

# SLIGO WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER

INFORM, CONNECT, EDUCATE

Summer 2024



[www.sligowomensministry.org](http://www.sligowomensministry.org)

## INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

### Call for Peace

By Elizabeth Abel



Tears of war have become a norm as we watch the news coming from Israel and Gaza. Helpless women are raped, abused, and kidnapped. Innocent children and women are killed as the war, terror, and conflict continue. Images of orphans and mutilated children linger. The tears and total helplessness of the innocent cry out for justice. Doctors Without Borders reports the most dangerous place for a child in this world today is Gaza.

### Can We Forget?

Safe in our homes, we can quickly switch the channel, get absorbed in our daily challenges, and forget this terror. Does your heart let you do that? In a world closely linked by technology, our borders have dramatically broadened. Our church family includes members from regions on both sides of any war. They worship in Adventist churches and serve in pastoral ministry, education, or healthcare.

As individuals what can you and I do? We can find comfort in giving to ADRA, knowing it goes directly to the children of Gaza affected by this war. (<https://adra.org/adras-lebanon-response-a-beacon-of-hope-amid-crisis>).

### A Model

As members of a church body, is there anything we can do? I am moved by the work of Churches for Middle East Peace ([CMEP](http://cmep.org)) in Washington, DC, a coalition of more than 30 national church communions and organizations of Christian faith ([cmep.org](http://cmep.org)). They encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East, with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They mobilize US Christians to

## Abigail the Peacemaker

By Carol J Jednaszewski



We are all familiar with the story of Abigail the peacemaker, who saved her husband Nabal's household from violence and possible destruction after Nabal harshly refused hospitality to David and his men. This was a terrible slight, especially after David and his men had protected Nabal's servants and assets for some time.

Hearing of what her husband did, Abigail, described in 1 Samuel 25:3 as a woman of "good understanding," immediately mobilized to prevent retribution – and save not only her own household, but David too, from acting rashly.

Here are a few things we can learn from Abigail's peacemaking actions:

- She allowed herself to be led by God. She understood immediately her husband's error and, led by God, followed that course of action without hesitation.
- She was humble and kind in addressing the wronged person. "With kind words she sought to soothe David's irritated feelings, and she pleaded with him on behalf of her husband. Without ostentation or pride, but full of wisdom and love for God, Abigail revealed the strength of her devotion to her household; and she made it plain to David that the unkind course of her husband was the outburst of an unhappy and selfish nature." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 666.
- She didn't try to avoid responsibility for the wrong. "Abigail met David with respect, showing him honor and deference, and pleaded her cause eloquently. While not excusing her husband's insolence, she pleaded for his life." EGW, Manuscript 12, 1891.
- She gave God the credit for the outcome. "Abigail did not take to herself the credit for turning David from his hasty purpose, but gave to God the honor and the praise... The piety of Abigail, like the fragrance of a flower, breathed out all unconsciously in face and word and action. The Spirit of the Son of God was abiding in her soul. Her speech, seasoned with grace, and full of kindness and peace, shed a heavenly influence." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Page 666.

The secret of Abigail the peacemaker is that the Spirit of the Son of God was abiding in her soul. This peace is for us as well. When we let Jesus live out his life within us, we can be peacemakers, too. "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). A cup filled with sweet water cannot spill one bitter drop, no matter how violently jolted.

From: [1888 Message Study Committee and Glad Tidings Publications, October 30, 2010](#)

## Ana Stahl: She Brought Peace

By Joan A Francis

“Biblical peace, or shalom, is a sweeping wholeness of life . . . where shalom prevails, freedom and safety prevail; justice overcomes oppression; plenty supplants poverty; joy defeats gloom and shame.” In addition to standing for nonviolence, the Adventist heritage includes other dimensions of peacemaking such as prophetic witness and shalom-nurturing activism. (*The Peacemaking Remnant*, p. 80).

An aspect of peacemaking that we sometimes overlook is the aspect of “nurturing shalom – restoring health and wholeness in human communities.” A lady who took this to heart was Ana Stahl. She and her husband began working in Peru in 1909 and remained in the country for three decades, founding Adventist chapels, clinics and schools in the region of Lake Titicaca.”



Ana Stahl

Ana and her husband helped “to empower Peru’s indigenous people and shatter an oppressive alliance of white landowners, politicians, and corrupt clergy. In the 1990s, the great Peruvian Catholic theologian Gustavo Gutierrez paid tribute to the Stahls as precursors to his own liberation theology.”

Ana and her husband preached a gospel that called for equality between Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. Soon, scores of co-educational schools were established. In addition, schooling equipped the Indian population to challenge those principalities and powers which had held them subject. The Stahl schools taught Indian women and men reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as health and hygiene. Family-oriented health and hygiene practices resulted in a disciplined lifestyle. Reading revealed a world far larger than their parochial Peruvian Altiplano; writing enabled them to circumvent corrupt local judges and to file Memorials (written testimonies); arithmetic equipped them to boycott the hacienda-operated company store and local market and to set up their own markets.

