

*Women's Day of Prayer*

# Seeking His Spirit

*by Ramona Perez Greek, Ph.D.*



*Women's*  
MINISTRIES

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION  
of SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Forward

Let your requests be known to God then *listen*.

"Be still and know that I am God."

The real purpose of prayer is communion with God the Father and Christ the Son and with the Holy Spirit.

Exalt God and cause Him to be exalted in the earth.

For "God is our refuge and strength, and a very present help in trouble."  
Allow Him also to be our "fortress."

Quotes are from Psalm 46.

Elizabeth Sterndale  
Director of Women's Ministries



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# WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

## I. What is a Women's Day of Prayer

The Women's Day of Prayer is for women to learn about each other, pray for each other, and help each other. It is a time to reunite with God and one another, and to strengthen spiritual bonds. Prayers for women everywhere create a spiritual network of empathy and understanding.

Thousands of women will gather to pray on Women's Day of Prayer. Invite women to join our Christian sisters in a network of prayer and spiritual support.

## II. Purpose of Women's Day of Prayer:

An essential purpose for the day of prayer is to: **pray**. Another purpose of the observance of the Women's Day of Prayer is to strengthen our kinship with Christian women as our thoughts and prayers encircle our lives one with another.

## III. Women's Day of Prayer Designated:

The first Saturday in March has been officially designated as the Women's Day of Prayer. A day in the month of March has been selected because March is women's month. In 1987, a resolution passed by Congress designated the month of March as "Women's History Month". The Congressional resolution has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage.

Thousands of communities across the country turn this month into a major focal point and springboard for unraveling women's contributions to home, church, and society. This is a special time where thousands of Christian women everywhere join in sending hundreds of prayers heavenward.

Although the first Sabbath in March has been designated as women's day of prayer, please feel free to plan several seasons of prayer throughout the year.

## IV. How To Plan the Women's Day of Prayer:

You will find the following steps useful in planning your day of prayer.

### **STEPS:**

#### A. Planning Committee

Work with the Women's Ministries Coordinator in your church or bring together a group of women who are interested in planning a prayer ministry. Begin with prayer. God alone can guide us in the special needs of the women in each church.

## B. Purpose

Share what a Women's Day of Prayer is, and its purpose. Clarify the purpose to the group.

## C. Organize and Plan

In planning the actual Women's Day of Prayer, decide together on the following areas (see program sample Appendix A):

- **When:** date (suggested day - 1st Saturday in March)
- **Where:** location or meeting place (Suggested place - church)
- **Who:** delegate (assign different people to various tasks)
- **How:** decide how each task assigned will be done

Decide on the other areas, such as: format, times of meeting day, program materials, handouts, music (See Appendix G), readings (See Appendix H), prayer, information, messages from women leaders to be read (See Appendix B), prayer requests, testimony time, refreshments if appropriate, mail-out reminders, publicity, note-cards of appreciation, printing program, etc.

Discuss which of the listed items need to happen first, second, and so forth, to be prepared on the observance day. Use the calendar (Appendix C) to assist you in the planning and implementation of these. Discuss where on the calendar the listed items need to fit. Take into consideration deadlines for publicity, etc.

Consider extending the Women's Day of Prayer throughout the entire day. Some women may be able to attend all sessions; some will be able to attend only one. Be flexible, taking this into consideration in your planning.

In answering the questions when, where, who, and how the following information may be useful. The Women's Day of Prayer officially has been set aside for the first Saturday of March; however, you may plan a season a prayer for any time of the year. As you look at the list of things to do ask: How can we use the variety of talents and gifts of many women? How can more women in the church be included? Consider using the Plan Sheet (Appendix D) as a guide for deciding what to plan, who to involve, and for deciding when to do each thing to prepare for the Women's Day of Prayer. There are many ways to let people know about the Women's Day of Prayer (Appendix E). Encourage the planning group to add their own suggestions. Begin publicity early among your women, churches, and community.

## V. Understanding Prayer

There are two types of prayer:

### 1. Continuous Prayer:

In scripture we are counseled to "pray without ceasing." This kind of prayer is an attitude of prayer one has all day long. When we are walking, talking, sitting, or running, we speak to God. It is a brief sending of our thoughts heavenward. A moment by moment walk with God. There are



many opportunities to pray for others in a day, that they may feel a touch of Jesus in their lives.

