Women’s Ministries
Days of Emphasis

MARCH
First Sabbath

Women’s International Day of Prayer*

JUNE
Second Sabbath

Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day*

JULY
Second Sabbath

Women’s Ministries Offering
This is a NAD offering. None of it stays in the local church. 40% is for the conference WM Dept. The remainder is sent by conference to union with monthly remittance. Half of that amount (30% of total offering) is for union WM and the other half (30%) is for NAD WM.

AUGUST
Fourth Sabbath

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day*

*Sermons and other materials are available from the NAD WM web site: www.nadwm.org in English and Spanish. Also available on CD from AdventSource.
Heart Call
A Ministry to Reclaim 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 reclaiming 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. 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
   b. A Bible study leader—a woman with teaching gifts who can effectively lead a small group through the Bible study materials
   c. An event coordinator—a woman with hospitality and organizational gifts to coordinate social gatherings and/or seminars—events designed to invite the women you hope to reclaim to attend
   d. A mentor for each woman to be reclaimed (see #6 below)

6. Choose a spiritual mentor, called a “heart partner,” for each woman on your list. The heart partner’s job 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 heart partners.

7. Send a subscription to Women of Spirit magazine to each woman on your list. The cost is only $12. Order from Review and Herald Publishing Association and tell them the subscriptions are for the Heart Call ministry.
8. The Review and Herald Publishing Association will send you enough cards to send to each woman on your list. The card lets them know they can expect to start receiving Women of Spirit as a gift from your church.

When the women have had time to receive their first issue of Women of Spirit, the heart partners should make contact with each one, asking if they've had time to read the magazine and how they like it. This is an easy, non-threatening way for the heart partner to make the first live contact with the woman she is mentoring.

9. The church Women's Ministries Department 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 Women of Spirit tea 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 "Come Alive With Jesus," a series of seven non-doctrinal Bible studies, or "Bible Studies for Busy Women," a set of 14 doctrinal studies available from your ABC or AdventSource.

11. Heart partners 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 Heart Call team as well as resources for reclaiming ministries and small groups, and recipes for your social activities. It also contains a CD with PowerPoint presentations and printable materials. Order from:

**AdventSource**

800-328-0525

[www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)

$19.95

Available in English and Spanish
Women in Touch
Friendship Evangelism

Friendship evangelism is an important need in every local church. Women in Touch (WIT) 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 in-active members. It is a fun time and Jesus is always lifted up. In churches that regularly hold WIT 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 WIT is doing everything well, even though it is simple.

- Attractive decorations
- Tasty food
- Christ-filled devotional (not doctrinal)
- Varied special features—spiritual as well as secular; guest speakers as well as other features such as a style show or home decorator ideas

To start Women in Touch 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 feature appeals to most age groups.
5. Find good speakers. Try to get a tape of the speaker or talk to someone who has heard her. Watch the newspaper for women in your town who are good speakers.
6. Menu should include entrée, salad, vegetable, bread, and dessert.
7. Ladies 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 ladies and give them a name tag. If it is a large group, have a hostess to help the guests find a seat.
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.

For questions or more information contact:
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M.O.M.S.
Moms Offering Moms Support

M.O.M.S. 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 earl teen years. It 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 M.O.M.S. 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 babysit).
- 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 out 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 include:

  - 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
  - Time management

  - Family budgeting
  - Weight loss classes
  - Positive discipline
  - Your child’s self-esteem
  - Crafts
  - Home safety
  - Raising responsible kids
  - Teaching your child to share
  - Self-esteem for women
  - Healthy snacks

Ministry for Every Woman
North American Division Women’s Ministries Department
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 M.O.M.S. 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, you will want to 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 M.O.M.S. meetings and activities

You might also take along a meal for the family.

*For more information*

**Contact**  
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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 Principle
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.

Ministry for Every Woman

North American Division Women’s Ministries Department
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 our Adventist Book Centers 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

contact Shirley Benton
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Young Women’s Ministries
Ministries for Ages 13-35 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. What’s more, older women need the vitality and creativity of young women, while young women (ages 13-35) need the life experience and mentorship of older women.

**Fundamental Principle**
The fundamental principle in establishing a young women’s ministry (YWM) in the local congregation is to empower young women to discover their potential in Christ and to carry out the gospel commission.

**Goals**
- To encourage young women to develop and maintain a close relationship with God.
- 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 for God’s kingdom.
- To address some of the significant, unique issues facing young women.
- To encourage an involvement in service to the community.
- To reclaim young women who have left the fellowship of the church.

