

AUDACIOUS

AGW25

*Faith*

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# Welcome to Ministering to Women 2025

*Women from every generation, every culture and ethnicity, every status and location—  
we recognize and celebrate you! You are AG Women, and together,  
we are celebrating our one-hundredth anniversary.*

This resource magazine is created with you in mind. Whether you are a leader in your church or a leader in your home, you have influence. Our desire is to equip and encourage you on the journey so that you can grow in your faith and disciple those around you.

I am so excited to share Audacious Faith—our vision and themed resource for 2025. It's anchored in Matthew 19:26.

*Jesus looked at them intently and said,  
“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”*

Let's learn how to pray bold prayers that don't just change our life, but impact the world around us.

This year's Bible study is *Audacious Faith: Believing God in the Face of Impossibility*. This six-week study contains beautiful visuals and study tools to help optimize your learning. It also includes both individual and group reflection questions for personal and group use.

In *Audacious Faith* are stories, testimonies, and snapshots of women who are living out their faith in the real world. You'll find stories of the miraculous and honest conversations about what it looks like to choose to walk in faith every morning. I know they will encourage and inspire you in your own journey with Jesus.

We are thrilled to introduce our new leadership training resources to help develop and equip women's ministry leaders. It's a game changer! You'll also love learning about our Light the Way missions expansion and how you can be part of it. Plus, see where you can get our beautiful Audacious Faith clothing and merch items.

Our core values of leadership, resources, community, and generosity are woven throughout every page of this magazine. We are committed to helping you, and the women in your world, grow as disciples of Jesus—empowered by the Holy Spirit, and equipped for every good work.

*Love + blessings*  
*Nonda*

Nonda Houston  
AG Women  
National Director



“

AG Women exists to encourage every woman to live a life of devotion to Jesus, to discover her purpose, develop her God-given potential and dare to become all that God has created her to be.

”

WOMEN.AG.ORG

 AGWomen

 @AGwomens

#AudaciousFaith25

#AGWomen



# *What is* Audacious Faith?

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I searched for my biological father for most of my adult life. My mother would not tell me who he was, and all I knew was that he was Greek, with dark wavy hair. In 2013, I had DNA testing done with all the major companies to identify my father. Many matches for my maternal family appeared but almost no matches for my paternal family appeared, and the ones that did were so distant, no connections could be made.

I formed a search team to help me find my father, and we worked extremely hard for the next nine years. Along the way we experienced what could be characterized as a million little miracles, including God revealing to me through a word of knowledge that my father's name was Gus. But, I didn't have a last name, nor did the team have a total breakthrough on the search until May 11, 2022. On that day, I received a close Greek match on one of the DNA sites. Within hours we identified my father. His name was indeed Gus! Gus Nicholas. We were flabbergasted to realize that Gus was ninety-one years old and still alive! Not only that, but he was still living in the same city, had never married, nor had any other children.

Gus accepted me immediately and asked me to come as quickly as I could, to meet him in person. He was living in a nursing home, after taking a serious fall and almost dying. He was placed there by Adult Protective Services, as he could never go home and take care of himself again.

On our first in-person visit, I had the privilege of leading Gus to Christ. And a few months later, I brought him home to live with me in Florida. I was privileged to be his caregiver and have a close relationship with him for seven months before his passing. It took me by complete surprise when our story was covered by national news media and touched so many lives.





Gus told me that he had thought of me through the years and reached out to my maternal family to try to find me. I believed him but had no proof of that. For many years that I had reached out to family members and asked questions to try to discover my father's identity. Everyone claimed they didn't know his name or anything about him. But with the way a few people responded, I sensed they were being untruthful. After Gus passed away, as I was sorting through some of his belongings, I discovered a paper which proved to me that he had reached out to a maternal family member back in the 1960s. I was grateful to know that Gus had told the truth and disappointed that some family members had not. However, I did extend forgiveness.

I have often been asked why I'm not angry about this circumstance or resentful that I did not have more time with Gus. The first reason is that unforgiveness is not only displeasing to God but I knew it would turn me into someone I didn't want to be. The second reason is that when Gus met me, he not only flung his arms open to me, but more importantly to Jesus. I'm not sure he would have done this so readily had we discovered each other long ago. It really was perfect timing. Now, I don't just have seven months with my father—we will spend eternity together!

Isaiah 55:8–9 (MSG) says, “I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work.” . . . “For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.”

When most Christians talk about having faith in God, they will speak of having faith that God will do this or that. They have faith for a certain outcome. I have desired to know my father for as long as I can remember, but I trusted God with the results. I have come to know that truly audacious faith isn't the belief that God will do exactly what I tell Him to do or not do. Truly audacious faith is leaving the outcome up to God and trusting Him completely that whatever He decides is best for me.



**Dr. Deanna Shrode**  
PenFlorida District  
Women's Director

# Let's Talk about *faith & mental illness*

Brittany Jones is the copastor of Motivation Church in Richmond Virginia. She is continually transparent about her past trauma and current struggles including eating disorders, depression, and her diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

## Q: Please tell us a bit about your story.

I grew up in an environment that lacked the necessary elements to make me feel safe. This absence of security and the pervasive dysfunction in my home led to many years of abuse and trauma.

In the midst of this chaos, and despite the instability surrounding me, I found solace in a local church outreach. It was through this outreach that I learned about Jesus and gave my heart to Him at ten years old. Even though my environment remained challenging, my newfound faith became a source of resilience and comfort during those difficult years.

## Q: How did you first realize that you had a mental health issue?

I wrestled with some degree of depression and anxiety most of my adolescent years. At that time, I did not know what to call it nor know how to treat it. However, in my twenties, I had another traumatic event occur that caused a prolonged season of depression, manic episodes, and suicidal thoughts. This was a new and scary experience for me. At the encouragement of my husband and a mentor, I pursued professional help.

## Q: Have you ever experienced stigma from other Christians due to your bipolar condition?

Yes! I realize that speaking out about a mental illness and calling it by name from a platform can be uncomfortable for some. However, in my most recent experience, the greatest stigma was less about the diagnosis and more about how I manage it. People tend to fear other avenues of healing as if God is limited to how He brings about healing. Therapy, psychiatry, and medication are all a part of my journey and those seem to cause great tension for some. I believe you can be full of faith, believing God for healing, and take aspirin, too. My desire is to help normalize and add value to the conversation in an effort to offer safety and help to those who may have been diagnosed and ostracized.



### Q: How can church leaders reduce stigma around mental illness in their churches?

As leaders, we reduce stigmas by being the leading voice in the conversation. Sharing stories and preaching messages from the platform create vulnerability as well as trust in faith communities. Pastors have a beautiful opportunity to guide people with mental illness and those who seek to learn. They can do this by educating themselves, sympathizing with others' stories, offering resources, and connecting them to professional Christian therapists.

