



New Beginnings

Happy New Year! I don't know about you but I love the beginning of each new year. It represents to me a fresh start, a clean slate, a new beginning.

No matter what has happened in the current year, the new year represents hope. Hope, that I will follow through on my new year's resolutions, hope that relationships, health, finances, you name it, will be better in the coming year than they are right now.

The Bible talks about new beginnings and the hope they bring with them. In Isaiah 43:18, 19 (NIV) God says "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

What an incredible promise! God is making something new for us even in the wilderness and wastelands of our life.

It is my prayer that our Women's Ministry program will provide you with some of the tools to connect with God to allow Him to do a mighty work in your life in 2024.

Daily Scripture Reading -- In this packet you will find a daily scripture reading for the next three months. January's topic is "New Beginnings," February's topic is "The Love of God," and March's topic is "The Peace of God." I would encourage you to take a few minutes every day, to read the daily verse, write it out in a journal or notebook and then spend a few minutes praying to God about what that text means to you.

Woman of the Bible -- I've included some thoughts about "The Woman at the Well." If ever a woman needed a new beginning, she would qualify. As you read this familiar story, notice how Jesus treated her. Dear sister, whatever is going on in your life, whatever your failures, sorrows, or shortcomings, please remember that Jesus loves you. He wants to treat you tenderly, not with harshness. He loves you!

Scripture Magnet -- Please use the enclosed scripture magnet to place the monthly scripture reading somewhere where you will see it each day and it will remind you of the texts you are reading.

2024 Women's Retreat -- I'm excited about the annual women's retreat. Our speaker will be Erin White with Adventist Frontier Missions. This young woman has led quite the life and will be sharing the lessons she has learned by depending on God through difficult situations. Please see the complete information on page two of this newsletter.

I'm praying God will provide a "New Beginning" for you in 2024.



Laura Worf is the Women's Ministry Leader for Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Our Mission:

To spiritually nourish and connect the women of the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in a supportive, enjoyable environment, and impact the women in the communities where they live.

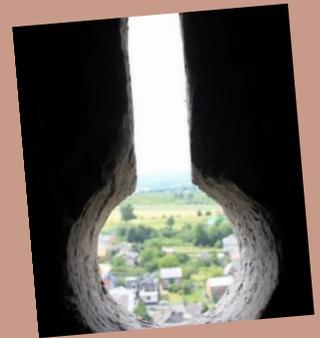
Our Vision:

The women in Montana will have a growing relationship with Jesus and each other.

Save the Date!

*2024 Women's
Retreat*

"Through the Keyhole"



August 30 - September 1
Abba's Haven, Lavina MT



“Through the Keyhole” theme of 2024 Women’s Retreat

Erin White will be the featured speaker at the 2024 Montana Conference Women’s Retreat. The retreat will be held August 30 - September 1, 2024 at Abba’s Haven in Lavina, Montana.

Who is Erin White?

Erin White is currently the Director of Development at Adventist Frontier Missions. She is a simple country girl who enjoys quiet time at home, early mornings with Jesus, zoos (and animals anywhere else,) and walks down a wooded dirt road with her husband Chris.

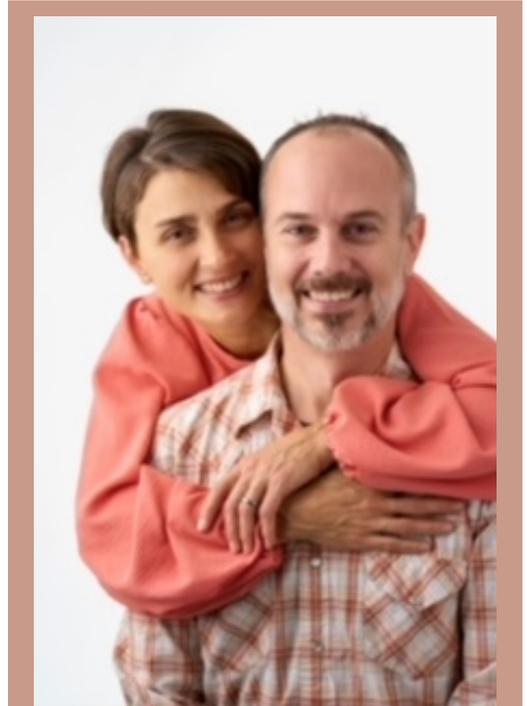
Erin and Chris served for a time as missionaries with Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) in a “creative access” area of North Africa. She currently has the amazing privilege and responsibility of connecting and ministering to AFM supporters around the world.