Ministry for Every Woman
North American Division Women’s Ministries Department
How to Start a YWM in Your Church

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

1. 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. Request in writing that the pastor seek conceptual approval from the church board for the development of a YWM.
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 the following positions: a leader, a prayer coordinator, a communication coordinator (takes minutes, creates advertising, etc), and a 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. Keep the pastoral team informed of survey results and committee progress and establish liaisons with the prayer and youth leaders.
8. Build committee consensus on formulating a mission statement, choosing two or three strong verbs to identify your main goals (such as train, mentor, empower) and two to five objectives.
9. Develop a ministry focus that will direct the planning stage of the organization.
10. Establish ministries to address the selected objectives (i.e., a bi-weekly Bible study group or support group and a monthly outreach activity such as a puppet ministry for children in hospitals).

For more information contact:

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Great Ideas
For Women's Ministries in the Local Church

1. Observe Women's Day of Prayer* (first Sabbath in March) in your church.
4. Observe Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day* every year in your church.
5. Teach women to do breast self-examinations.
6. Invite a neighbor or inactive member to a women's ministries event.
7. Start a grief support group.
8. Have a ministry for women in your community who have lost a baby.
9. Begin a women's Bible study group.
10. Start a Heart Call ministry to reconnect with inactive women in your church.
11. Start an auto mechanics class for women.
13. Have a purity ministry for the teens and young women in your church.
14. Start a girls club, such as Sisters in Christ, to mentor the girls and teens in your church.
15. Be sure your church women’s ministries leader is a member of the church board.

16. Sponsor Women’s Ministries Leadership Certification* seminars for the women of your church.

17. Collect personal hygiene items for a women’s shelter.

18. Subscribe to Women of Spirit magazine personally and send it as gifts to non-Adventist friends and relatives.

19. Give every newly baptized woman in your church a gift subscription to Women of Spirit magazine.

20. Give opportunities for women to learn to speak in public.

21. Establish a women’s prayer group in your church or neighborhood.

22. Have a retreat for the teenage girls in your church.

23. Have a banquet for the girls/teens of your church.

24. Plan a stress reduction seminar/program.

25. Schedule a healthcare professional to talk about women’s health issues.


27. Prepare “Welcome Home Baby” gift baskets for new mothers in the community.

28. Plan and carry out an evangelistic series by women.

29. Sponsor something special for the singles in your church.

30. Pray for your pastor and his/her spouse.

31. Write a note of encouragement to someone.

32. Spend time with a sick or shut-in member.

33. Take food to shut-ins or take them to doctor appointments.

34. Organize helping teams to assist elderly or shut-in members with difficult tasks such as raking leaves or shoveling snow.
35. Send in quarterly reports to your conference women’s ministries director.
36. Go on prayer walk in the community with your women’s ministries team.
37. Hold a self-defense class at your church and invite community women.
38. Host a fellowship meal and brainstorming session for all women in your church.
39. Make quiet-time play sets for young children to use during church services.
40. Have a financial seminar for women.
41. Make pamphlets on abuse prevention* available to your church members.
42. Get acquainted with a young girl in your church and tell her she’s special.
43. Have a class on organization and time management.
44. Volunteer to give a Bible study.
45. Plan a prayer breakfast for the women of your church.
46. Have a mother-daughter banquet or retreat.
47. Start a support group for children of aging parents.
48. Begin an after-school tutoring program.
49. Sponsor parenting classes for teen mothers.
50. Encourage the women in your church to have prayer partners.
51. Start a women’s Sabbath School class in your church.
52. Start a support group for women who are married to unbelievers.
53. Have the women of your church take charge of a church-wide week of prayer.
54. Give baby showers for needy or unwed moms.
55. Give women's devotional books as Christmas gifts (available at your ABC).
56. Sponsor women to attend conference women's retreat.
57. Adopt people at nursing homes by visiting them and sending them cards.
58. Conduct a Mother's Day Out program once a week or once every other week.
59. Start a Women in Touch ministry.
60. Sponsor a Young Women's Ministries for the women ages 13-35 in your church.

Remember...
Every event is an opportunity to model attractive, Christ-centered, relevant, active, relational ministry where women will have the opportunity to meet Jesus one more time, or maybe for the very first time.

*Resource materials available from:

AdventSource
800-328-0525
www.adventsource.org