### Q: How do you respond to Christians who believe that mental illness, such as depression and anxiety, can be cured through positive thinking, reading your Bible, and praying more?

I had the privilege of walking with a dear friend through a very brutal cancer journey. I sat with her weekly, sometimes daily. I prayed. I cried out to the Lord. I read Scripture to her. I spoke life over her aching body. I believed God for a miracle.

My sweet friend met Jesus many months later. I had to come to terms with the fact that sometimes healing looks like heaven. I can't imagine how she would have felt if my response would have been for her to do more, believe more, or pray more. She was doing all she knew to do, and healing

looked different than what we believed it would.

I understand why, as Christians, we call people to believe and have greater faith, but pushing this narrative to the one suffering while they are suffering can be damaging. When I am struggling, the resounding noise I hear is, "You are not enough." What would be most helpful is for those around me to not reiterate that same message but instead to speak life to me when I am unable to do this for myself.

My response to anyone with this belief would be to put a face to the sickness. When we generalize, it's easy to detach real humans from the very thing we are speaking about and sometimes against, causing us to lack compassion. What an honor it was to speak life to my friend because it gave me greater empathy for someone with aches I could not see.

### Q: What do you want Christians who struggle with mental illness, or those close to them, to know?

*You are not alone.* I know that this journey can feel isolating. God sees you. He is so near in the midst of your pain. I would also encourage you with one of my favorite verses found in 1 Peter 5:10 (ESV), "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, en-

courage, strengthen, and establish you." I wish suffering came with an expiration date. I wish I knew how long "little while" was. But, what I do know is that God's track record is perfect. He is consistently faithful to His Word. So, I have to believe that this will not last forever. I believe that for whoever is reading this and walking through a season of suffering. This is not the end!

### Q: How has your diagnosis impacted how you work out your faith?

If I'm being honest, this journey has brought many tears and challenging conversations with the Lord. I know that none of my story surprises God, but it has been a painful journey. However, I have chosen to let my seasons of suffering draw me closer to the Lord rather than push me away. My bipolar diagnosis only deepens my need for Him. My journey is far from perfect, but my faith is stirred. I make every effort to put into practice what I developed in the secret place with God. He and I have history!



**Brittany Jones**  
Copastor of Motivation Church  
Richmond, Virginia

# Leadership Training *2025*

Leadership training for women's leaders in the local church is a vitally important initiative for AG Women. We believe it will revitalize and revolutionize ministry to women across the nation. We would like to tell a familiar story which has helped us to diagnose issues and remedy the situation.

## How it's going . . .

## How it started . . .

*The pastor of First Assembly in Anytown, Anystate, approaches someone they believe could lead ministry to women in the church. With prayerful consideration and a bit of trepidation, she accepts the position to be obedient to the Lord and a help to her church's leadership team. She has heart, and she has vision. But oftentimes she has few leadership and people skills, resources, and collaboration with other women leaders who could help her to be successful and fruitful in her leadership role.*

*Our new leader is one year into her assignment. She's a spiritually mature woman, but has had little training in how to lead. Now, she has more questions and frustrations than answers:*

- *How do I help this team get along and work together?*
- *How do I change the toxic culture that exists?*
- *How do I introduce change?*
- *How do I balance the demands of ministry and everyday life?*
- *How do I get this team to become multigenerational?*
- *How do I disciple our women?*

*With little hope and even less help, she regrettably resigns. She leaves discouraged and disillusioned, with these thoughts playing over and over in her mind: "Maybe I didn't hear from God, or I guess I wasn't the girl for the job."*

This scenario is all too familiar and is the very reason why AG Women has created Leading Together—three levels of leadership training and development for local women's leaders. We believe that every woman can grow in her leadership capacity to become a more effective ministry leader.

Leading Together defines how—by creating learning communities, cohorts, and networking with fellow women's leaders. Leading Together also defines why—our heart to evangelize, to-get-her.



# Our leadership training is driven by our desire to grow in:

**Leadership Development** – Learning leadership principles and best practices to become a more effective ministry leader

**Discipleship** – Working toward the goal of spiritual growth and maturity, and flourishing in her God-given purpose

**Evangelism** – Creating on-ramps from women's ministries to the church

**Missions** – Creating awareness and opportunities, and fostering generosity individually and corporately

## Leading together has something for everyone!

### Level 1

Fifteen-minute teaching videos with accompanying worksheets and assessments hosted on AG Women's website

*Access: Free*

### Level 2

Monthly Zoom® meetings which include teachings from leadership experts, access to video teachings and resources, and networking with women's leaders

*Access: Monthly Subscription*

### Level 3

A five-month cohort led by Nonda Houston. Each month will include the reading of a leadership book, a Zoom meeting, a book review, leadership teaching, best practices/ideas, as well as prayer and collaboration with women's leaders.

*Access: One-time fee, spaces limited*

We hope these resources will encourage every current leader and call out to future leaders who have a heart for ministry to women. We want to add a few practical tools to your tool belt that can make a dramatic difference.

AG Women is creating free leadership training for every women's ministries leader—in every church—to create a healthy culture, develop a dynamic team, equip and disciple women, evangelize her community, and cultivate generosity for missions.

Leading Together  Leading To-Get-Her

To find out more, visit [women.ag.org](https://www.women.ag.org).

# introducing AUDACIOUS faith

*Faith.* What is it? You can't physically touch it or see it with the naked eye. You can't purchase it from the store when you are running low. But you can see it demonstrated in the life of a woman who confidently trusts God in the midst of a storm. You can hear it in the voice of the one who is waiting for her healing, for a financial miracle, or the restoration of a broken relationship. So, how do you develop the kind of maturity and depth in your faith walk that anchors your soul and inspires others?

Our vision this year is Audacious Faith. Audacious faith is not reckless, arrogant, or unwise, but faith that is bold and daring, ready to take God at His word. Such faith waits in expectation of the miracles to come—trusting in the Lord's timing while experiencing His peace in the waiting. Audacious faith requires us to surrender our will to the will of God when things don't go as we planned.

Looking through the lens of faith can change everything! It fuels our hope to trust the Lord and gives us courage to fight spiritual battles. Even when our circumstances remain the same, by faith we can continue with joy knowing that our God has the final say. Jesus has given us the charge to pray big prayers and believe Him for things that are beyond our control.

Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." Matthew 19:26

This year, we are praying for women of every generation to have audacious faith that, by the power of God, will transform families, churches, communities, and the nations.

with love,  
Nonda





*She will be known*  
**FOR HER BOLDNESS**  
*of faith*



# AUDACIOUS - *Market*

## *Faith*



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### → Audacious Faith T Shirt

Made from heavyweight ring-spun cotton, this tee offers a soft, durable fit that feels great all day long. The ivory color provides a perfect backdrop for the "Audacious Faith" logo on the front and the inspiring tagline on the back.

