

HORIZONS:
A Summary

The March/April 2008 issue of *Horizons* magazine deals specifically with issues related to vocation, call, and answering God's Call in and through our lives. Every one of these articles is powerful, and deserves to be read in full; however, because of the time constraints most of us operate under, here is a short summary of each.

I. Vocation – Who, Me?

By: Freda A. Gardner

We try, under the guise of humility, to excuse ourselves from God's call and gifts. Often, others are called to expose us to what we fear, what we have hidden; those talents and skills God gave us so we can fully answer God's call: "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

II. Calling and Choice: A Theology of Vocation

By: Jack L. Stotts

God chooses; God calls. Not individuals, but groups (ie: The Israelites in the Exodus). Today, God calls the church, and the church calls individuals to tasks of leadership. Our calling, our vocation, is inextricably entwined. The church, called to call leaders, must empower those leaders to lead, to be God's agents in the world.

III. PLSE

By: Martha Miller

Presbyterian **L**eadership **S**earch **E**ffort (pronounced *pulse*) is a ministry of PC(USA) that has as its mission to identify and nurture young people (15-25 years old) for leadership in the church and in the world; to help young people clarify their call and explore their vocations.

IV. The Call to Joy

By: Dee Dee Risher

This article challenges us to step outside our "box", to be in direct conflict with societal conventions. We are called by God to break down barriers and distinctions of difference; to be aware of the injustices of society and confront them. The author exemplifies this with her own life and the disciplines she uses every day.

V. God Called, I Answered

This collection of short vignettes is personal answers to God's calls.

VI. Am I a Leader?

By: Unzu Lee

This article addresses the cultural answers to the questions: "What is spiritual (church) leadership, and why is it that women, and particularly women of

color (not white, not western) are afraid to identify themselves as leaders, especially in the church?"

VII. We're Building a Bridge

By: Jane MacDonald and Anne Reynolds

PW in Synod of Northeast creates a win-win internship relationship with women seminarians.

VIII. God Has Done Great Things for Me!

By: Rhashell D. Hunter

This is the powerful, personal testimony of Rhashell D. Hunter, director of Racial, Ethnic and Women's Ministries, PC(USA).

IX. Installation Service for Presbyterian Women

Instructions on installing PW officers during Sunday morning worship.

X. It Hurts to Be Real

By: Beth Pyles

Taking her title, and theme, from The Velveteen Rabbit; Pyles, a member of the Christian Peacemaker Team, speaks passionately of the destroyed innocence of the Iraqi people. She points an accusing finger at the U.S. military presence; conveniently ignoring Iraq's own internal religious struggles.

XI. God Has a Task for Me to Finish!

By: Susan Jackson Dowd and Anna H. Bedford

A moving journey of faith: a young Maasai boy of Kenya defies his father, and with his mother's help, steps outside the mold and gets an education. Further help from PW in America awaken him to God's call, he is converted, and takes the name Moses. As an adult, he has dedicated his life to the empowerment of the Maasai women of Kenya.

XII. A Call to the Center

By: Kikanza Nuri Robins and Anna H. Bedford

Called to choose; called to confront; called to change. To grow, to change the self, and to be the catalyst for change in friends, family, church, PW, community and government. God calls us to step outside our comfort zone, to the center of the Heart of Christ, to do, to be, God's agent. When God calls, God sends help: teachers, mentors, others who encourage and support us in this difficult journey.

XIII. Shining a Spotlight on Social Bias

By: Molly Casteel

Discrimination against women seminarians, and even more intense discrimination against women of color seminarians. Although the majority of students in seminary are female, we are a minority in the population of called

pastors. What is PW's role in the elimination of this bias? A list is found on page 31.

XIV. Toward a More Colorful Vision of Vocation

By: Irene Pak

This article addresses how the church fails to empower people of color, and especially women of color, to answer God's call. It explores barriers erected by the church, and what the church must do to affirm all those called by God. It also addresses cultural barriers that oppose women of color taking leadership roles.

XV. Mothers, Malaria, and Mosquito Nets

Letters related to the NetWorkers Mother's Day Project

XVI. Free to Be, You and Me

By: Amy Starr Redwine

To know our call, to hear clearly the voice of God, we must first know ourselves. To be told only, "You can be anything you want to be," will often leave a young person overwhelmed and ungrounded. The greatest gift a parent can give their child is to honor and nurture the child's authentic self.