



# MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE

Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

## October 2015

### Member Involvement

Circle Coordinator  
Vera Moore

Birthday Cards to MMM Circle  
Patsy Adams

Birthday Cards to Missionaries  
Melissa Motes

Weekly Prayer Focus  
Norma Spiller

Children's Sabbath Planning  
Notalsia Whiting

Get Well Cards MMM Circle  
Glenda Contos

UMCOR Health Kits  
Glenda Contos

Bake Sale Workers  
Dawn Seese  
Glenda Contos

Bake Sale Bakers  
Dawn Seese  
Glenda Contos  
Melissa Motes  
Angel Dahlgren

Bake Sale Posters  
Kerry Cohen

Safe Haven Workers  
Glenda Contos

Soup Sale Workers  
Glenda Contos

Soup Makers for Soup Sale  
Glenda Contos

Crafters  
Nancy Bell & Vera Moore

Cookies for Homecoming  
Glenda Contos  
Norma Spiller

*Please let us know if some have volunteered and not been listed.*

### UMW Reading Program 2016

The complete Reading Program 2016 may be obtain by the following:

[Online descriptions and ordering](#)

[The Catalog](#)

[Consolidated list of 2011-2016 books](#)

[Audio books available from the 2016 program](#)

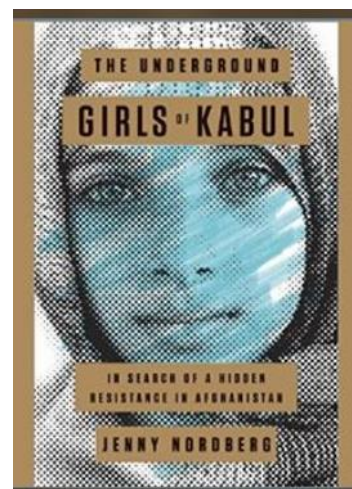
Here we share reviews from one book in each of the five categories as we experienced them from the audio versions.

## EDUCATION FOR MISSION

### THE UNDERGROUND GIRLS OF KABUL: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan

Written by: Jenny Nordberg - Narrated by: Kirsten Potter  
Length: 10 hrs and 56 mins

We've read and heard previously how parents desire a son over a daughter but until you read this book you'll not truly understand the Afghanistan culture surrounding the birth of a girl. You will share tea with cucumber sandwiches in a secluded room even while the war rages outside. You will quickly begin to understand why girls dress like boys. Fascinating reading even if you are not working toward one of United Methodist Women's Reading Program Plans. This beautifully narrated book would be first on my list even if it were in a category other than Education for Mission.

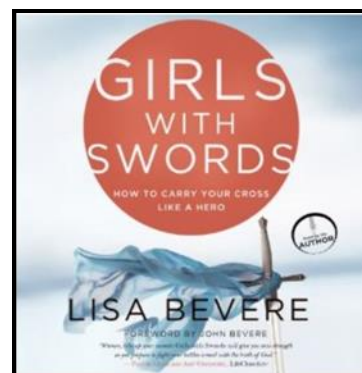


## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### GIRLS WITH SWORDS: How to Carry Your Cross Like a Hero

Written by: Lisa Bevere - Narrated by: Lisa Bevere  
Length: 6 hrs and 45 mins

I see this as a commentary on the variety of ways we are given the privilege and responsibility of using the Word of God. Scripture is given to support you as you take up the cross of Christ, put on your crown as a daughter of the King and wisely make use of the words of the scripture as true followers of Christ. This book will give new meaning to the "Sword Drills" you may have experienced as children and youths. You will be inspired to help others commit scripture to memory. Leaders will be selected from those who exhibit wise use of God's word. Leaders will be secure in their role as they learn to properly use their swords.



**Selections From the Prayer Calendar**  
+ *Mary and Martha Birthdays*

- OCT 1 Helen Byholt Lovelace (M)
- OCT 2 Senegal: Senegal Mission Initiative
- OCT 3 The Vashti Center, Thomasville, Ga.
- OCT 4 Kevin Nelson (HMR)
- OCT 5 Mandy Caruso-Yahne (D)
- OCT 6 Mandy Caruso-Yahne (D)
- OCT 7 Darlene Logston (US-2)  
**Mary Messer**
- OCT 8 Hannah Hanson (M)
- OCT 9 Michelle Ivy (MI)
- OCT 10 Esther Karimi Gitobu (M)
- OCT 11 Rachel Harvey (D)
- OCT 12 Sarah Mudge (US-2)
- OCT 13 Angel Ray (D)
- OCT 14 Josephine Pablo (D)
- OCT 15 Modesto Ramírez-Romero (NPHLM)
- OCT 16 Lyda Pierce (NPHLM)
- OCT 17 Tiffania Willetts (MI)
- OCT 18 Wesley Community Centers of Nueces County, Tx.
- OCT 19 Barbara Skarbowski (D)
- OCT 20 Mozambique: United Methodist Church  
**Kerry Cohen**
- OCT 21 Stephanie Suggs (D)
- OCT 22 Kristina Thorson (US-2)
- OCT 23 Young Seon Kim (M)**
- OCT 24 Wesley Community Centers of Savannah, Ga.
- OCT 25 Beth Kauffman (MI)  
**Donna Alexander**
- OCT 26 Beth Kauffman (MI)
- OCT 27 Lisa Williams (M)
- OCT 28 Wesley Neal (M)
- OCT 29 Slovakia In Mission Together
- OCT 30 Jeannie Chaney (D)
- OCT 31 Wesley Neal (M)