Reading the Bible also enabled them to envision a new heaven and a new earth that included the Indians; it also equipped them to envision a present order in which Indian rights were respected. Ana Stahl brought Shalom to the area.

From [Adventist Encyclopedia : Ana Stahl](#)

## Recognize Those Who Mother Us

By Hazel R. Marroquin

Mother's Day has evolved from its traditional purpose of honoring and appreciating our mothers to now encompassing other significant women in our lives, such as grandmothers, aunties, and those who have played a nurturing role.

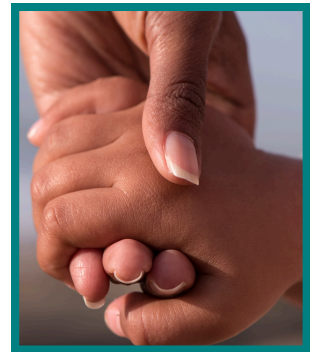
During my first Mother's Day at Sligo Church, I was moved by the way the church not only recognized the mothers within our congregation, but also took the time to honor the women from our church and community who have made a positive impact on our lives. Recently, I read an article that suggested Mother's Day should not be celebrated at church because for different reasons it is a hard day for some women.

In the Bible as I read the story of Hannah, I noted that she was immediately described as being childless. Hannah is grieving and immensely stressed! (see 1 Samuel 1:16). In her desperation, she pleads with God to not consider her worthless.

Today, there are women who continue to face struggles like Hannah's. They too may find themselves able to utter only prayers of longing and grief. While we celebrate Hannah's eventual joy

and the birth of her son Samuel, we must also acknowledge the pain and heartbreak experienced by modern-day Hannahs. Some are still waiting for miracles or have endured the devastating loss of a child. How can they find solace and celebrate on Mother's Day?

Hannah's pastor, Eli, encouraged her to seek God's peace, shalom (completeness, soundness, welfare) (1 Samuel 1:17). Just as Eli encouraged Hannah, the pastors at Sligo Church want to extend their support and encouragement to you on your journey. We are committed to loving, valuing, and celebrating you, and we thank you for the immeasurable contributions you have made to our community, even through your own grief. God bless you immensely. Shalom!



### Mother's Day Fact

Did you know Mother's Day began as a women's movement to better the lives of Americans? Its origins spring from lifelong activists Ann Reeves Jarvis and Julia Ward Howe, who championed efforts toward better health, welfare, and peace. Howe, poet and reformer, called for a "Mother's Day for Peace" dedicated to the celebration of peace and the eradication of war. As expressed in her "Mother's Day Proclamation" from 1870, Howe felt that women of many nationalities should hold a congress to promote peace.

## Books on Peace and Peacemaking

### **The Peacemaking Remnant,**

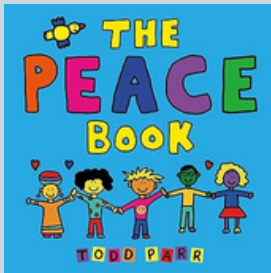
Edited by Douglas Morgan. Adventist Peace Fellowship, 2005.

### **Peacekeeping Principles: Responding to Conflict Biblically**

Pamphlet, Peacemakers Ministries, 2018

### **The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict**

by Ken Sande. Baker Books, 2004.



### **The Peace Book,**

by Todd Parr

*Peace is making new friends.*

*Peace is helping your neighbor.*

*Peace is a growing a garden.*

*Peace is being who you are.*

### *Continued from Page 1 - A Call to Peace*

advocate for equality, human rights, security, and justice for all people of the Middle East. Grassroots activism includes writing to elected officials in Congress, meeting them in person, and writing Letters to the Editor. Can we do the same?

### **A Ministry of Reconciliation**

During Spring Council 2012, the General Conference executive committee voted for the Call to Peace. The Christian ministry of reconciliation aims to restore human dignity, equality, and unity through the grace of God. Churches should be known for their spiritual contributions and support of quality of life, emphasizing peacemaking. Our church urges Christians and people of goodwill to actively participate in and sustain peace. This requires bridge-building for reconciliation. Christ, the Prince of Peace, wants His followers to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9). Let us each actively promote peace, “do unto others,” and love as God loves us.

