

# SLIGO WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER

## INFORM, CONNECT, EDUCATE

Summer/Fall 2025

From the earliest days of Jesus' ministry, women played vital roles—teaching, serving, leading, and bearing witness. That legacy continues today. Your gifts matter. Step boldly into ministry and help strengthen the Church with the talents God has entrusted to you

### Woman in the Night



Woman in the night, spent from giving birth,  
guard our precious light: peace is on the earth!

Come and join the song, women, children, men.  
Jesus makes us free to live again!

Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,  
touching is allowed: seek and you will find!

Woman at the well, question the Messiah,  
find your friends and tell, drink your hearts desire!

Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare;  
come and go in peace; love him with your hair!

Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek,  
leave your second place: listen, think, and speak!

Woman on the road, welcomed and restored,  
travel far and wide; witness to the Lord!

Women on the hill, stand when men have fled!  
Christ needs loving still, though your hope is dead.

Women in the dawn, care and spices bring;  
earliest to mourn; earliest to sing!

Come and join the song, women, children, men.  
Jesus makes us free to live again!

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# Come Out of Her, My People

By Debbie Eisele

When you hear the phrase: “Come out of her, my people...”, what comes to mind? What are we called to come out from?

We have focused on avoiding wicked “worldly pleasures” and on a future religious power pressuring us to worship differently - to the point that we fail to see deeper dilemmas facing us today.

The text is associated with “fallen Babylon” found in the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14:8 and echoed in 18:4, which early Adventists identified as the second beast of Revelation 13:11. The beast is described as a dragon pretending to be a lamb.

Adventists already saw huge contradictions in America’s Christian facade right from the beginning. They denounced America’s dragon-like conduct of enslaving people to increase its wealth and they denounced Christian nationalism, then known as the National Reform Association. Since Christian nationalism is reaching another crescendo today, I want to remind us of how early Adventists reacted to it.

In 1864, the National Reform Association approached President Lincoln with a petition containing thousands of signatures of clergy and politicians urging him to change the First Amendment. Ellen White spoke out against them saying:

“Many who unite with this movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon... We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience...

“The National Reform Movement, exercising the power of religious legislation, will, when fully developed, manifest the same intolerance and oppression that have prevailed in past ages. Human councils then assumed the prerogatives of Deity, crushing under their despotic power liberty of conscience; ...This evil is on the point of realization. [\(Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pages 452 and 712.\)](#)

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Adopting a healthy lifestyle is one of the most effective ways to reduce your risk of breast cancer. Strengthening your mind-body connection through mindfulness can help you stay grounded, especially during stressful moments. Mindfulness means being fully present, aware of your thoughts and emotions, and accepting them without judgment. This practice nurtures mental clarity and emotional resilience, which positively impacts physical health.

A strong mindset can be a powerful ally during life's challenges. Nutrition also plays a key role. The American Cancer Society recommends a Mediterranean-style diet rich in plant-based foods—fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains—high in fiber and nutrients. Limiting red and processed meats may further reduce cancer risk.

Staying informed and proactive about breast cancer is essential. Educate yourself, listen to your body, and make choices that support long-term wellness. Prevention begins with awareness, and small daily habits can lead to lasting protection.

Source: [National Breast Cancer Foundation](#)

*Continued from Page 2, Come Out of Her My People*

Adventists were considered the greatest counter movement to Christian nationalism - boldly promoting freedom of conscience for ALL faiths, including Jews, Muslims, and Hindus, and for allowing atheists the freedom to disbelieve. (*Fundamental Principles #14 See page 8*)

When Adventists first published their fundamental principles in 1897, support for the First Amendment was integral. They delivered strong messages to Congress and were able to deter further attacks on the First Amendment.

However, some Adventist preachers stated that they did not need to speak out against Christian nationalism. They said our mission is to preach the "Three Angels' Message." Ellen White responded by saying that they didn't "get it" - that speaking out against Christian nationalism IS the Three Angels' Message! (*[Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, December 11, 1888, Paragraph 14.](#)*) Let's be bold when we tell people about the Three Angels' Message today!