While praying without ceasing is important one cannot live on this type of prayer alone. It is not enough. One needs the spiritual "meat". There is need of intercessory prayer.

## 2. Intercessory Prayer

Jesus rose early and alone to pray (Mark 1:35). This type of prayer is when you choose to set aside some time to be alone with God. The time is set aside by design. Jesus spent time alone in prayer for renewal, refreshment, and to minister anew that day to others (Isaiah 40:31).

Sit alone at the feet of Jesus, and discover what is really of lasting value in your life. Ask Him for the big and important things of your life. I heard someone say, "You pay God a compliment when you ask Him for great things." His answer to your prayers will strengthen your faith. Being alone with Jesus in prayer brings spiritual food for strength, maturity, and wisdom. Most importantly, Jesus looks forward to fellowship with you.

## **VI. Ideas for Presenting an Interesting Prayer Day**

Women preparing for the observance of the annual day of prayer will find the following ideas helpful:

- 6:15 PrayerWatch: encourage women to join thousands of other women in the PrayerWatch. At approximately a quarter past any hour women everywhere will be praying for unreached people, for the presence of the Holy Spirit, and for revival in our lives.
- Share current happenings in other parts of the country that affect the lives of women, and use these as identified needs of prayer.
- Ask someone who has traveled to an area you are praying about to relate their experiences and observations.
- Use a map as a continual reminder to the prayer group of the "chains of prayer" that bind us together on the Women's Day of Prayer.
- Assign prayer requests to different people. Prepare banners for special areas of needs where groups will be assigned to pray.
- Plan a slide show of scenes that relate to the specific area of prayer to be shown during the program or at an appropriate break in time in the program.
- Have women representing different cultures wear a national costume depicting the specific culture they represent. Ask each one to read a previously prepared area for prayer symbolizing the women in that culture. Have the women come together at the front, when they are finished with their readings, and before the prayer, as an act of unity and fellowship.
- Divide in small groups for participatory prayer.
- Make copies of the prayer request list for each participant to have one. Encourage the continued use of these prayer requests in daily devotions.
- Form a panel of prayer needs where program participants wear costumes, representing different cultures, or women's diverse roles in life, and share information on events, special needs, and prayer requests. From time to time the coordinator can turn to the audience asking that prayers be said in response to the requests.

- Assign six prayer groups to pray throughout the morning or afternoon. Each one assuming the burdens of a specific group of women. For example, abused women, single women, etc. The prayer petitions could reflect the needs of the specific group. Conclude the prayer group time with the song, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds".
- Form a knowledge of current world events and needs. Make these petitions of prayer.
- Ask a woman from a specific culture to speak and share her story.
- Encourage participants to picture in their mind women in different kinds of places: small remote villages, in mountains, desert areas, in mud and straw thatched homes, in large cities, in the workplace, poor, rich, or physically disabled. Send prayers up for these women.
- Select women who will lead in the prayers of intercession. Instruct them that their prayers are to address only the request named. Keep the prayer short, and to the point.
- Have the women express through symbols their aspirations for women: a dove for peace; a plate of rice for food; a broken chain for emancipation; a book for literacy; medicine for healing; etc. Then have them pray for these aspirations.
- For the final prayer have the women form a large single circle. The leader lights a large candle as she prays her line in the closing prayer. As a hymn is sung the leader passes the lighted candle to the person on her right who, in turn, passes it on until the candle returns to the leader. This symbolizes we receive God's light and we give it to others.
- Each group can decide on a *theme* for the Women's Day of Prayer. Consider the happenings in the world today, and specific areas that affect women. Pray for evangelizing these women. Tie in end-time events.

## **VII. Expanding Your Program**

Have a weekend Prayer Conference where participants can come to understand prayer, its significance and meaning in our lives. Prayer seminars for the weekend could involve topics of interest such as: the prayers of scripture, how to pray scriptural promises, fasting and how it enhances our prayer life, God's will and prayer, prayers and answers, closet prayer, leading your kids in prayer.

## **VIII. Special Areas of Need (Prayer Requests)**

### Inreach:

Prayers for women in this country, church, or community.

