

SLIGO WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER

CALLED TO HOPE. CALLED TO LOVE.

Summer 2026

Rahab, Woman of Empathy and Hope



Rahab, whose story we read in Joshua 2, is a citizen of Jericho, a city devoted to the most extravagant idolatry. According to one commentator, the inhabitants were very wealthy, but all the riches that God had given them they considered gifts of their heathen gods. Although corrupt and blasphemous, they had heard of the God of the Israelites.

“Our hearts did melt”

We see this in Rahab’s declaration to the two men Joshua had sent to spy out the land. When she learned who they were, she said to them: “As soon as we had heard these things [the miracles God had performed for Israel], our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for Jehovah your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.” Like the others in her city, Rahab could have turned the spies over to the authorities, but she was sympathetic to them and even lied to the soldiers searching for them. She was kind and, anticipating the change that was to come, she was hopeful.

This Outsider

As her story begins, she is triply marginalized—Canaanite, woman, and prostitute. Yet she moves to center stage as defender of the God of Israel. This outsider, now an insider, will belong to the lineage of Jesus the Redeemer. Rahab reminds us that hope often rises in unexpected places-and that God delights in lifting outsiders into His story.

Where Hope Lives

Hope is the breath that steadies us,
the whisper that we are not alone.
It grows wherever compassion lives,
in every kindness shown.
And when we choose to live it out,
joy walks beside us too.

Missionary and Teacher: A Legacy of Hope and Empathy

Pauline Olena Schilberg Guild's life is a remarkable testimony to what God can do through a heart anchored in hope and shaped by empathy. Born in 1882 in the shifting borderlands of Poland and Prussia, Pauline immigrated to the United States at age eight. She arrived without knowing English, was homeschooled for two years, and slowly found her footing in a new land. Her early struggles with language and belonging would later deepen her compassion for others navigating unfamiliar worlds.



Great Wall of China

Off to China

As a young woman, Pauline encountered the Seventh-day Adventist message and embraced it wholeheartedly. After training at South Lancaster Academy and the Foreign Mission Seminary in Takoma Park, she answered God's call—echoing Isaiah's "Here am I, send me"—and sailed for China in 1908. There she immersed herself in language study and soon took charge of the Chinese Girls' School in Chowkiakow (today Zhoukou). She taught history, geography, and Bible doctrines; translated religious literature; and led outreach to local women. Her work reflected not only skill but deep empathy for the girls and families she served.

Act of Love

"Her empathy became her mission field—opening her home, her classroom, and her heart to those God placed in her path."

In 1910, Pauline adopted a Chinese infant, An Hsi Li— an act of love that transcended culture, race, and distance. Her willingness to open her home and heart embodied the hope she carried into every assignment.

To China Together

After nearly seven years in China, Pauline returned to the United States and began teaching at Washington Missionary College [now Washington Adventist University], where she later married fellow educator Joseph Guild. Together they returned to China in 1923 for another term of service, teaching through periods of political unrest until safety concerns forced their return in 1927.

To Cross Boundaries

The Guilds spent the remainder of their careers shaping young minds at Washington Missionary College. Pauline's life—missionary, teacher, mother, mentor—reminds us that hope is not passive. It is lived out through empathy, courage, and the willingness to cross boundaries for the sake of the gospel. May Pauline's story inspire us to listen more deeply, serve more compassionately, and carry hope into every community we touch.

Source: [ESDA | Guild, Pauline \(Schilberg\) \(1882–1952\) and Joseph A. \(1881–1949\)](#)

In Search of Hope

By Kathy Roy Johnson



I don't know about you, but I am weary. We rarely go a day without encountering outrage—on the news, online, or even in casual conversation. Civility feels as though it is on a permanent vacation, and the good manners many of us were raised with have slipped away. We've forgotten how to speak to one another with respect. Not long ago, you and I could disagree quietly and respectfully. Now, if we see things differently, I'm labeled wrong or ignorant.

I'm not writing to persuade toward any political view, nor do I pretend there is a simple solution. But we are a people of Hope. So how do we, as Adventist Christians, hold on to hope—and reflect it to others?

Our Model

Jesus illustrates the answer: empathy. Whether healing the blind or choosing a man like Peter to lead the disciples, Jesus took time to understand each person's circumstances, without judgment or condemnation. Empathy looks at each individual and seeks to truly understand them. When we extend that same grace to those we disagree with, we often discover that our hopes and concerns are not as far apart as it may seem.

Always Hope

Once we begin to see others with empathetic understanding, hope is never far behind. As SDA Christians, we have hope. We place our faith in a Savior we have not seen but know deeply in our hearts. The One who loves us without measure invites us to follow Him—and to embody the hope He gives.

A Choice

Hope can be expressed in countless simple, meaningful ways: a smile to someone in the grocery store who looks discouraged; a note of appreciation to a community speaker—even if you didn't agree with every point; volunteering at a clothes closet; or helping create recreation or job opportunities so young people learn the value of teamwork. We can each choose our own way to express hope.

But a gentle warning: *once you commit to living out hope... joy has a way of showing up right beside it.*



The Healing Power of Hope and Love

"Hope is more than a feeling—it is the belief in a better future, the steady message that healing is possible. Mental well-being grows where people are surrounded by love, supported by community, and reminded they are not alone. As SAMHSA notes, hope is the catalyst for recovery— and love is the network that helps it take root." As women of faith, we help hope take root when we create spaces of love, listening, and belonging.

Source: SAMHSA Guiding Principles of Recovery.



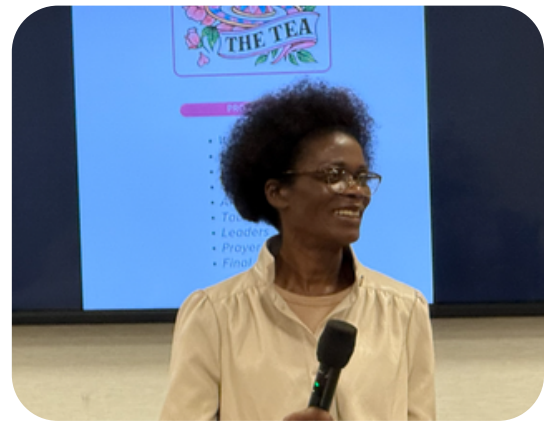
Women's History Month

On March 28, 2026, Sligo Church closed Women's History Month with a powerful sermon, "[Delivering Love](#)," by Dr. Olive Hemmings. She encouraged women to remember they are called to deliver love as Christ did. She also noted that when people quote [Gen. 3:16](#), "he shall rule over you," remind them this was descriptive of the human sinful condition and that Christ came to return to the divine plan of "male and female" created in the image of God.

From the Divine

Hemmings encouraged women to understand the message of deliverance as they acknowledge that their power is within and comes from the Divine. She urged them to "Take up the cross and follow Christ, delivering love and justice."

After the church service, we enjoyed tea organized by Dee Taylor and kindly served by four gentlemen. We continued discussing ways women can "[Deliver Love](#)."



Dr. Olive Hemmings

Weekly & Monthly Gatherings

Connection Central: 9:00 am every Sabbath in Sligo Atrium

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

Prayer Gathering: 11:00 am every Sunday and 7:00 pm every Wednesday

Book Club: 7:00pm, 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Sligo Gardening Club: 12:00 pm every third Sunday.

Sligo Hike: every third Sabbath afternoon. Check sligochurch.org for details



Quick glimpses from the lovely tea.

Stay Connected

Keep your contact info current.

<https://sligochurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/login>

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.

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