Debbie Eisele

### Resources

[Center for Adventist Research](#)

[Adventist Encyclopedia on the National Reform Association.](#)

[The Early Pioneers and Civic Engagement by Dwight Nelson](#)



## Rise In Faith: A Morning of Spirit, Sisterhood, and Sacred Strength



Sligo women gathered for the Rise in Faith Prayer Brunch hosted by Sligo Women's Ministries, April 13, 2025. The Sligo Adventist Church Fellowship Room was filled with warmth, worship, and the unmistakable presence of God as the event offered a sacred space to reflect, reconnect, and rise together in purpose.

Elizabeth Abel and Heather Griffin warmly welcomed the group. Worship music, led by Arely Kindo, lifted spirits and set the tone for the group.

Daniela Cruz introduced the keynote speaker, the Columbia Union's first woman executive officer, Celeste Ryan Blyden; her message, *The Power of Yeast*, stirred hearts and minds. Drawing from Matthew 13:33, Celeste reminded attendees that like yeast, our faith - though small - can permeate and transform everything around us. Her call to action was clear: "Without active yeast, your bread will not rise. And without active members, your church will not rise."

As part of the message, attendees exchanged Bible promise cards, symbolizing the shared strength and encouragement found in community. The promises, tucked into gift bags, echoed themes of trust, courage, and divine provision.

The morning included Awards and Affirmation segment led by Heather Oliver and Keila Carmona. The awards honored outstanding Sligo women whose lives reflect spiritual gifts.

At the close, Celeste Ryan offered a powerful Prayer of Anointing, inviting women to claim their promises and rise boldly in faith. And as the women left, they received fresh rolls, baked by Rita Williams, symbolic of acts of love.

This prayer brunch was more than an event. It was a strong reminder that when women rise in faith, communities rise with them.

Event in Picture: <https://sligowomensministry.org/prayer-brunch-april-2025>

## Honoring Our Women

By Elizabeth Abel

At the women's April prayer brunch, **Rise in Faith**, we honored several of the many outstanding women who quietly serve – and strengthen – Sligo Church. This special affirmation honored women whose lives reflect the spiritual gifts that uplift our church and community. Each recipient embodies a biblical legacy, providing a living testimony of faith, service, and love.

These honorees illuminate the diverse ways God works through His daughters. Their stories inspire us to walk boldly in our own callings.



Left to Right: Dr. Olive Hemmings (TEAM), Heather Oliver, Celeste Ryan Blyden (Guest Speaker), Zewdnesh Seyoum, Brenda Peace, Francia Bissereth, Olivia Matthews, Front – Elizabeth Abel (Lead), Charlotte Conway (TEAM)

### Spirit of Service Award

#### **Ivybelle Roye**

Gift: *Serving (Diakonia)* | Affirmation: *Martha of Bethany*

Ivybelle's quiet strength and tireless hospitality reflect Christ's servant heart. Whether greeting, encouraging, or nurturing her family, she ministers with unwavering devotion.

### Caring Heart Award

#### **Zewdnesh Seyoum**

Gift: Love and Kindness | Affirmation: *Hannah*  
Zewdnesh's compassion radiates through her motherhood and community presence. Her love is active, sacrificial, and deeply rooted in grace.

### Generous Giving Award

#### **Brenda Peace**

Gift: Giving | Affirmation: *Dorcas (Tabitha)*  
Brenda's decades of service in Sabbath School and beyond mirror Dorcas's legacy. Her generosity flows from spiritual abundance, touching lives with warmth and care.

### Fearless Leadership Award -

#### **Francia Bissereth**

Gift: Leadership | Affirmation: *Deborah*  
Francia leads boldly through ministries such as Prison Ministry, offering hope and discipleship. Her vision and courage break barriers and open spiritual doors.

### Community Leadership (Young Adults)

#### **Olivia Matthews**

Gift: Leadership | Affirmation: *Esther*  
Olivia mentors peers and serves the unhoused with wisdom and compassion. Her leadership is purpose-driven, anchoring young adults in Christ.