### *References*

[The Most Dangerous Place in the World to be a Child | Doctors Without Borders - USA](#) June 7, 2024

[Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust | Holocaust Encyclopedia \(ushmm.org\)](#)

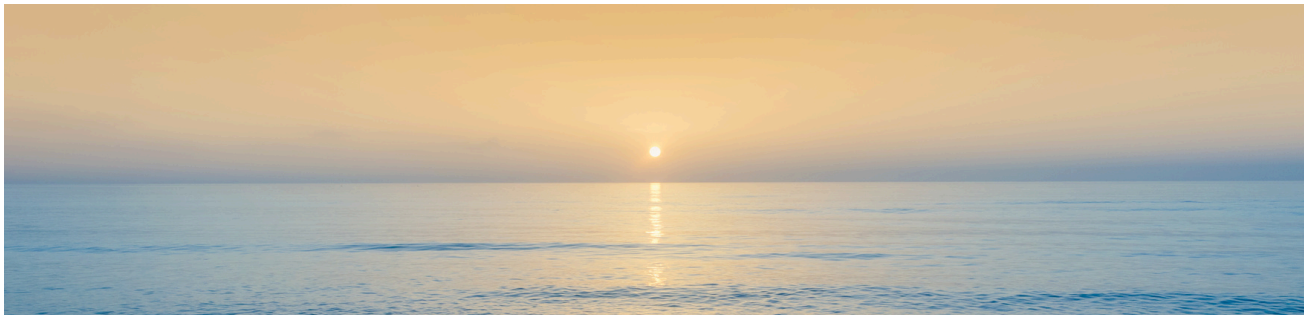
[ADRA's Lebanon Response: A Beacon of Hope Amid Crisis | ADRA International](#)

[Call for Peace - General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists](#) April 18, 2002

[Home - Churches for Middle East Peace Working Together: Peace is Possible \(cmep.org\)](#)

[I Am a Seventh-day Adventist Pastor in Israel. This Is My Story - Adventist Review](#), March 11, 2024

[God in Gaza](#) March 11, 2024



## Becoming a More Peaceful Person

By Jay Sheen

**Have a Routine** – When you are organized with your days, you will be better prepared to calmly face all the unpredictable twists and turns that are out of your control.

**Don't Rush to judgment** – Try to understand all the facts. Don't jump to conclusions. Look at the good in all things.

**Respond Rather than React** – In unwelcome situations, create a space, a pause. Adjust your thoughts and emotions instead of lashing out with a reckless reaction.

**Pray** - Prayer links you to God, the ultimate source of peace.

**Spend Time Outside** – Being in nature gives a sense of peace.

**Forgive** – It is impossible to be a peaceful person while holding a grudge, harboring resentment, or plotting revenge. The more you forgive, the lighter you will feel!

**Women's Ministry Newsletter Team:** Elizabeth Abel, Joan Francis, Carol Jednaszewski, Carolyn Kujawa, Elma LaTouche, Leida Martinez, Heather Oliver

## 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.

## Fresh Faces and Appointments



### **Keila Carmona, Pastor for Youth and Young Adults**

Pastor Keila is passionate about walking with people through difficulties, directing them to Jesus' life-changing love. Her education prepares her well to work with young people, as her dual master's degrees in Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Social Work attest. In her free time, she enjoys art museums, musicals, and catching up with friends.

### **G. Nicole Mattox, Office Manager and Executive Assistant**

Nicole has over 20 years of experience as an Administrative Assistant and Office Manager, working at the General Conference, Spencerville Academy, and Washington Adventist University. Nicole also serves as Sligo's Church Clerk. Nicole is married to Edward Mattox III, and they have four adult young men. She enjoys taking walks in nature, working in her garden, and spending time with her family.



### **Karell Bailey, Business Administrator/Treasurer**

Karell Bailey, the Business Administrator for Sligo Church, has over 20 years of experience in various accounting and business operations leadership roles. She has a heart for ministry as evidenced in her years of service in treasury, children's ministries, and serving as a foster parent in Richmond, VA, for approximately a decade. Karell is also a published author.

### **Lara Beaven, Chair TA Prep**

Lara Beaven, the newly appointed Chair of Takoma Academy Preparatory School, is a journalist who has written about federal environmental policy for *Inside Washington Publishers* for over 25 years. When not spending time with her husband, Ron DeClerck, and children, Josie and Calvin, she enjoys knitting, crocheting, the Sligo Church Book Club, and teaching the Little Lambs class for Adventurers.





**CONNECTION CENTRAL** | 9:00 AM  
EVERY SABBATH IN SLIGO ATRIUM

Would you like to join Women's  
Ministry Newsletter Team?  
Please send a note to  
[womensministry@sligochurch.org](mailto:womensministry@sligochurch.org)

## CALENDAR



**International Weekend**  
**September 7-8**



**Dental/Vision Clinic**  
**October 20**

Volunteers from Sligo, Emmanuel Brinklow and Beltsville Churches join to provide health related services to those in the Hyattsville, Langley Park and Takoma Park area at TA Prep and Takoma Academy.



### Sligo Welcomes Our New Pastors



**Pastor for Children and Family**  
**Teddy Bagassien**



**Pastor for Youth and Young Adults**  
**Keila Carmona**



**Pastor for Community Outreach and Discipleship**  
**Rick Johns**

Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church  
<https://sligochurch.org>