**Missionary of the Month - Young Seon Kim**  
**Happy Birthday - October 23!**

The Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as director of the Next Generation Ministries of the church in Tanzania, based in Dar es Salaam.



Next Generation is an effort to recruit and equip young leadership for ministry and mission in a country with a youthful population and where United Methodists shows promise of extensive growth. In 2014, Tanzania was a provisional annual conference, with plans to become a full annual (regional) conference as soon as possible within the North Katanga Episcopal Area, centered in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The first United Methodist missionaries in Tanzania came from DR Congo.

Objectives of Rev. Kim's work include the preparation of pastors and lay leaders with skills in relating to young people and analysis of the youth ministries presently underway in each of the church's districts. Tanzania is a country of some 50 million people of diverse religions, including Christianity, Islam, and traditional African faiths.

Rev. Kim, a native of South Korea, is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, ordained an elder in 1999. She received her theological education at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, graduating in 1997 with a Master of Divinity degree. She earlier earned a Master of Arts degree in TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea.

Rev. Kim is the first Christian in her family and has led other family members into the church. Her introduction to Jesus and Christian faith came in vacation Bible school when she was eight years old. At age 18, she made a commitment to missionary service. "I said to God, 'Yes, I will go wherever you want me to go and I will do whatever you ask me to do.'"

In 1992, Young Seon came to the Southern Illinois University to study English and prepare for missionary service. The Rev. In-Sook Hwang of the Carbondale Korean United Methodist Church encouraged her to attend seminary and while there she experienced a call to seek ordination. Her first appointment was as associate pastor of South Suburban Korean United Methodist Church in the Chicago area, where she worked especially with English-speaking second-generation Korean Americans and also non-Korean members of the congregation. She also served several

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Responsively Yours: Rooted in Christ

by Harriett Jane Olson

Recently I have been reading deeply about the history of our movement of women in mission. Some of this has been prompted by the anniversaries we are celebrating; we are looking ahead to celebrating 150 years of mission service in 2019, and this year the church is recognizing the 130th anniversary of protestant mission work in Korea.



I am also aware of how little other people know about our history. As one way to share our history with others, United Methodist Women sponsored an interesting and provocative history conference, led by some leading United Methodist history and theology faculty at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. We heard fascinating papers from them and others who are working to find and tell stories about our predecessors.

From the beginning the women who were part of the societies and associations were touched by the needs of sisters in many places. (There are at least 14 predecessor organizations to United Methodist Women. A list is included in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*, ¶1322.) For many years they operated on the rubric of “women’s work for women,” and they formed direct bonds of mutual support with women—bonds not mediated by church or congregational structures. This included meeting immediate needs as well as sustained efforts to equip local women, establish schools and make it possible for women to obtain education in places where necessary education was not available.

A significant part of the organizations’ work included welcoming and equipping local women around the world as Bible Women who reached out to other women far and wide, sharing the gospel and training them in literacy and basic health care.

From the very beginning, our Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren predecessors knew that this work was spiritual work. It was part of the call of God to them, as it is to us, to put our faith into action through prayer, giving, study and service. Then, as now, the women who joined the societies and associations wanted to be involved in something bigger than themselves. Many of their articles and prayers talk about their desire to “do something useful”—something that honored God and that made a difference for women, children and youth. This theme endures today.

For us and for our predecessors, doing something useful involved compassionate alignment with other women whose situations touch our hearts. Our commitment to justice impels us to speak out when we see people treated unfairly and to strategize to change hearts, minds and structures. Then as now, the women’s mission movement did not see opening the soul to God as something separate from work for health, wholeness, peace and building of a society in which all can find their own flourishing. Being deeply connected to God through Jesus Christ is what impels and sustains our long commitment to direct service and advocacy for justice.