Pray for the special needs of women in your local church such as abused women, single women, divorced women, single parent, empty nest syndrome, grieving women, mothers, superwoman syndrome, professional woman, etc.

Pray for peace in our families and our communities.

Pray silently confessing to God secret sins and iniquities that may keep our prayers from being

answered. Psalm 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Pray that God will tap the hidden resources within ourselves that we might go out and actively witness for Him.

Pray for missing members, youth, loss of loved ones through death, divorce, or separation, the heartache of having a child experimenting with drugs.

Ask for a meaningful prayer life.

Pray that we can overcome becoming a group of soft, frail, undisciplined, unpraying Christians.

Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

### Outreach:

Prayers for women in other parts of the world. Pray that women in different areas of the world will have opportunity to hear and to respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pray for women's needs that separate people such as pride, envy, poverty, power, caste, race, and gender experienced by women.

Pray that Christians everywhere may emulate Christ's righteousness and choose not to live with envy, strife, confusion, and injustice.

Pray for Muslim women: 1 billion people are Muslim in our world today, and thus miss out on the salvation offered only through Jesus Christ.

## **IX. Ideas for Prayer Service**

1. Garden of Prayer — A special place in the form of a garden is decorated and set aside for time of prayer. This garden is readily available to people who wish a quiet place to speak to their Father in Heaven, or a special time can be set aside in the program for a season of prayer as a group in the garden.
2. A Prayer Room — A room can be assigned as a "prayer room". It can be made conducive to a praying atmosphere by having a Bible, low lighting, and located in a quiet private area. It can be open throughout the day for people to come and pray for their own needs, or for needs of others, as they feel led.
3. Prayer Breakfast — Women can come together for breakfast. A speaker can speak on the topic of prayer while the women eat. After the breakfast women can gather together for a season of prayer. Special needs and requests can be made at this time.
4. Prayer Partners — Form prayer partnerships. Sometime during the day pray for your prayer partner in a special way. Share answered prayers about her, keeping confidentiality when necessary.
5. Small Group Prayer — Provide time for small-group prayer sessions. These prayer times should include four to six women in each group.



## **X. Thoughts on Prayer**

- A. Martin Luther was quoted as saying, "I'm so busy today. I must spend one hour in prayer."
- B. Find a quiet place to restore your soul. A place of tranquility and beauty, filled with a sense of peace. Be alone with God in prayer. Matthew 6:6
- C. Prayer increases your gratitude toward God as you see how He answers prayers.
- D. Workers cannot gain success while they hurry through their prayers to God. They do not take time to think, to pray, to wait upon the Lord for a renewal of spiritual and physical strength. They soon become jaded and do not feel the uplifting, inspiring influence of God's Spirit. They are not quickened by fresh life. Their jaded frame and tired brain are not soothed by personal contact with Christ. (*Lift Him Up*, page 263.)
- E. Prayer doesn't need more proof, it needs more time.
- F. It's easier to organize than to agonize.
- G. This church is a House of Prayer.
- H. Be much in prayer. Let no person, or personal interest, separate you from God, who is the source of your strength. When you arise in the morning, gather all the members of your household together, as did Abraham, and invite them to seek God with you. Do not grudge the time that God requires, and hurry through a faithless, formal prayer, that you may rush to your business. (*Reflecting Christ*, page 207.)
- I. Daniel prayed three times a day.
- J. When in prayer, God produced: Sarah with a son, Jonah with release from the whale, the woman at the well with healing, David with a clean heart, Captain Nahum with skin free from leprosy, Esther with courage, Mary His mother with comfort, and the children in the temple with happiness.
- K. Esther developed a strategy of prayer: she asked the people of God to pray three times a day. Then and only then, was she able to accept God's mission for her to go before the King and request that God's people be saved. Then she had the courage to say, "If I perish, I perish."
- L. The prayers of thanksgiving and praise may be said as announcements of good news in Christ.
- M. Prayer increases your awareness of the needs around you. God wants you to be specific in your prayer life.
- N. Corporate prayer: a church-wide time of prayer and praise.
- O. God answers prayer - believe this.
- P. Knee-experience: keep on your knees as you talk to God.
- Q. Regularity: pray at regular times each day.