\*All items also available in spanish.

S	08MW9863	\$17.99
M	08MW9864	\$17.99
L	08MW9865	\$17.99
XL	08MW9866	\$17.99
2XL	08MW9867	\$17.99
3XL	08MW9868	\$17.99





### → Audacious Faith Sweatshirt

Crafted from lightweight cotton, this crewneck offers a soft, breathable feel for all-day wear. The powerful Matthew 19:26 and But with God imprints provide a daily reminder of audacious faith. The “W” Logo is positioned above the left wrist seam.



### → Audacious Faith Sweatshirt

S	08MW9850	\$44.99
M	08MW9851	\$44.99
L	08MW9852	\$44.99
XL	08MW9853	\$44.99
2XL	08MW9854	\$44.99
3XL	08MW9855	\$44.99



### → Tote Bag & Necklace

Medium-sized cotton boat tote with “Audacious Faith” logo. | 22” necklace with cross pendant. Includes a stylish pouch and a card.

Tote Bag	17MW8408	\$29.99
Necklace	17MV8363	\$9.99



\*Kit Includes: Notepad, Pen, & Magnets

### → Bible Study Tools

Boldness tools to help you with your study habits

Notepad	17MW8406	\$4.99
Pen	16MW7234	\$3.99
Magnets En/Sp	17MW8404	\$7.49
Kit	17MW8424	\$12.99



### → Tumbler & Coffee Mug

Beautifully crafted, sage stoneware mug. Dishwasher safe, 15 oz. | Double-walled stainless steel tumbler. Includes a gift box. 16.9 oz.

Tumbler	17MW8400	\$21.99
Mug	17MW8402	\$17.99



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple cardigan, sits on a wooden chair in a field of tall grass. She is holding an open book and looking down at it. A straw hat and a woven basket are on the ground next to her. The background shows a line of trees under a warm, golden sunset sky.

# Light the Way

*is women helping women*

14



The Lord announces the word,  
and the *women* who  
proclaim it are a  
*mighty throng.*

Psalm 68:11 (NIV)



# what is Light the Way?

For AG Women, one of our core values is generosity. It's how we model Jesus to others based on His ultimate generosity toward us.

*"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

That's why missions is at the center of our Assemblies of God Fellowship and has taken many forms for women over the last 109 years of our Fellowship's existence. While total giving amounts are only fully known in heaven, we can reasonably conclude that millions of dollars have been given.

National giving toward Men's ministries, Youth ministries, and Kids Ministries has been well tracked and recorded. Women's missions giving has traditionally been tallied at several levels—the national level, the network/district, and local—making it challenging to track giving totals. For this reason, AG Women is endeavoring to bring clarity while streamlining national giving for women through Light the Way, an initiative that exists to unite women around the cause of missions giving.

Are we making missions a contest? No. But miracles are what God does, and impossible is where He always begins. We believe that our goals can be

reached when we put in the proper ingredients, two of which are unity and faith.

What if Assemblies of God women from across the nation unified even a portion of our efforts? Our unity is essential! And if ministry to women is important to you, then giving through Light the Way should be too.

Why is that important? It unifies our collective vision and voice. We've made it simple:

What is AG Women? Ministry to women  
What is Light the Way? Women helping women

Living a life of generosity affects everything and everyone. If we associate our giving with what we have to offer financially, we miss the bigger picture. Generosity is a lifestyle where we hold everything we own lightly. God is the One who has provided our possessions in the first place, and when we live openhandedly, we embrace the heart of God to a hurting world.

We don't just care about people. Caring is our calling.

In the days ahead, we plan to expand Light the Way in scope and reach. Tell your friends and shout it out . . .

Light the Way is women helping women!



# Light the Way Is Expanding!

*This year, Light the Way™ will expand to partner with three ministries that exemplify women helping women. These ministries are at the forefront of reaching the marginalized and hurting, both in the United States and around the world. When you partner with Light the Way, we link arms to make a bigger impact on those who most need it. Together, we can make a difference.*



PROJECT  
RESCUE

## Project Rescue

Project Rescue began in 1997 as a response to the overwhelming need in the red-light districts of Southern Asia. Since then, it's grown into a global network that ministers to those being sexually exploited around the world. We believe that all men, women, and children are image-bearers of Christ. They all deserve to live their lives freely as fully empowered daughters and sons of God. Our varied initiatives serve the purpose of rescuing and restoring the lives of those affected by exploitation.

Jennifer & Jonathan Barratt  
[www.projectrescue.com](http://www.projectrescue.com)



SHE IS



europe

## She Is Europe

She is Europe is a combined project of forty-four of our Assemblies of God World Missions women who are serving to reach women and girls across Europe. The giftings they display through each of their vibrant ministries are blooming across the region. Together their resilience is breaking through hard soil so that the message of the gospel will flourish. We are thrilled with how God is creatively using us to reach the local European, the immigrant, the expat, and the refugee. We invite you to join us and discover who she really is.

Melinda Henderson  
[inspireglobalsisterhood.com](http://inspireglobalsisterhood.com)



SAVEONE

## SaveOne

SaveOne shares the hope of Jesus to those suffering from the choice of abortion. We believe the local church is the answer. With over four hundred chapters around the world, our mission continues to grow. The need is great. You are not alone. There is hope—SaveOne can help.

Sheila & Jack Harper  
[www.saveone.org](http://www.saveone.org)

Learn about how  
to give here.