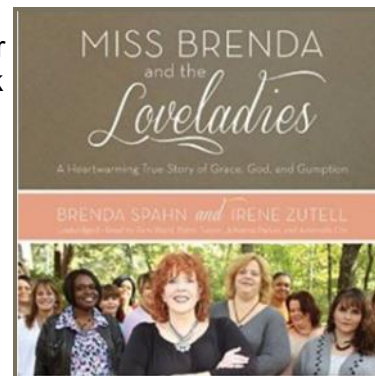
From footbinding, lynching and denying women the right to preach in the eras that precede us to mass incarceration, maternal health, wealth inequality and climate justice today, our rootedness in Christ takes us into engagement in the world. What a blessing it is to be “at home” in a movement that is bold enough to respond to the call of God!

## NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY

### MISS BRENDA AND THE LOVELADIES: A Heartwarming True Story of Grace, God, and Gumption

Written by: Brenda Spahn, Irene Zutell  
Narrated by: Pam Ward, Bahni Turpin, Johanna Parker,  
Adenrele Ojo - Length: 7 hrs and 56 mins

You will be delighted to hear Miss Brenda talk of cities, towns and places near and dear to us - Mobile, Gulf Shores, Tuscaloosa, Wetumpka and Julia Tutwiler Prison for



Women. Thanks to the Reading Program for introducing us to Brenda Spahn who truly put her blessing into action on behalf of others. What a brave extraordinary woman whose story is told in a most entertaining way, often humorous, always captivating, as she surprises us and herself by situations God has led and she innocently and sometimes accidentally follows. So near to us and yet would we ever have known of Miss Brenda’s nurturing were it not for the Reading Program?

## SOCIAL ACTION

### Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Written by: Bryan Stevenson  
Narrated by: Bryan Stevenson  
Length: 11 hrs and 4 mins

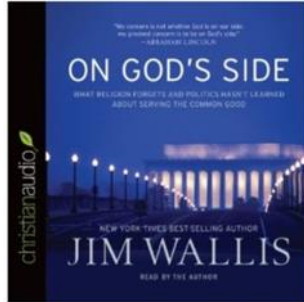
Another book set close to us right here in Alabama. Difficult to say this enjoyable reading but it is easy listening. I always love when the author does the narration. Bryan is the founder of Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those who need it most. This will truly expand your concept of mission and give new understanding of mass incarceration and injustice of our justice system.



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## ON GOD'S SIDE: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good

Written by: Jim Wallis  
Narrated by: Jim Wallis  
Length: 13 hrs and 59 mins



Just in time for the presidential election 2016, I recommend this book as a guide for not only those running the race to the White House but for those of us who are attempting to make sense of the politics of those candidates in order to wisely use our one vote.

It is not about what side God is on, as some candidates would make believe they have they have God on contract, but rather am I and the candidates on God's side. This book gives guidance enabling us to know the difference.

Learning to love again those who have opposing political views, conservative or liberal, is an extra side benefit of this book. We don't have to think alike to love and accept each other.



### Plan I: 5 Books Per Year

- One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections may be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) magazine.

The other three plans may be viewed at [Reading Program Plans](#)

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other churches in the Northern Illinois Conference, including Pioneer United Methodist Church in Park Ridge and Cherry Valley United Methodist in Cherry Valley. She also served the Manna Church of the Korean Methodist Church in Korea.



Young Seon says that she never lost her "heart's desire to do overseas mission." In 2011, she attended a youth conference in Kenya and felt a strong pull to service in Africa. Back home in Illinois, her bishop referred her to Global Ministries. While the process of missionary service application and acceptance was taking place, she went to Tanzania to teach English and to learn Swahili. She thanks God that she is back in Tanzania today.

"The way God has been guiding my steps in amazing," says Young Seon. "The love God has been pouring out upon my heart is beyond my imagination."

### Service Projects 2015

Your involvement with service projects will be published here as you report them to us and shared with CUMW treasurer, combined with others from CUMC and throughout the organization.

- Mobile Inner City Mission - purchased Boston Butt
- Walk MS - Kim Johnson walked for her mother.
- Cakes for Celebrate Recovery monthly
- Food for grieving families
- Ronald McDonald House
- Hopeful project bags
- Organ Fund
- Camp Rap-A-Hope
- Cookies for Homecoming Sundays
- Magazines to nursing and assisted living homes
- Meals to family of hospitalized son
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*Please let us know when you are involved in any service or community project.*

This publication is the monthly virtual meeting of the Mary & Martha Mail Circle, United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Our Circle is just like each of the other Circles of Christ UMW with the exception that we do not have monthly meetings other than by this "virtual" program, devotion, prayer calendar/concerns, and Response moments. We make annual pledges to mission and participate in the projects of CUMW in all ways possible. We attend General Meetings as we are able. We constantly keep each other and each woman of UMW in our prayers.

Questions? Contact: Circle Coordinator  
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