## **XI. Resources on Prayer**

1. ***My Prayer Notebook.*** Author: Nancy Van Pelt. Publisher: Review and Herald. This creative approach to prayer will help women make their prayer life more meaningful and effective by focusing on a specific type of prayer request each day of the week. The notebook includes: instruction on how to personalize the prayer notebook, tips on making personal devotion time more enjoyable, dividers for the days of the week, dividers for Bible study notes, answered prayer, sermon notes, and favorite scripture.
2. ***Prayer Profiles.*** Author: Donna Bechthold. Publisher: Creation Interprises International. A prayer guide that applies principles, order and consistency to the practice of prayer. No superficial application of the principles will do if prayer is to be a vital and powerful part of our daily lives. The author's use of the acronym PRAYER serves as a reminder to these principles. P=Praise, R=Response, A=Admit, Y=Yield, E=Expect, R=Rejoice.
3. ***What Happens When Women Pray.*** Author: Evelyn Christiansen. Publisher: Word Publishing. A paperback book relating answers to prayer.
4. ***Find Out About Prayer.*** Author: Charles E. Bradford. Publisher: Hart Research Publishers. Call (800)487-4278 to order, or contact your local ABC.
5. ***Incredible Answers to Prayer.*** Author: Roger Morneau. Publisher: Review and Herald. Spiritual experiences shared. Author writes about exciting things that happens when we pray.
6. ***Prayer Country.*** Author: Dorothy Watts. Publisher: Pacific Press. How your prayer life can be transformed into meaningful communication with God.
7. ***Teaching Your Child to Pray to His Best Friend.*** Author: Kay Kuzma. Publisher: Family Matters. Family Times newspaper, Questions and Answers section.
8. ***Communion with God.*** Author: R. Allan Anderson. Publisher: Pacific Press. Periods of devotion to prayer. A study guide to understanding prayer.
9. ***PrayerWorks: Study Guide.*** Author: Kurt Johnson. Publisher: Hart Research Publishers.
10. ***Let Prayer Change Your Life.*** Author: Becky Tirabassi. Publishers: Nelson Publishing.
11. ***Whatever It Takes Praying.*** Author: Joe Engelkemier. Publisher: Hart Research Publishers.
12. ***Praying For Your Unborn Child.*** Author: Frances and Judith MacNutt. Publisher: Image Books.
13. ***Discovering How To Pray.*** Author: Hope MacDonald. Publisher: Pyranee Books. Christian's want to pray but they may not know how. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. This book is an inspiring and practical guide on nine basic steps that lead to a meaningful life of prayer and worship.
14. ***My Prayer Planner.*** Author: Emilie Barnes. Publisher: Harvest House. A woman who had children under five years of age writes on how she made her appointments with God every morning through her use of this efficient daily prayer planner.

15. ***52 Simple Ways to Teach Your Child to Pray.*** Author: Roberta Hromas. Publisher: Thomas Nelson Inc. Practical suggestions for teaching your child how to talk with God.
16. ***Near to the Heart of God.*** Author: Deborah Kearns. Publisher: Harvest House. How a consistent life-changing prayer experience can be yours, understanding and getting a glimpse of God and His desire to have fellowship with you. A woman's perspective.
17. ***Praying God's Will for My Husband.*** Author: Lee Roberts. Publisher: Thomas Nelson. For women who have specific needs of prayer for their husbands. The prayers in the book are uniquely appropriate for husbands.
18. ***The Life of Prayer.*** Author: Edith Schaeffer. Publisher: Crossway Books. As a prayer warrior, the author tells how even busy moderns can develop a life of prayer. Stories of great women and men of God offer examples, challenges, and encouragement.
19. ***Prayer Journal.*** Author: Dwight Nelson. Publisher: Hart Research Publishers. Record your prayer commitments, vows, or specific prayer needs. Make note of any prayers that received an answer. Knowing how God answers our prayers increases our faith and strengthens our prayer life.
20. ***EveryWoman.*** Author: Celia Lambertson Hiob. Publisher: Creation Enterprises International. A manual for studying and praying in a small group. Especially for women, an opportunity to study women of the Bible, their specific needs, and how Jesus treated them. And then to pray together. The author states, "When women pray together in an honest way, growth will happen."
21. ***A New Way to Pray.*** Author: Dwight Nelson. Publisher: Hart Research Publishers.