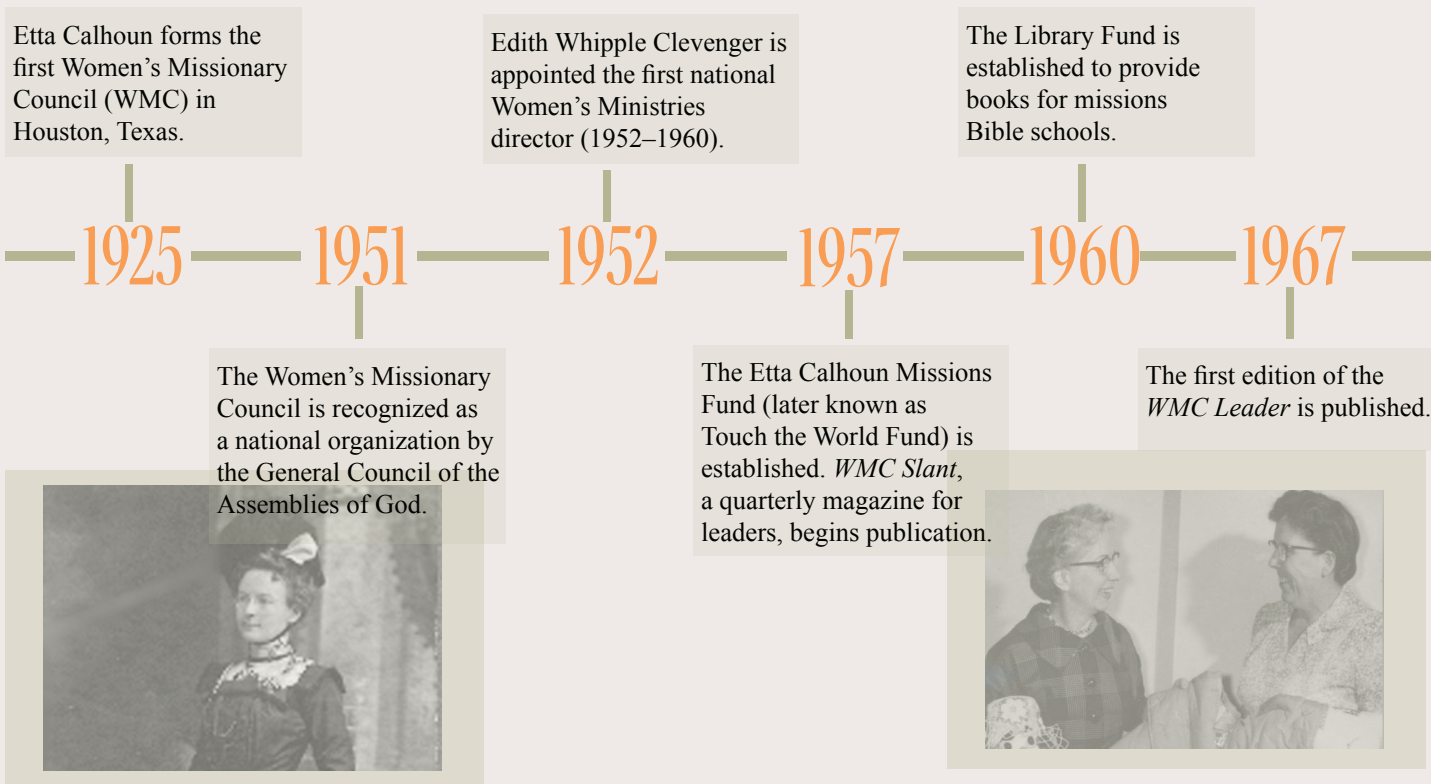




# Cheers To One Hundred

Eleven years after the formation of the Assemblies of God, women within the Fellowship began to seek ways they could become involved in ministry. In 1925, Etta Calhoun organized a group of women for intercessory prayer in Houston, Texas. Originally meeting for intercessory prayer for missionaries, the women quickly found practical ways to provide support. The group became the first Women's Missionary Council, the forerunner of today's AG Women.

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*Assemblies of God  
National Women's Ministry Directors*

*Etta Calhoun, founder: 1925  
Edith Whipple Clevenger: 1952–1960  
Mildred Smuland: 1960–1971  
Goldia Anderson: 1972–1975  
Elva Hoover: 1976–1985  
Sandra Clopine: 1985–1994  
Peggy Musgrove: 1994–1998  
Lillian Sparks: 1998–2003  
Arlene Allen: 2003–2010  
Kerry Clarensau: 2011–2016  
Kay Burnett: 2016–2021  
Nonda Houston 2022–present*

years!

Joy Fellowship, an evangelism outreach ministry, is formed.

Combined Women's Ministries and Missionettes contributions exceed five million dollars annually.

First edition of *Ministering to Women* was provided to every Assemblies of God church as an annual resource magazine that outlines the annual theme and provides resources for ministry to women.

19

1974

1975

1979

1998

2008

2019

Women's Missionary Council changes its name to Women's Ministries, reflecting a broader range of ministries.

The first national Women's Ministries/Missionettes leadership seminar is held for district and sectional leaders.

National Women's Department is renamed AG Women. Light the Way missions project is established to "unite women around the cause of missions giving for the victimized and marginalized."

In this centennial year, we celebrate and honor the women who have gone before us, on whose shoulders we stand. As we now take our place in this extraordinary movement, we are thankful to those pillars of faith for the foundations they laid, and the kingdom building they accomplished. Their obedience and contribution, whether great or small, left a legacy and a mantle of faith, sacrifice, and service for us to carry to reach our world today.



# AUDACIOUS

Believing God in the Face of Impossibility

*faith*

Do you ever wonder what a life of faith looks like in your everyday life? What happens when your faith is running low or missing altogether? What do you do when feeble faith turns to doubts, and doubts spiral to unbelief?

Now is the time for us to learn to pray with boldness, confidence, and audacious faith. When we are in relationship with Jesus and empowered by the Spirit, our faith rises, enabling us to stand in spiritual battles, impact the Kingdom of God, and encourage others to a life of faith.

*This six-week study will define biblical faith, address the questions head on, and unpack what it means to have audacious faith.*

- *Week 1- Why Faith Matters*
- *Week 2- How Faith Works*
- *Week 3- How Faith Grows*
- *Week 4- Faith Killers*
- *Week 5- Living Out a Life of Faith*
- *Week 6- Audacious Faith*

A measure of faith has been given to everyone. And you don't need much- Jesus said faith the size of a tiny mustard seed has monumental potential. Learn how to replace hopelessness and despair with vibrant faith that pleases the Lord and repels the enemy.

May your audacious faith be a source of growth in your own life  
and a beacon of hope to others around you.



6 WEEK WO

6 WEEK WOMEN'S STUDY

# AUDACIOUS

Believing God in the Face of Impossibility

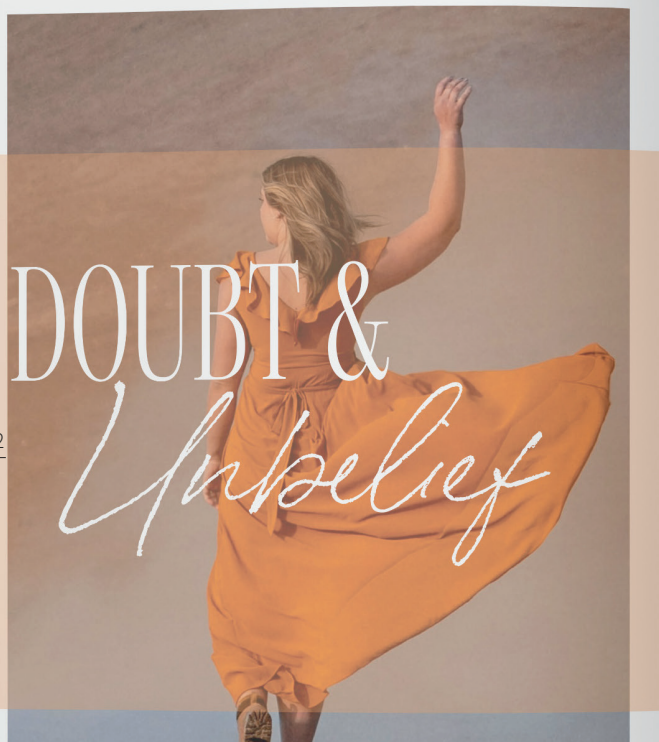
## *Faith*

NONDA HOUSTON



# AUDACIOUS Faith

*Believing God in the Face of Impossibility*



22

→ Audacious Faith: Believing God in the Face of Impossibility

By Nonda Houston

This six-week study will define biblical faith, address questions head-on, and unpack what it means to have audacious faith. Learn how to replace hopelessness and despair with vibrant faith that pleases the Lord and repels the enemy! Paperback, 7.75" x 9.75", 152 pages.

