

Northern California Conference

# Women's Ministries

## Lodi Turning Points Conference

At the Lodi Turning Points Conference, Kelly Mawrer and Jolyne Simler brought us into "The Court of the King." Friday evening prepared us for worship with our keynote speaker, Pastor Jennifer Woody of the Auburn Adventist Academy Church in Auburn, Washington.

Methods to Boost the Immune System" with nutritionist Jessica Vierra and "WM Tool Box" with our board



### Purse-SON-ALL

Over 85 purses were filled with personal items, shampoo, conditioners, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and bath salts. Each purse came with a book of encouragement and a special quilt made by Susie Sisk of Chico. Susie has made hundreds of quilts for both the Redding and Lodi Turning Points Conferences. Members of the WM Advisory Board bring items for the bags, and the attendees bring bags and purses and then pack them during the day's lunch break.

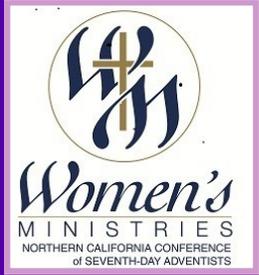
secretary Anna McMillen. We were privileged to have our PUC WM Director Dorothy Means with us to lead out in a panel discussion.

Our caterer, Alissa Wallace and Lana Brauer catered and decorated beautifully.

"Success through Surrender" was Pastor Jennifer's final session, and the Holy Spirit led many women to rededicate their lives to Jesus Christ. We were incredibly blessed by this conference and look forward to the Redding Conference in November.

"Our Daily Walk" was the theme of the two-day conference. "Searching For What's Already Found" was Pastor Jennifer's opening session. Mari Ditgen introduced us to the Young Women's Ministries Advisory Board, and Dr. Karen White shared the ministries of United4theCause in the NCC.

Pastor Jennifer gave us "The Best Diet," recipes for Bible studies to explore. Breakout groups included "EnditNow" with Julia Symes, "Conflict: How Low Can/Should We Go!" with Michelle Husbands and Allison Williams, Healthy Gurls 2019 with Dr. Karen White (yes, gurls with a U!), "Super Immunity: Natural



Mary Jo Lauderdale,  
NCC Coordinator

- Shirley Abell
- Rose Briley
- Maricia Ditgen
- Kate Barry Edwards
- Teresa Leal
- Evva Martinez
- Stephanie Mason
- Mary Maxson
- Anna McMillen
- SoonYoung Chung Park
- Vesteria Stilson
- Julia Symes
- Linda Waltman
- Karen White

Women's Ministries  
Turning Points North  
Conference

Redding  
November 9, 2019  
Lodi  
February 21 & 22, 2020

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Cassava Bread Bakery



Goat Distributions



Goat Distributions



Clearing Land for Garden Seeds



Glasses Distribution

## Update: Congo Widow's Mission Project

Over the past year, there have been presidential elections in the DRC. This has made it difficult for our ministry, but we have progressed. We have had goat distributions, and we helped start a bakery for women who have hope because they were given goats. We sent seeds to help start gardens, and the Chico Church sent VBS shirts for many people who were thrilled to receive them. Hundreds of glasses were sent, and we have an ophthalmologist who comes to

the villages to fit the women and a few men, too. Because of the strife in the country, food was very limited, and many people were struggling to live. We bought truckloads of beans, rice, olive oil and flour to help sustain many widows. News media from one of the larger cities

came to interview Pastor Gazore "Jean" Bazungu to ask why his church was helping Congolese people. He told them that NCC WM cared for the widows. We praise God for the generous gifts that our NCC women have given. – Mary Jo



## Redding Turning Points North Conference



Carissa McSherry was the keynote speaker at the Redding Turning Points North Conference. Carissa has spent the last five years as an evangelism speaker and teacher for Amazing Facts. She is currently enrolled at Loma Linda University as a chaplaincy student. "More than Enough," "The Healing Touch" and "How to Rise Again" were the titles of her three presentations. Carissa took us on a journey back to three individuals in the Bible. "It was like we stepped back into the story ourselves," someone said. "I felt I was

living a part of each story."