**APPENDIX A**  
PROGRAM SAMPLE

**WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER  
PROGRAM OUTLINE**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

**SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 15:4,13  
PSALM 113:1-4**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS**

**GREETINGS  
(ONE WOMAN MAY READ THE MESSAGE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
- SEE APPENDIX B)**

**PRAYER**

**HYMN OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

**TESTIMONY MOMENT**

**STORIES AND TESTIMONIES.  
CHOOSE WOMEN TO PRESENT  
THEIR STORIES AND TESTIMONIES.  
LIMIT THEIR TIME ACCORDINGLY.**

**CONGREGATIONAL READING**

**SEE APPENDIX F FOR SAMPLE READING:  
"GOD, OUR SOURCE OF HOPE"**

**PRAYER SESSION**

**SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR PRAYER SESSIONS  
MENTIONED EARLIER MAY BE USED AT  
THIS TIME.**

**HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

# **APPENDIX B**

## **LETTER OF GREETINGS**



March 5, 1994

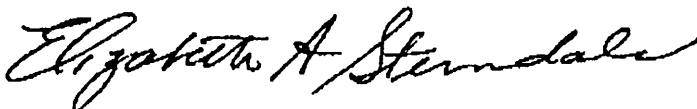
Dear Sisters and Brothers of the North American Division:

Today is the "Day of Prayer" for the women of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Everyday is a day of prayer for us; however, this day has been set aside to especially enlist the entire church in prayer for the women of the division.

In your church and in your home, plan some very special prayer events. Engage the church community in praying for the needs of women. Pray for the needs of the women of your church community. And include the needs of women who are single, divorced, abused, single parents, and lonely. Pray for missing members, those with heartaches, those who need forgiveness, and those who need a closer communion with God. *Pray* fellow Christians - *prayer* changes lives.

May the Holy Spirit reign upon us this day and each day until Jesus comes.

Your sister in Christ,



Elizabeth Sterndale  
Director of Women's Ministries



**APPENDIX C**  
**CALENDAR**

**Day of Prayer  
Planning Calendar**

**January**

**February**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**

# **APPENDIX D**

## **PLAN SHEET**

## Women's Day of Prayer

### *PLAN SHEET*

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WHAT TO DO	HOW TO GET IT DONE	WHO WILL DO IT	WHEN (TIMETABLE)
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Arrange for  
the location  
to meet

Plan the  
content of the  
program for  
the Women's  
Day of  
Prayer

Publicize the  
observance

Arrange for  
printed  
material

Send thank-  
you notes to  
people who  
helped

Other

# **APPENDIX E**

## **PUBLICITY IDEAS**



## Publicity Suggestions Women's Day of Prayer

### 1. Newsletter article:

<i>Prayer Network: Woman to Woman</i>	<i>Women's Day of Prayer</i>
<p>On the first Saturday in March women in many places will come together to pray for each other. Together they will form a network of prayer that encircles the sphere.</p> <p>You are invited to participate in this network by meeting with other women in prayer. The Women's Day of Prayer will be held at</p> <p>----- (Place)</p> <p>----- (Date)</p> <p>----- (Time)</p> <p><i>Special Feature:</i> _____</p>	

### 2. Announcement (church, women's groups, etc.)

Ask three women to dress in a specific role of women or an ethnic group such as a working woman in the workplace; mother of small children; African-American women; Hispanic women, etc. Costumes representing women's roles, ethnicity, or needs, should be simple as scarve, veil, or shawl; nurses bloodpressure cuff; etc.

The costumed women come forward from different parts of the room as music plays. They meet at the front of the room, embrace, pantomime greetings, then join hands and bow heads as if in prayer.

Moderator can say: Women share a special Christian bond. On the first Saturday in March women will pray for each other, forming a prayer network that encircles the sphere. Won't you join this year in observing the Women's Day of Prayer? Tell date, time, place, and special features of the observance day.

3. Use the logo: "Praying Hands"  
NAD Prayer & Revival Committee
4. Clip Art: add your own information or copy the samples below to distribute for use in church bulletins, newsletters, or mailouts.

WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER



FIRST SATURDAY IN MARCH

WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER



FIRST SATURDAY IN MARCH

# **APPENDIX G**

Poem: "Women as God  
Sees Them"

# Women As God Sees Them



*If we see women as God does, we will invite Jesus into their kitchens—  
for he multiplied supplies at the request of a woman.*

*If we see women as God does, we will converse cordially with the  
unpopular woman—*

*Jesus honored such as her with great insight into sacred things, and  
empowered her to evangelize.*

*If we see women as God does, we will see eager workers—*

*Jesus was cared for by a woman immediately after he healed her.*

*If we see women as God does, we will express compassion—*

*Jesus dried a widow's tears and raised her only son from a  
funeral bed.*

*If we see women as God does, we will offer loving forgiveness to  
the sinful—*

*Jesus accepted the public worship of such a woman and awarded  
her salvation and peace.*

*If we see women as God does, we will give them healing—*

*Jesus healed many women of evils and infirmities.*

*If we see women as God does, we will permit their touch and we will  
share strength with them—*

*Jesus felt the touch of a single woman in a crowd, and he healed her  
and cheered her without question.*

*If we see women as God does, we will rescue young girls in distress—*

*Jesus went out of his way to awaken a damsel from death.*

*If we see women as God does, we will not be blinded by their race or  
nationality or ethnicity—*

*Jesus honored the prayer of an alien woman by liberating  
her daughter.*

*If we see women as God does, we will show them mercy—*

*Jesus refused to condemn a guilty woman and protected her  
from injustice.*

*If we see women as God does, we will give them freedom to exercise  
their unique interests—*

*Jesus appreciated one woman's homemaking while approving her  
sister's choice to study.*

*If we see women as God does, we will welcome them to the work  
of the Gospel—*

*Jesus opened places for women on his preaching tours and they  
ministered out of their substance.*

If we see women as God does, we will treat them as family—

Jesus named sisters as well as brothers in the family of those who do the Father's will.

If we see women as God does, we will see likeness to God—

Jesus compared the joy of heaven over a repentant sinner to a woman's joy over a found coin.

If we see women as God does, we will love them—

Jesus loved many women and did not hide his affections.

If we see women as God does, we will join in their weeping—

Jesus wept with Mary and Martha.

If we see women as God does, we will give them access to full knowledge of God—

Jesus first revealed his divine identity to a woman.

If we see women as God does, we will follow their example in worship—

Jesus praised a woman's worship as a memorial to the whole world.

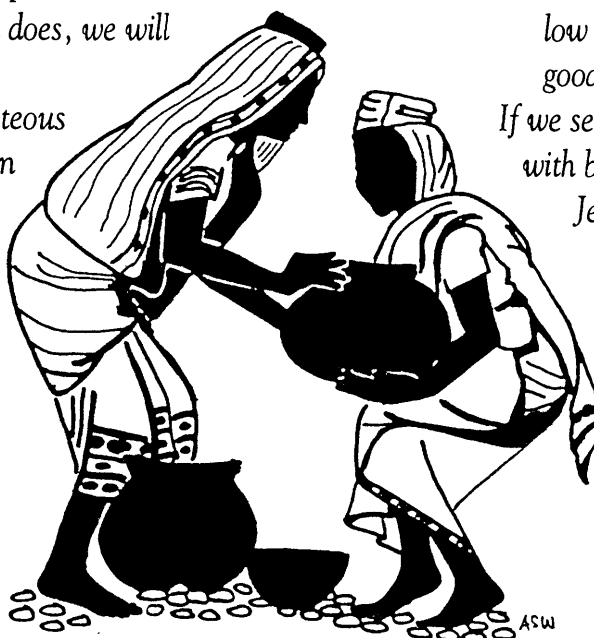
If we see women as God does, we will respect their contributions—

Jesus commended only two givers of money: a poor woman and a rich woman, understanding the lavish love each gift represented.

If we see women as God does, we will heed their viewpoints—

Jesus was judged righteous by the wife of the man who sentenced him to death.

If we see women as God does, we will follow their faith—



to the cross, to the barrier which miraculously opens, to the proof of resurrection, to the feet of the Risen Lord.

If we see women as God does, we will hear their proclamation of Good News—

Jesus gave women a message and commanded them to tell.

If we see women as God does, we will see their victory—

Jesus appears on the road to rebuke those slow to believe them.