English	02MW4270	\$19.99
Spanish	02MW4271	\$19.99



a peak inside

WEEK 4 - DAY 2

*doubt and unbelief*

*"Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"*

*Matthew 11:3*

John the Baptist was a forerunner of Jesus, preparing the way for the Messiah. At Jesus' baptism, John saw the Spirit descending on him in the form of a dove. John was a relative of Jesus since his mother, Elizabeth, and Mary were family.

*Audacious Faith* is perfect for your next group or individual Bible study!

Be sure to check out the teaching videos by Nonda Houston at [women.ag.org](https://www.women.ag.org), beginning January 2025!

In scripture, John the Baptist sent a message to Jesus to ask, "Are you the Messiah?" (verse 3)

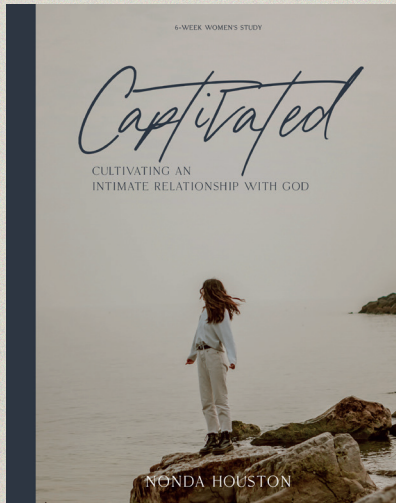


Nonda Houston is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and the newly appointed National Women's director. She has been married to her husband, Gordon, for forty-two years. They served as lead pastors in San Jacinto, CA, for twenty-two years and at the SoCal Network Office as the SoCal Women's director for nearly fourteen years. She loves family time with her four married children and being "Nonnie" to her ten grandchildren. Nonda is passionate about encouraging, inspiring, and equipping women to know Jesus and making Him known.

WEEK 4 - DAY 2



# Additional Resources



## → Captivated: Cultivating an Intimate Relationship with God

By Nonda Houston

*Captivated* is a six-week women's study rooted in Proverbs 3:5–6. This is a great book for us to learn about some of the names of God—which serve as windows into His abilities, nature, and character—and how He reveals himself to us according to our circumstances. Paperback, 7.75" x 9.75", 152 pages.

English	02MV4255	\$19.99
Spanish	02MV4256	\$19.99



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## → Created for Purpose: An Esther Study Journal

By Nonda Houston with Kim Catron

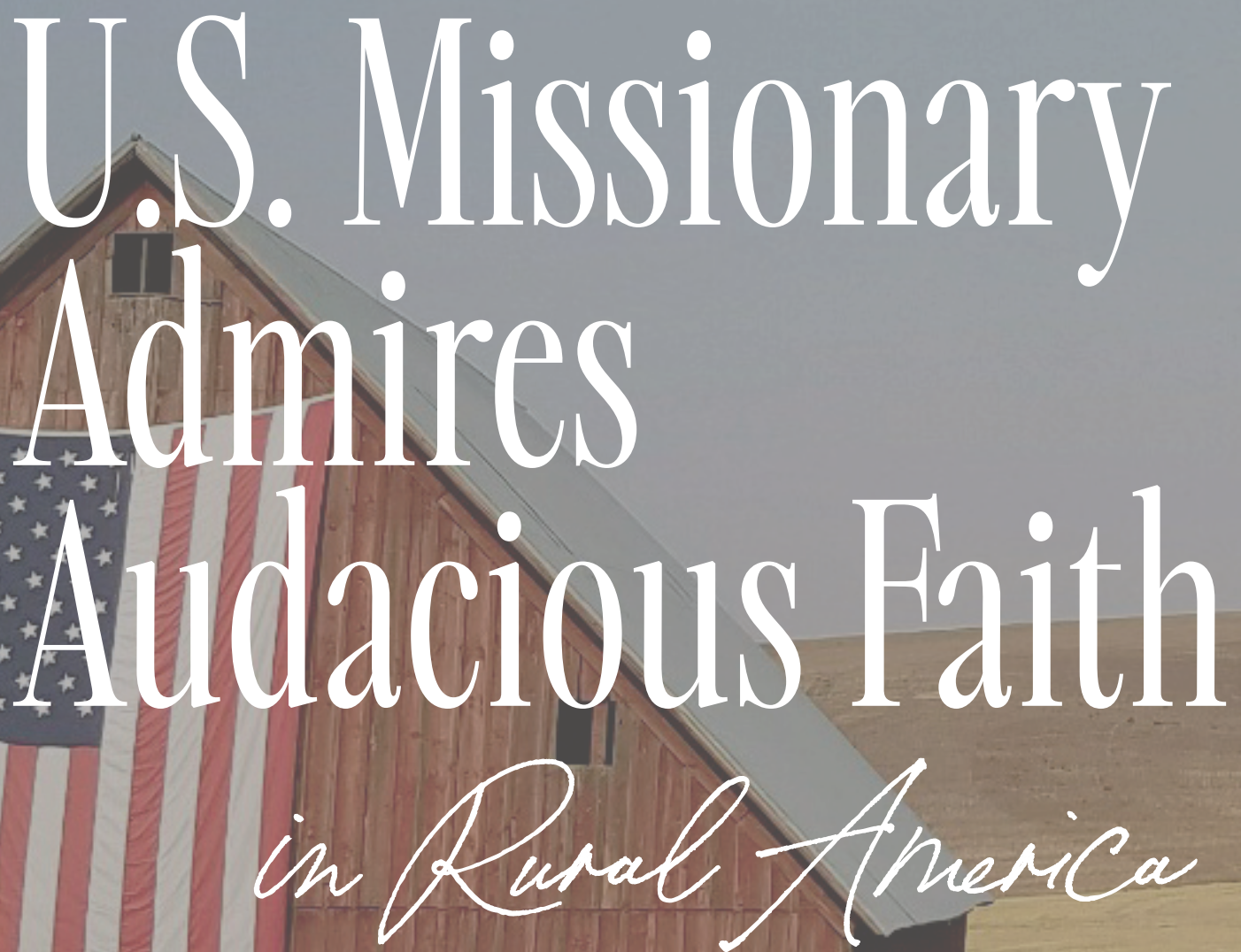
*Created for Purpose* is a four-week study on the Book of Esther. While unpacking the life of Esther, readers will learn more about navigating adversity and disappointment while leaning into all that God has for them. Paper, 7 x 9.5", 144 pages.