### Spirit of Unity Award

#### **Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM)**

Gift: Unity | Affirmation: *Women at the Tomb*  
T.E.A.M. champions women's ordination and equality in ministry. Their advocacy, scholarships, and events reflect faithful persistence and a vision for justice.

## Woman of Faith, a Voice for God: Huldah



by Joan Francis

Typically, when one thinks of spiritual leaders in the Old Testament, one may think of prophets such as Samuel, Jeremiah, or Isaiah. But Huldah is one of the few female prophetesses mentioned in the Bible. She lived during a time of apostasy and turmoil. The king had been assassinated, and eight-year-old Josiah became king. When he came into his own, he decided to reverse the apostasy that had been prevalent during the reigns of his father and grandfather.

After he found the Book of the Law in the restored temple, Josiah asked the High Priest Hilkiah for guidance. The high priest went to inquire from the Prophetess Huldah. She must have been known for her connection to God, for her wisdom and courage in sharing God's words to the people.

Huldah gave the king a sad prophecy, that Judah would be destroyed because of its disobedience. But she also shared God's promise that, because of Josiah's desire to follow God's way, the destruction would not come in his lifetime.

*Read the story of this little-known prophetess in [2 Kings 22](#) and [2 Chronicles 34](#).*



Joan Francis

*[Resources: Daughters of God](#)*

## Women Mentoring Women



By Heather Oliver

Our role model Jesus is also our example of the perfect mentor. And the Bible is replete with many other examples of mentoring: Ruth and Naomi, Deborah and Barak, Priscilla and Aquilla, Jethro and Moses, Moses and Joshua, Paul and Timothy. As disciples of Christ, women have a duty to mentor others to strengthen and build up the community of Christ.

### Finding Someone to Mentor

Mentees are all around us. Ask yourself, what group or family situations do I find myself in? Has God placed in my thoughts a particular woman? Is there someone you find naturally gravitating to you? Is there someone you feel would be a good fit for a task calling out for helpers? Ask God to help you connect with someone to mentor.

### Moving into Mentoring

When you spot someone whom you believe has potential and untapped talents, act. Initiate a conversation. Spend time together. Learn about them. What do they need to feel validated? What are their talents and interests? Listen with your ears and your eyes. Focus on what they are saying. Allow them to tell their story freely.

Encourage the individual, build their confidence, support them to take on a new role. Foster their talents; give productive feedback. In all things, demonstrate hospitality. Delegate to others as they work alongside you. Introduce them to others. Speak up for them. Pray with and for them.

Many suffer from loneliness and isolation. We can boost confidence and encourage connections through mentoring. May the Lord equip us to mentor one another, to take another under our wing and share what God has so freely given us.





**Connection Central:** Meets 9:00 am every Sabbath in Sligo Atrium.

#### Online Events

**Women of the Word:** 9:30 am every Sabbath, led by women.

**Prayer Gathering:** 11 am every Sunday and 7 pm every Wednesday

**Book Club:** 7 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday with Kay Rosburg

#### Calendar

**Sligo Hiking Club:** Third Saturday of every month at 3 pm. Enjoy the outdoors. Watch the bulletin for details. Contact Pr. Rick Johns to be on the mailing list.

**Discipleship 101:** Held Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Fellowship Room A and via our Prayer Gathering Zoom link. Everyone who completes the course will receive a certificate and be eligible to move to Discipleship 201. Make your spiritual journey thrive as a disciple for Jesus! Contact Pastor Rick Johns at [rjohns@sligochurch.org](mailto:rjohns@sligochurch.org).

#### WM Newsletter Team Members

*Elizabeth Abel, Joan Francis, Carolyn Kujawa, Elma LaTouche, Heather Oliver and Stephanie Roberts.*



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### Women's Ministry Vision, Mission, and Purpose

**Vision:** Glorify God by challenging women to know God personally, to grow in Christlikeness, to discover and use spiritual gifts, to love and serve others, and in all we do to reflect the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mission:** Empower, nurture, and spiritually uplift women in the church and the community.

**Purpose:** Encourage and support women as they discover their God-given gifts and fulfill their various roles in the church and the community.