If we see women as God does, we should join in their prayers—

the Holy Spirit meets women in prayer, fulfills prophecy in them, and speaks through them to the peoples of many languages.

If we see women as God does, we want to cry out blessings—

as the Holy Spirit moved Elizabeth when she knew that Good News would come through a woman.

If we see women as God does, we can sing assured praises—

as he inspired Mary to sing: "He has scattered the proud; he has put down princes from their thrones, and he has exalted them of low degree. The hungry he has filled with good things."

If we see women as God does, we will go forth with bold courage—

Jesus said to women, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell."

Catherine Allen, 1993

# **APPENDIX H**

Song: "Break Down  
Dividing Walls"



# BREAK DOWN DIVIDING WALLS



Words & Music by Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz-Duremdes

UNISON

Cm G Cm

1. There were no fen - ces at the start; No  
 2. One wall was Na - tion; Right or Wrong; One

Fm Bb7 Eb

walls di - vi - ding hu - man - kind; Then  
 wall was En - vy, one was Might; Each

G Cm

we be - gan to build a wall, A  
 person he stood to be - hind their wall, Each

Ab G

wall to hide - be - hind. And  
 one de - fen - ded their side. But

Cm G Cm

as it went the a fen - ces grew; Their  
 then God sent a car - pen - ter from

Fm Bb7 Eb

names were won - drous fine. One  
 out of Na - za - reth town, Told

G Cm

wall him was to Sta - tus, One  
 take his axe was in Pride, One  
 to

Ab G Cm

wall knock said, those "All his  
 fences mine." down.

*Sing verse 2  
 before the chorus.*

CHORUS

Break down di - vi - ding walls; Tear down those fen - ces,

There's so much work yet to be done.

Break down di - vi - ding walls, Tear down those fen - ces, Let

all God's peo - ple live as one.

VERSE 3:

And so the carpenter began to  
chop down Status and Pride,  
Broke down the walls that plainly read:  
"Stay on the o—ther side."  
He chopped at Nation and at Law;  
His axe did loud—ly ring.  
He chopped to set all people free,  
And you could hear — him sing:

VERSE 4:

But all the men that built the walls,  
They could not un—derstand.  
And so they seized the carpenter,  
They tore the axe from his hand.  
They nailed him up upon the tree  
And left him there — to die,  
But as he hung the carpenter  
let out his final cry:

VERSE 5:

The friends — of the carpenter,  
Took up their axes as well,  
And though men cried,  
"The carpenter's dead!"  
Still other barriers fell.  
The man is dead! "Oh, no!" they  
cried.  
"He lives, we follow his way!"  
So let us join the carpenter,  
clear all those fences away.



# **APPENDIX I**

Reading: Proclamation  
of Good News  
for Women

# *Proclamation of Good News for Women*

*The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news to all the women of the world:*

*To those who are weighed down with guilt, it is forgiveness.*

*To those who sin, it is redemption and renewal.*

*To those who are oppressed, it is freedom.*

*To those who live in fear, it is peace.*

*To those who are despised and rejected, it is kinship with the God who endured the shame of the cross.*

*To those who are bound by unChristlike culture and tradition, it is emancipation by One who places unestimatable value on every soul.*

*To those who cannot trust, it is dependence upon One who has proven Himself trustworthy.*

*To those who are lonely, it is friendship with the Best Friend women ever had.*

*To those who are devalued, it is a new identity as joint heirs of the grace of God.*

*To those who are secure in their relationship with the Lord, it is an opportunity to be the bridge that leads another to assurance in Christ.*

*As women who follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we are compelled by His love, commanded by His word, and gifted by His Spirit to share this Gospel with those who have not seen or heard the salvation of our God.*

*Therefore,*

*We will radiate His Light into the dark corners of women's experience;*

*We will bear His life to those who are dying;*

*We will share our bread to those who are hungry;*

*We will declare His promise to those who have no hope;*

*We will proclaim His empowerment to those who are powerless;*

*We will bring affirmation to those who do not know they are made in the image of God.*

*We will see with eyes of Jesus, weep with His ears, speak with His words, touch with His hands, embrace with His arms, and feel with His heart.*

*Until that great day comes when every woman, man and child will know the glorious grace and goodness of our God.*

# NOTES