English	02MV4260	<del>-\$14.99</del>	<b>\$9.99</b>
Spanish	02MV4261	<del>-\$14.99</del>	<b>\$9.99</b>



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to find out more.





# U.S. Missionary Admires Audacious Faith *in Rural America*

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By Laurel Harvey as told to Amy Smith



Laurel Harvey, an Assemblies of God U.S. missionary with Convoy of Hope, didn't realize until she was grown the audacious faith her parents displayed as they pastored in rural America.

"I didn't realize that people didn't just come and bring you groceries," Laurel says. "When my siblings and I needed new coats, we went into a store, and a family my dad knew said, 'Why don't we get all your kids new coats today?' I just thought those things happened. That's how I grew up; I never questioned."

It was Laurel's upbringing that prepared her to be the wife of a rural pastor for over twenty years, and now a missionary to the pastors she once served.

"At first, I wasn't excited about making a change from pastor's wife to missionary," Laurel admits. "I loved our rural community. But, as I began to seek the Lord and submit my will to His will, we resigned our church and became Assemblies of God U.S. missionaries. We itinerated like missionaries do, and then we moved our family from northern California, to

Springfield, Missouri, where we were assigned to Convoy of Hope to work with rural America."

Most people don't get overly excited about working with pastors who have small congregations and limited resources, but Laurel admires their audacious faith.

"They go to places that nobody really cares about and where nobody really wants to go," she says. "They go without funding, and most are bivocational. They are parents and spouses. They work another job, and they must have a sermon ready on Sunday."

"That's a lot," she adds. "I can't emphasize enough how amazing our rural pastors, their spouses, and children are. It's a family commitment to pastor in a small town."

Through Convoy of Hope's Rural Initiative, Laurel and her husband, Kim, help churches in rural areas impact their communities.

"We encourage, train, and resource them [rural churches] to be the stakeholder in the community where God has called them to be," Laurel says. "We recognize that, by God's design, the church is the number one

stakeholder in a community. But often we see ourselves as a little building on the side of town without many resources or much to offer. What we want to do is position them to build relationships with other stakeholders in their community."

Laurel concludes, "One of the things we hear quite often when we follow up with pastors is, 'It's as if the town was waiting for me.' What we must realize is that we have to build a bridge to our community. They are not going to build a bridge to us. Our training is about building that bridge. We want to celebrate those rural pastors who are daily operating in audacious faith and help them to flourish in their rural settings."



**Laurel Harvey**  
AG U.S. Missionary  
to Rural America



# Ministry Wives *You are Called*

I get asked a lot, “Were you called into pastoral ministry or is this your husband’s calling?” I must admit, I used to stumble over my words while trying to explain. I know I am called. This is how I reasoned: I was born a pastor’s daughter. God gave me a husband who became a pastor. We live in a city full of people in desperate need of Jesus. God must have me here for a reason.

My favorite psalm explains it well. Psalm 139:16 (NIV) says, “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” This means that today, this very day, and everything that comes with it is ordained by God. Nothing is outside of God’s sovereignty. Just as when Abraham received his calling and promise, it could not happen without Sarah. It was not a surprise to God that Abraham would need Sarah to complete God’s call. He ordained it this way.

I’ve noticed that God loves working things out through relationships. It’s difficult to see and understand at times why He chose to do it in this way. We don’t always see the big picture. But God does. And He promised that someday we will. So, with eyes wide open and a heart fully engaged, I thank God for this precious call on my life. I pray you do as well.

*Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will”* John 13:7



**Rev. Elizabeth De Jesús**  
Wife of Rev. Choco De Jesús  
Executive Director U.S. Missions





# *Wives Night Out!*

## *Save the date!*



*When:* *Thursday, August 7*

*Where:* *General Council 2025 - Orlando, FL*

*What Time:* *7:30pm*

*Price:* *\$20 per person*

*Hey Ministry Wives!*

*We're excited to invite you to Wives Night Out at General Council 2025 in Orlando, FL! Join us on Thursday, August 7th at 7:30pm for a fun-filled night of community and connection. Tickets are just \$20 per person, so save the date and get ready for a night to remember! We're looking forward to seeing you there!*







# Womanhood & Discipleship

## Clearing a Path So Others Can Follow

“Hurry up! Get ready!” How many times have you said this to your kids or heard it from someone else? It’s a call to stop procrastinating and start doing what will help you get out the door and accomplish your goal. It’s a reminder that now is the time to clear distractions and work at what matters most. For a woman who loves God, it’s a challenge to ponder the words of the prophet Isaiah when he called the people to clear the way for the Messiah and to understand the way in which the Spirit prompts us to do the same:

“Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!” Isaiah 40:3

Could God be calling us to be His waymakers, clearing a straight path for others to follow? Is there a trumpet call from the Holy Spirit to the women in our nation to call people to the Cross and model repentance as a true lifestyle, not just a smug religious ideology? Let’s examine how God designed us as women and how we can use our intentional design as a powerful tool for discipling others.



## Woman

In a time when so many agendas are being forged against our children to foster confusion and abandon original design, we need to be intentional about our womanhood. We can prepare the way of the Lord by understanding that God made us female on purpose and that this comes with an ample platform for powerful influence.

## Influencers

Social media has created a speedy venue for female influencers for years, but influence isn't a new idea or trendy topic. In fact, it was put into the design of the first female when she was formed. Her role was not only to be an integral part of procreating humanity, but to use her role to forge a model of influence that others could follow (Genesis 1:26–27). “At last!” Adam exclaimed (2:23) when he saw her and recognized her by design—Woman! This wasn't just a title; it was a proclamation of the identity embedded in her DNA. She was taken from man's side to be suitable in every way. She was like him, but different. She was part of him, but her own. She was a partner who helped complete the story! God made her beautiful, verbal, and capable.

## Rescuers

In our womanhood, we have a God-given ability to stand and run

with our husbands through conflict, even to the extent of offering rescue at times. We reflect the glory of God as fellow heirs of God's kingdom when we know Jesus. In Him, we are successful contributors to the human equation. Our witness can carry tender compassion. Our acts of kindness can include a designer's touch. Our unique perspectives can help solve dilemmas because He made us in Christ to be path-clearing teachers by way of a Spirit-led life.