Just like you, she has had a life full of highs, lows, deep pain, great joy and unexpected adventures. Through it all she struggled with the “keyhole view” of events in her life until God used a painful loss to lead her to surrender all to Him. The result has been a journey of faith as she has seen a fuller picture of His character of love. And she is falling ever deeper in love with Jesus through the process.

Erin’s desire is to pass along what she continues to learn about deliverance from emotional and spiritual bondage and the joy and peace of trusting God with all of ourselves. She is eager to look with you “Through the Keyhole” to a more complete picture of our Heavenly Father. And she’s praying that we will have a deeper personal realization of freedom, victory and abundant life through Jesus Christ through our time together.

About Abba’s Haven

Abba’s Haven is a retreat center located in the majestic Bull Mountains along the Musselshell River near Lavina, Montana. Four airconditioned and heated buildings offer restroom and showers in each sleeping area that accommodates from 6-8 people.



Erin White with husband Chris.

*Complete details about
the retreat including
pricing will be available
soon at
www.mtcsda.org.*

Details about regional day-long retreats, camp meeting seminars and social event, and local women’s ministry activities and news in our next newsletter!

Would you like to be involved in our women’s ministry efforts? If so, please contact us at womensministries@montanaadventist.org



The Woman at the Well

*Do you ever feel like your life is in a dead-end pattern?
Do you keep repeating the same mistakes over and over?
Meet a woman who knew exactly how that felt --
but who took the risk of trying something completely different.*

Trouble had followed her all her life. The Bible doesn't tell us her name or her age. In fact, we know only one important thing about her biography, and that is that she had been married five times and was now living with a man not her husband (see John 4:18).

In ancient cultures, women never initiated divorce. A marriage ended only with the death of one partner or when a husband rejected or abandoned his wife.

We don't know what string of tragedies had led this woman through five marriages. Was she a widow five times over? Perhaps she was unable to bear a child--a situation which might have led one husband after another to reject her. Perhaps she repeatedly strayed outside of her marriages, causing her husbands to rid themselves of her. Or perhaps it was a combination of bad luck and bad conduct on both sides. The one thing we know for sure is that after five unsuccessful trips to the altar, her value in that society was nonexistent. As a widow or a rejected wife, she was completely without worth. In fact, she was held in such low esteem that a man was openly living with her without marrying her--in her society, the ultimate disgrace.

For years, her life had been trapped in a pattern from which there seemed no escape. Each new marriage had probably been greeted with hope and optimism. Perhaps this time she would be happily married, have a family, and find success and worth in the eyes of those around her. But time, after time, each marriage failed. Each time she found herself alone, a little less valuable, a little less worthy in the eyes of her community--and in her own eyes.

Left to herself, this woman had no idea how to break the cycle. By living with a man outside marriage, she was taking the only option left available to her. By now no one else would marry her, yet she knew no other path to self-worth and social acceptance than to depend on a man. As she trudged to the well in the hot midday sun, this nameless Samaritan woman had reached the limits of her hope, her faith, and her courage.

Usually the well was unoccupied in the middle of the day. But today, she found something different. She found a man sitting by the well.

He was unfamiliar. In fact, she recognized that he was not a Samaritan at all, but a Jew. She knew that he would have nothing but contempt for her--both because she was a woman, and because of her race. If he knew about her unhappy history, he would have even less reason to tolerate her.

But that was of little consequence. Men didn't address strange women they ran into on the streets. It was unacceptable behavior. Averting her eyes, she had begun lowering her bucket into the well, when she was surprised by the most unexpected conversation of her life.

Seemingly out of nowhere, Jesus said, "Will you give me a drink?"

She was shocked. "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" she gasped.

"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that ask you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water'" (John 4:10).

In a life that has fallen into a routine of failure, something completely unexpected breaks through--the Son of God, sitting by a village well without a bucket or a cup. In Jesus' simple human need for a drink He reaches out to the woman and touches her far greater need--her need for a life of meaning and value.

The Samaritan woman responded to Jesus' surprising approach. She was intrigued by His idea of "living water" although it took her awhile to realize that he was talking not about something to drink but about a inner spiritual renewal that could transform her life.

The life-changing moment in the conversation came when Jesus asked her to go call her husband. When she replied that she had no husband, Jesus used His prophetic insight to reveal the shame of her past and present life. He knew all about it. But in spite of all that, Jesus considered her worth talking to. He saw her as someone whose life could be transformed by God's gift of living water. And because Jesus saw her with new eyes, this woman's life was changed forever.

The same woman who shamefully crept to the well at noon to avoid hostile looks and cutting words, now ran back to the village, shouting her story at the top of her lungs. No longer was she afraid to attract attention. Her life no longer centered around her own failure, but around the hope Jesus offered.

"Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?'" (John 4:28).

The Samaritan woman left more than her water jar at that well. She left her sense of inferiority, her identity as a failed wife and an immoral woman. She walked away focused not on herself, but on Jesus. In opening herself to an unexpected conversation, she had found the way to break out of a cycle of failure and despair.

If your life seems to be caught in a dead-end cycle, if you feel that your value and self-worth has been lost somewhere along the way, Jesus offers hope. He reaches out in unexpected ways--through a simple conversation, an opportunity to help someone else, a moment alone in prayer--and gives you the promise of something better.

The living water that He offered to the Samaritan woman is available to you and me today. All we need to do is lay down our water jars--along with our failures, our despair, our lack of self-worth--and open ourselves up to the unexpected. Open up to Jesus and all that He has to give.



Adapted from "Daughters of Grace" by Trudy J. Morgan - Cole



January

New Beginnings

Day 1 – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 2 – Jeremiah 29:11

Day 3 – Isaiah 43:18-19

Day 4 – Ephesians 4:22-24

Day 5 – Lamentations 3:22-24

Day 6 – Isaiah 40:31

Day 7 – 1 Peter 1:3

Day 8 – Ezekiel 36:26

Day 9 – Philippians 3:13-14

Day 10 – Ecclesiastes 3:11

Day 11 – Matthew 7:7-8

Day 12 – Acts 3:19-20

Day 13 – Isaiah 65:17

Day 14 – Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 15 – Malachi 4:2

Day 16 – 2 Chronicles 7:14

Day 17 – Colossians 3:9-10

Day 18 – Psalm 73:25-26

Day 19 – Psalm 23:1-3

Day 20 – Romans 12:2

Day 21 – Romans 6:3-4

Day 22 – John 10:10

Day 23 – Isaiah 41:13

Day 24 – Philippians 4:6-7

Day 25 – Proverbs 16:9

Day 26 – Isaiah 60:1-2

Day 27 – Psalm 40:1-3

Day 28 – Galatians 6:14-16

Day 29 – Psalm 98:1-3

Day 30 – John 3:16-17

Day 31 – Revelation 21:4-5





February

The Love of God

Day 1 – John 3:16-17
Day 2 – Romans 5:8
Day 3 – 1 John 4:7-8
Day 4 – Romans 8:35-39
Day 5 – Zephaniah 3:17
Day 6 – Galatians 2:20
Day 7 – 1 John 4:16-19
Day 8 – 1 John 3:1
Day 9 – Jeremiah 31:3
Day 10 – Ephesians 2:4-5
Day 11 – 1 Peter 5:6-7
Day 12 – John 15:13
Day 13 – Ephesians 3:14-19
Day 14 – Psalm 86:15
Day 15 – Isaiah 54:10
Day 16 – Psalm 136
Day 17 – Romans 5:5
Day 18 – 1 John 4:9-11

Day 19 – John 13:34-35
Day 20 – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
Day 21 – Deuteronomy 7:9
Day 22 – Isaiah 49:15-16
Day 23 – John 15:9-11
Day 24 – Lamentations 3:22-23
Day 25 – Psalm 103:8-17
Day 26 – Titus 3:4-5
Day 27 – Luke 12:6-7
Day 28 – Ephesians 1:3-6





March

The Peace of God

Day 1 – 1 Peter 3:9-11
Day 2 – Proverbs 16:7
Day 3 – Isaiah 26:3
Day 4 – 1 Peter 5:6-7
Day 5 – Romans 12:18
Day 6 – John 16:33
Day 7 – Romans 15:13
Day 8 – Hebrews 12:14
Day 9 – Psalm 4:8
Day 10 – Isaiah 12:2
Day 11 – 1 Corinthians 14:33
Day 12 – Philippians 4:4-7
Day 13 – Colossians 3:15
Day 14 – Galatians 5:22-23
Day 15 – Romans 8:6
Day 16 – Philippians 4:8-9
Day 17 – Psalm 119:165
Day 18 – Isaiah 54:10
Day 19 – Romans 5:1

Day 20 – James 3:17-18
Day 21 – Romans 14:17
Day 22 – Isaiah 32:17
Day 23 – Matthew 6:31-33
Day 24 – Psalm 29:10-11
Day 25 – Isaiah 41:10
Day 26 – 1 Thessalonians 5:23
Day 27 – Isaiah 53:5
Day 28 – Proverbs 3:21-24
Day 29 – Isaiah 9:6
Day 30 – Matthew 5:9
Day 31 – 2 Thessalonians 3:16

