Resources Information

www.adventistwomensministries.org

www.whiteestate.org

www.health20-20.org

www.adventsource.org

www.winwellness.org

www.asiministries.org

www.nadwm.org

www.takingcharge.com.au/health



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