This is a creative order we are not to abandon because in forsaking our design, we corrupt our formulation and incapacitate our potential to influence others correctly. We lead others down paths of unrighteousness and, like Eve when she sinned, we suffer the consequences of what sin gives as wages so quickly . . . death (Romans 3:23).

## Disciple Makers

Instead, our lives should be devoted to loving God and clearing a pathway for others to follow. This is not about teaching curriculum in a small group or Bible study; this is about intentionally living for God in a way that pours out His love to others. We can make a “highway” for our God by using our voice for His glory. Through our good works done in true love, words spoken when needed, and holy living from deep devotion to Jesus,

our lives speak volumes to others. Our ability to see the need and come running into the battle when He sends us gives glory to God and advances the Kingdom. When we join God's project, we gain a better return for the labor. We warm the heart if it's cold and we pick someone up when they've fallen (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12). Our voices matter when we use them to help others find the Savior!

## Disciples

Jesus came into the world to redeem us. As women who follow Him, let's continue to grow and fulfill our mandate to forge pathways that others can follow. We can love Him boldly and believe Him audaciously. We are meant to forge a pathway for others to come home. Listen! Are you ready?



**Evelyn Klingler**  
U.S. Missions  
Pastor at Life360 Church  
Springfield, Missouri



# Have Courage and Obey

I still remember the day I received my call to vocational ministry. I responded to the altar call trembling inside. I didn't know what I would do, or even how I would begin to walk out my call. I only knew I had heard the voice of God, deep in my spirit, calling me to surrender my life and future completely to Him. In that moment, God didn't need me to figure out all the details. He simply needed my obedience.

If you've ever felt a stirring deep within toward vocational ministry, yet found yourself vacillating at the door God is calling you to walk through due to doubt or personal circumstances, I want to encourage you to open your heart to His call, have courage, and obey. Courage is not the absence of fear, but obedience in the face of fear.

How can you take that first step toward your call with courage and obedience?

1. Seek out the guidance of a trusted pastor, mentor, district officer, or presbyter. Ask them about next steps, educational preparation, resources, or the process required for pursuing credentials.
2. Prepare yourself. The Assemblies of God provides a variety of educational opportunities that can be tailored to your schedule and budget. For an abbreviated list of those options, visit <https://www.womenministers.ag.org/credentials>.
3. Surround yourself with a community of women who are walking in their call. The Network of Women Ministers is a great place to start with opportunities for gift enhancement. Visit <https://www.womenministers.ag.org/>.
4. Stay faithful while waiting. Direction is revealed through faithful steps of obedience. Find places to serve, grow, and enhance your skills while waiting for the next step.
5. Don't put a lid on what God wants to do through you. Stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Be open to opportunities to serve at your local church, on a church planting team, or to take a short-term missions trip. It could be while serving in the field that God gives you a picture of what He wants you to do for the rest of your life.

Where is God asking you to demonstrate audacious faith?  
Have courage and obey!



**Rev. Melissa J. Alfaro**  
Executive Presbyter - Ordained Female  
Network of Women Ministers Leadership



# Marlene Craft *pioneers* U.S. Missions Ministry *to widows*

By Marlene Craft as told to Amy Smith

Serving beside her husband Wayne for thirty-two years, Marlene Craft found her sense of purpose in her role as pastor's wife. Although the Lord had already begun preparing her for such a moment, Marlene's world was turned upside down when Wayne suddenly died in January of 2011.

*The new widow found herself searching for her identity.*

*"One day I was a pastor's wife, and the next day, I had no home. I had no church. I had half the salary and no identity," she said.*

Marlene discovered that widows lose 70 percent of their friends because their friend groups are comprised of married couples. And many times, they choose to stop attending their previous church because of too many painful memories.

To help ease the pain and share the burden of widows, Marlene founded Widows Link, the first Assemblies of God U.S. Missions initiative focused on caring for and ministering to widows.

*"God gives warnings if you don't take care of widows, and according to God, taking care of widows is genuine religion," Marlene admonished.*

Marlene's book, *How to Begin a Widows Ministry*, gives step-by-step instructions on how to begin a ministry to widows, and she and her associates lend a hand wherever and however they are needed.

*"If you want to do another ministry, you may not have anyone to walk with you," Marlene pointed out. "But we will walk with whoever feels they want to start this ministry. This is not another Bible study. It almost becomes a self-help group with a Spirit-led leader who follows the leading of the Holy Spirit in pointing [widows] to Jesus."*



**Marlene Craft**  
AG U.S. Missionary  
to Widows



*How can we serve you?*

# AG WOMEN

LEADERSHIP | RESOURCES | GENEROSITY | COMMUNITY

AG Women is a community of *women* from across the United States and around the world who are following *Jesus* and making Him known. We are separated by miles but united in cause—*mothers, daughter, sisters, and girlfriends* doing life together.

*Our Vision:*

Encouraging and equipping every woman to live a life of:

Devotion to Jesus, Discovering her purpose, Developinng her God-given potential and

*Daring to become all that God has created her to be.*

Together, we can create beautiful spaces for women of all ages to experience a transformational relationship with Jesus and others. We know the answer to a hurting and broken world, so let's pray women in, prepare a place, and make room at the table for everyone through:

## LEADERSHIP

Equipping women's leaders for effective ministry to women in the local church

## RESOURCES

Providing discipleship through

- annual Bible studies
- themed merchandise for your events
- recommended ministries that address specific needs of women

## GENEROSITY

Women helping women through giving to Light the Way

## COMMUNITY

Creating spaces and places for women to connect, grow, and serve

*The Lord announces the word, and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng.*

Psalms 68:11 (NIV)



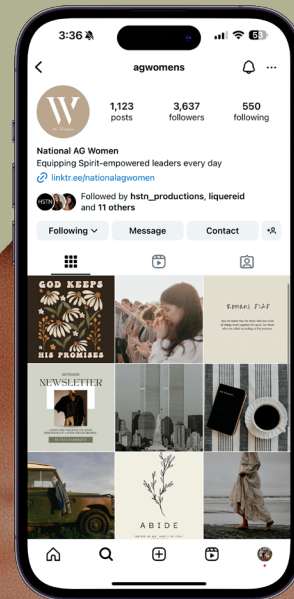
# Let's Stay Connected

God is doing amazing things at AG Women!  
We are coming out with new resources,  
Bible studies, and ministry lanes.

Stay informed by visiting our website and connecting on social media!

- 🌐 AGWomen Website: [women.ag.org](https://women.ag.org)
- 📘 AGWomen FB: [facebook.com/AGWomen](https://facebook.com/AGWomen)
- 📘 Ministry Wives FB Group: [AG Ministry Wives](#)
- 📷 AGWomen Instagram: [@AGWomens](#)  
Hashtags: [#AGWomen](#) [#Captivated2024](#)

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# Recommended Ministries

These ministries are affiliated with the Assemblies of God and recommended by AG Women.