Dorothy Means led a panel discussion, and breakout groups included "Safe to Save" by Dr. Karen White, "Healing Grief: From Tragedy to Triumphant" by Shirley Abell and Mary Jo Lauderdale, and "Domestic Violence in the Church: EnditNow." Because of the Camp Fire, one of our speakers was not able to come, so Pat Gheen filled in at the last minute with the health benefits of essential oils, and she gave a wonderful presentation. Maricia Ditzgen led the Young Women's Ministries breakout groups. Music was by Jodi Dilger and Judy Crabtree.

Purse-SDN-ALL Ministries is a ministry to homeless women living in shelters. We ask the women coming to the conference to bring a large purse or nice shopping bag. The Women's Ministries Advisory Board purchased all types of personal items for the women, and Susie Sisk, a childhood friend and

neighbor of Mary Jo's, made 100 lap quilts to put in the large purses and bags. The bags were taken to the local women's shelter following the conference. Susie worked on more quilts for the February conference in Lodi.

Linda Waltman is the Redding regional director, and local area women contributed by greeting, decorating and helping Shirley Abell, who catered Women asked us to please come back next year.



### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

For 2019  
 May 5, 2019  
 July 14, 2019  
 September 8, 2019  
 November 3, 2019  
 January 12, 2020

TURNING POINTS CONFERENCE REDDING  
 November 9, 2019

TURNING POINTS CONFERENCE LODI  
 February 21 & 22, 2020

## Young Women's Ministries

### Young Women's Ministries Recognition Banquet

April 14, 2019

6:00-9:00pm

Sacramento Central Church

Fellowship Room

6045 Camellia Ave

Sacramento, CA 95819

Contact: Mari Ditgen

[mari.ministry@gmail.com](mailto:mari.ministry@gmail.com) or 916-545-0630



*Invite the Young Ladies  
from your Church*

#### Let God Choose

*As for God, His way is perfect! Psalm 18:30*

by Roy Lessin - [www.meetmeinthemeadow.com](http://www.meetmeinthemeadow.com)

(Permission granted to share online.)

Let God choose for you, it will be the right decision.

Let God guide you, it will be the right direction.

Let God plan for you, it will be in the right timing.

Let God measure for you, it will be the right portion.

Let God help you, it will be the right care.

Let God instruct you, it will be the right teaching.

Let God prepare you, it will be the right training.

Let God counsel you, it will be the right perspective.

Let God fight for you, it will be the right outcome.

Let God work in you, it will be the right result.



Julia Symes, NCC Women's Ministries **enditnow** coordinator, spoke at the Chico Church and the Southgate Church for Abuse Prevention Sabbath. She also gave presentations at the Turning Points Conferences in Redding and Lodi. On Feb. 15, Julia spoke to the Yuba City Church youth group on Friday night. Dr. Paul Vance spoke on Sabbath morning, and NCC Risk Management Director Jeffery Maxwell and Julia spoke on Sabbath afternoon on abuse prevention. On Feb. 25, Julia and Jeffery spoke at the Redding Regional SDA Pastors Meeting.

Contact Julia: [Jrsymes@gmail.com](mailto:Jrsymes@gmail.com).



## United 4 the Cause Breast Cancer Support

Dr. Karen White holds a doctorate in organizational leadership with an emphasis in transformational leadership. She serves as a leadership consultant and Christian life coach. She is also the Founder of United4theCause, a nonprofit, faith-based breast cancer support ministry dedicated to empowering women and families on the breast cancer journey. White is a six-and-a-half-year survivor of triple negative breast cancer. She is also a member of the NCC WM advisory board and is organizing chapters of United4theCause throughout the NCC. Karen is available to come speak to your WM groups. She and Jackie Morganfield just held a conference in Redding on March 2 and Fairfield on March 3. This is a wonderful way to minister to the women who are going through the journey of breast cancer.

