

Baptist Women in Ministry

October 2009

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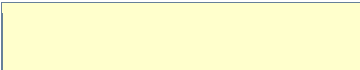
Baptist Women in Ministry

I spent the month of October reading and traveling. The two seem to go together for me. Sitting in airports and on airplanes and staying alone in a hotel room-those times are made for reading, and since I was in a lot of airports and hotel rooms in October, I read even more than usual. One interesting book on my reading list was Lauren Winner's *Girl Meets God: On the Path to a Spiritual Life*.

Girl Meets God was published in 2002 (which means I am behind the curve when it comes of staying up with current books), and is the story of Lauren's faith pilgrimage from Orthodox Judaism to Christianity. She was born to an Orthodox Jewish father and a lapsed Southern Baptist mother and chose to be an Orthodox Jew. Since her mother was not Jewish, Lauren had to convert to Judaism, which meant she spent much time studying the Talmud, learning to make *challah* (a Jewish egg bread), dressing in ankle-length skirts, and finally participating in a ritual bath called *mikvah*.

And yet Lauren kept being irresistibly drawn to Christ, or as she puts it: "Jesus was slowly goading me toward him." (53) She writes, "Evangelical friends of mine are always trying to trim the corners and smooth the rough edges of what they call My Witness in order to shove it into a tidy-born-again conversion narrative. They want an exact date, even an hour, and I never know what to tell them. . . . My story doesn't fit very well with this conversion archetype. A literature scholar would say there are too many "ruptures" in the "narrative." But she might also say that ruptures are the most interesting part of any text, that in the ruptures we learn something new (8-9). And so begins the story of Lauren's unconventional path to faith in Christ.

Lauren has written a couple other books since *Girl Meets God* (apparently she writes faster than I read). So my list of books to read in airports and hotels is growing!



If you haven't read *Girl Meets God*, I recommend it! Get a copy--and bring it with you to Charlotte, North Carolina, next June. Lauren will be one of the speakers at the General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship! Stay tuned for more details!

Pam Durso

Vocare

The Fall 2009 issue of BWIM's newsletter, **Vocare**, is now available. If you are not on our mailing list, e-mail Pam Durso at pamdurso@bwim.info.

Vocare is our paper newsletter, and this issue features articles by **Katrina Brooks, Carrie Dean, Julie O'Teter Sadler, and Susan Shaw.**

Ordinations

Lauren Deer was ordained on April 19 by Tabernacle Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia, and Biltmore Baptist Church, Glen Allen, Virginia.

Eydie Jones was ordained on October 20 by Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

Laura Wheeler was ordained on October 25 by Northside Baptist Church, Atlanta.

On the Move

LeAnn Gunter Johns is pastor at New Community of Faith, San Jose, California.

Tambi Swiney is associate pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

April Viverette is youth and children's minister at Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Jesus Calls

A Collegiate Women's Retreat

A retreat designed for collegiate women will be held **November 6-8, 2009**, at

Mundo Vista Camp in North Carolina. Sessions during this weekend retreat will focus on what it means to be a woman of God and provide time for interested students to explore their sense of calling to ministry. For information, contact **Charity Roberson** at 919-834-1875 or raleighbsu@gmail.com.

Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry Conference for College Students

Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry is planning a conference in **February 2010** for college women who feel called to ministry. The conference will be held at the Roslyn Conference Center in Richmond. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a student to attend this event, please e-mail **Nancy McDaniel** at nancysmcdaniel@aol.com.

Women in Ministry Conference-Texas

A Women in Ministry Conference, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be held **March 1-2, 2010**, at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas.

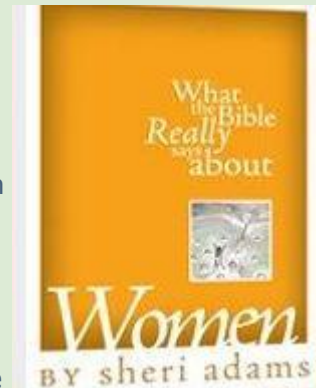
BWIM of North Carolina

The annual convocation of BWIM of North Carolina will be held **March 19, 2010** at Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem.

New Book Release!

Explore the roles of women in the Bible in ***What the Bible Really Says About Women***.

This accessible book written by **Sheri Adams** sold out when it was printed the first time. Using a unique approach to understanding the roles of women in the Bible, Sheri has posed the question of what the Bible really says about women in the largest context possible: dealing with the Bible's development and need for interpretation, its history and culture, its theology and ethics, and the concerns of the God who inspired it.



For information on ordering a copy, [click here](#).

In the News

Mary Ahn, a Baptist pastor in Chicago, recently reported that the Korean Baptist Convention in South Korea voted on women's ordination at its 99th annual meeting held on September 21-23, 2009. Of the 1,675 representatives participating, 843 voted in favor of women's ordination. Unfortunately, the necessary percentage of favorable votes was not met, and the resolution was not adopted. Mary Ahn invites

BWIM to continue praying for the Korean Baptist Convention and to pray that the resolution will pass next year.

Jessie Belle Lewis died September 22, 2009. Jessie and her sister, Claudine, were members of the group that founded Baptist Women in Ministry of North Carolina in 1983. Jessie was a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Enfield, North Carolina. Under her direction as chair of the deacons and as pastor search committee member, Antioch in 1982 called Judy Powell as pastor. Judy was the church's first woman pastor, and in the years since 1982, Antioch has had three consecutive women pastors and one woman interim pastor.

Duke Divinity School's Baptist House recently published a newsletter on the issue of ordination, women, and Baptists. [Click here.](#)

Open Church Positions

Central Baptist Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania, is searching for a pastor.

Concord Baptist Church in Granite Falls, North Carolina, is searching for a minister of youth and children.

First Baptist Church in Bryson City, North Carolina, is searching for an associate pastor

First Baptist Church in Hope Mills, North Carolina, is seeking a pastor.

First Baptist Church in Pageland, South Carolina, is searching for a minister of youth and children.

First Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, is searching for a youth minister.

Hallsboro Baptist Church in Hallsboro, North Carolina, is searching for a pastor.

Island View Baptist Church in Orange Park, Florida, is searching for a pastor.

Moffett Memorial Baptist Church in Danville, Virginia, is searching for a minister of music.

North Riverside Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia, is searching for a pastor.

Polkville Baptist Church in Polkville, North Carolina, is searching for a

minister of worship and discipleship.

St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, is searching for a pastor.

St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, is searching for a pastor.

Trinity Baptist Church in Conyers, Georgia, is searching for an associate pastor/pastoral intern.

Continuing Education Opportunities

The School of Christian Ministry at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond provides learning opportunities that are academically sound, biblically grounded, theologically challenging, and faith-affirming.

For more information, [click here](#).

State Women in Ministry Information

Arkansas

For information, contact Carolyn Yeldell Staley at cstaley@phbclr.com.

Georgia

For information, contact Carrie Veal at theologygirl@yahoo.com.

North Carolina

For information, contact Johnnie Jackson at jljackson@embarqmail.com or visit their website--[click here](#).

South Carolina

For information, contact Christy McMillin-Goodwin at cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com.

Tennessee

For information, contact Tambi Swiney at tambi22@mac.com.

Texas

For information, visit the Baptist General Convention of Texas website-- [click here](#).

Virginia

For information, e-mail Nancy Stanton McDaniel at nancysmcdaniel@aol.com or visit their website--[click here](#).