## ABORTION RECOVERY

SaveOne: Healing after Abortion  
Directed by Sheila Harper  
Visit [saveone.org](http://saveone.org).

## ABUSE AND/OR ADDICTION RECOVERY

Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A.  
Directed by Gary Blackard  
Visit [teenchallengeusa.org](http://teenchallengeusa.org).

Project Ignite Light  
Directed by Pebbles Thompson  
Visit [www.ignitelight.org](http://www.ignitelight.org).

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESCUE

F.R.E.E. International  
Directed by Michael Bartel  
Visit [freeinternational.org](http://freeinternational.org).

Global Center for Women and  
Justice  
Directed by Sandra Morgan  
Visit [gcwj.org](http://gcwj.org)

Project Rescue  
Directed by Jennifer Grant Barratt  
Visit [projectrescue.com](http://projectrescue.com).

Protect Me Project  
Directed by Carla Marroquin  
Visit [protectmeproject.org](http://protectmeproject.org).

## ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE

COMPACT Family Services  
Directed by Alan Bixler  
Visit [compactfamilyservices.org](http://compactfamilyservices.org).

## COMPASSION

Convoy of Hope: Convoy Women  
Directed by Shonna Crawford  
Visit [convoyofhope.org/what-we-do/womens-empowerment](http://convoyofhope.org/what-we-do/womens-empowerment).

## MARRIAGE

Marriage Encounter  
Directed by David and Chris Morrison  
Visit [agme.org](http://agme.org).

Teaming Life  
Directed by Robert and Pamela Crosby  
Visit [teaminglife.com](http://teaminglife.com).

## PASTORIAL CARE/COUNSELING

Emerge Counseling Ministries  
Directed by Dr. Robert Crosby  
Visit [emerge.org](http://emerge.org).

## SEXUAL IDENTITY

Linda Seiler  
Visit [lindaseiler.com](http://lindaseiler.com)

ReStory Ministries  
[Restoryministries.org](http://Restoryministries.org).

Joe Dallas  
[joedallas.com](http://joedallas.com)

## SPECIAL NEEDS

CompassionLink Disability Ministry  
Coordinated by Thomas and  
Angelia Carpenter  
Visit [compassionlink.org](http://compassionlink.org).

## WOMEN AND GIRLS

Ministry to Muslim Women: Say Hello  
Directed by Lynda Hausfeld  
Visit [sayhelloinfo.com](http://sayhelloinfo.com).

Ministry to Widows  
Directed by Marlene Craft  
Visit [widowslink.org](http://widowslink.org).

AG National Girls Ministries  
Directed by Kim Sharp  
Visit [ngm.ag.org](http://ngm.ag.org).

## WOMEN MINISTERS

Network of Women Ministers  
Directed by Melissa Alfaro  
Visit [womenministers.ag.org](http://womenministers.ag.org).



# Connect with your district director

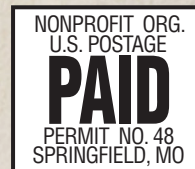


AG Kansas	Heidi Robidou	agkansas.com			
Alabama	Cyndi Draughon	amnag.org			
Alaska	Charee Davis	akministrynetwork.org			
Appalachian	Stephanie Jordan	appalachianwomen.wixsite.com/realwomen			
Arizona	Lindsay Petri	azagwomen.org			
Arkansas	Tosha Bradley	araog.org			
Central	M. Pat Mata	cddcag.org			
Central Pacific	Jackie Ramos	centralpacificag.org			
Georgia	Kristi Steffens	courageoussisterhood.com			
Hawaii	Donna Bartolome	hawaiiag.org			
Illinois	Open				
Indiana	Kathy Holdeman	wms.indianaag.org			
Iowa	Erica Barthalow	imnag.org	Ohio	Danielle Dickerson	Ohio ministry.net
Kentucky	Lauren Daniel	kyag.org	Oklahoma	Susie Purkey	okag.org
Louisiana	Claire Jett	laaog.org	Oregon	Cindy McCloud	oregonag.org
Michigan	Jessica "Jesi" Wimmer	mmn.ag	Peninsular Florida	Deanna Shrodes	pfwomen.com
Midwest	Cynthia Flores	mdcag.org	Pennsylvania-Delaware	Charisse Jenkins	penndetwomen.org
Minnesota	Angie Goetz	mnbtag.org	Potomac	Open	pnmwomenwholead.com
Mississippi	Kristie Rodgers	msaog.org	Puerto Rico	Rosita Arce	
Montana	Jessica Nelson	montanaministrynetwork.org	Rocky Mountain	Linda Bottoms	rmdc.org
Nebraska	Open	neag.org	Samoan	Falavia "Via" Ava	sdcaog.org
New Jersey	Andrea Rovaggi	unitedwomennj.com	South Carolina	Debbie Ambrose	ag4sc.com
New Mexico	Gail Owen	nmministry.net	South Central Hispanic	Rosa Ramos	schdag.org
New York	Jamie Barkwell	nymn.org.org	South Dakota	Sandra Ogunremi	sdag.org
No. California-Nevada	Debbie Heden	agncn.org	South Texas	Jill Barker	stxagwm.org
North Carolina	Mary Ritter	ncwm.org	Southern California	Nicky Stade	women.socalnetwork.org
North Dakota	Denise Dvorscak	theconnectionnd.com	Southern California Hispanic	Miriam Saravia	women.socalnetwork.org/espanol
North Texas	Stacie Cathcart	northtexas.ag	Southern Idaho	LeAnn Sullivan	simnag.org
Northern Missouri	Kristi Weyer	nomoaog.org	Southern Latin	Lorraine Pichardo	sldag.org
Northern New England	Abi Cyr	nndaog.org	Southern Missouri	Sherry Welch	somoag.org
Northwest	Jeannie Collins	nwministry.com	Southern New England	Open	snemn.com
Northwest Hispanic	Enedina Garza	nhdistrict.org	Southern Pacific	Open	spdag.org
			Southwest Spanish	Eleha Torres	swdistrict.com
			Spanish Eastern	Miriam Maria	spanisheasterndistrictag.org
			Tennessee	Tammy Waycaster	tnaog.org
			Texas-Gulf Hispanic	Esther Garza	tghd.org
			Texas-Louisiana	Open	txlahispanic.org
			West Florida	Becky Neagent	westflorida.ag
			West Texas	Christina Sattesahn	westtexasag.org
			West Texas and Plains	Silvia Terrazas	www.wtapag.org
			Wisconsin-Northern Michigan	Laurie Ganiere	wnmdag.org
			Wyoming	Becky Walsh	wyomingministrynetwork.com





1445 N. Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802-1894



*Now is the time for us to learn to pray with boldness,  
confidence, and Audacious Faith.*

# General Council 2025

## August 5-8

*Orlando, Florida*



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