Contact Karen: [mskareny@gmail.com](mailto:mskareny@gmail.com)





A Message from Mary Jo:  
NCC Women's Ministries Coordinator

Greetings Ladies,

The year 2018 was definitely challenging in many ways. But 2018 was also a year when I saw God working in incredible ways. I love the words of Joseph, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good." Joseph's brothers meant to kill him, but one brother, by God's grace, placed him in a pit, and then the brothers sold him to Egypt. As a child that was my favorite Bible story.

This year, I felt like the Joseph story was a part of my family's life. Satan hates God's kids. He is not just wanting to make us unhappy or miserable; he is wanting to destroy us. I have heard so many people blame God when things are hard for them or the ones they love. When disasters happen we hear, "It was an act of God." Then there are times when we blame God or Satan when we may need to carry some responsibility ourselves.

A few days before the Redding Conference, I ended up at Feather River Hospital on October 31, just a few days before the Camp Fire. Two days after surgery, the difficult call came, and my doctor said, "You have cancer." It was a numbing thought, but not as difficult as the one I had heard just seven months before at our local hospital when I was told my son had cancer. Bryon was diagnosed with colon cancer and had surgery to remove 14 inches of his colon. He was 45 years old.

For weeks Bryon had wound care before beginning chemotherapy at the Feather River Cancer Center. On the third or fourth round, we almost lost him because his potassium level went so low, and doctors were fearful that his heart would stop or be damaged. God was good; Bryon continued his path of chemo, and then I joined the team cancer group. Watching Bryon and many of the people who were going to the cancer center, I realized the incredible strength and courage it took to fight this disease. Did I have that strength?

A few days later, I walked outside my home early in the morning and saw the black sky. I quickly got dressed and went to the church, watching updates on my phone and realizing this was a horrendous fire coming toward our neighbors in Paradise. Soon, evacuated people came to our church, and later my home was filled with family because they were evacuated. We found homes for people, and then the Chico church area was also evacuated. So my house was packed with people, and my car was packed for the Redding Conference, and we headed to Redding. I left Redding to go back to Chico and begin to find people from my congregation who lived in Paradise and Magalia. I was being transferred to Palo Alto for major surgery, but because of the fire, my transfer was lost. My doctor's home was destroyed, and for six hours he was unaccounted for until he finally left to go down the hill—after making sure all his patients in Feather River Hospital were safe. His story is nothing short of a miracle.

The next weeks were crazy, with heartache for the Camp Fire victims and survivors. My job was to find the families and make sure they were in safe places. Many times all they had were the smoky clothes on their backs. In a couple of weeks, I had all the Chico church members accounted for, except for two.

And then the call came for me to go to Palo Alto for surgery. My doctor was wonderful, and my surgery went well. I had no cancer in the lymph nodes or other organs. Recovery took some time, and I was able to work some from home. The pathology reports showed that the doctors had been able to get all the cancer. My son had a clear CT scan, and on December 31, both of us were able to say, "God blessed us to get through the journey of cancer."

These experiences have given me a sense of how fragile life is and how to live each day as if it is your last. Enjoy the people who really love you. Reach out and touch the lives of others around you. Enjoy the flowers, the sky and the sunsets. Cuddle with your dog or pet you cat with a little more appreciation, and write a note to someone who needs a bit of encouragement. Today I got a call that a friend lost her daughter and granddaughter in a horrific accident. I am overcome by her faith. Life is for the moment, and there are no guarantees. We must continue TRUSTING our lives in the hands of our God.

As I sit here writing this, I realize how blessed I am to enjoy another day. God has been good to me throughout my life. Easy, NO, but I can see where God knows best and has been beside me through it all. And I love Him for sticking with me. I need Him every day, every hour, every second.

Blessings,

*Mary Jo*

## Congolese Friends



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