

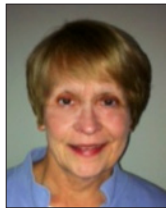


Women's Ministry
North American Baptist Conference

An e-newsletter of the
North American Baptist
Conference Women's Ministry

January/February 2015

career change OVERDRAW RELOCATION ILLNESS **LIFE... INTERRUPTED** HEALTH phone call CARE GIVING hurricanes
 OLD AGE injustice FLAT TIRE POVERTY OVERDRAW church renovations sick kids aging
 finances INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT NATURAL DISASTER FLOOD MISSION TRIP parent
 renovations FINANCIAL LOSS CAREER CHANGE children DEATH JOB LOSS cancer
 graduation UNEMPLOYMENT new pastor FLAT TIRE social media new house



Life is filled with interruptions which absorb a great deal of our time. Daily we are forced to stop and deal with minor interruptions of life: a skinned knee, a phone call, an unexpected visit from a friend, a broken washer or dryer; and the list goes on. Huge interruptions like the

death of a loved one, health issues, an accident, loss of a job, or having to move to a new location bring even greater unexpected stress. Interruptions consume a great deal of our time, and our reaction reveals much about our character.

I love what noted author and speaker Priscilla Shirer says about interruptions. “The interruption—whatever it is, no matter how big or small—represents your next best chance to see Him take center stage, to show you what He can do when the unexpected only makes you more expectant than ever.”

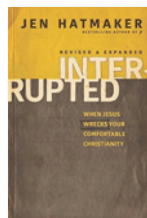
Throughout the past few years we have been called to be a group of believers on a journey to be transformed in Jesus, and on mission to reach out to our neighbors and neighborhoods with the love of Christ. In many ways this has been an interruption in our lives.

The Women's Leadership Team of the NABC invites you to join this journey with us by reading Jen Hatmaker's book *Interrupted: When Jesus Wrecks Your Comfortable Christianity*. You will begin to wrestle with your own complacency of living for the here and now. You will be faced with the question of what really matters in life and challenged with making a difference for eternity.

In her book, Jen recounts the painful, gut wrenching, often hilarious journey of how God gave her eyes to see what had been in scripture all along. He called her

and her family to actually live it. She could no longer be satisfied with her comfortable Christian life spent blessing the blessed and serving the world. She writes in the introduction, “This is the story of my heart, the arc I find most relevant and vital to my generation: God plucked me and my family out of the complacent, comfortable, safe Christianity and dropped us into the deep end of struggle, injustice, brokenness and a hurting humanity” (*Interrupted*, page xviii).

We hope that you will join us on this journey of living a LIFE INTERRUPTED by God, who is calling you, His sent ones. He is calling you to love Him and His word passionately. He is challenging you to keep the life work of Jesus central to everything. He desires that you become passionate about reaching out to your neighbors, your community, and the poor and downcast in our world.



This issue of eJava gives you information about our theme and how your church/women's ministry leader can receive a free copy of *Interrupted*. A study guide (member book) has been prepared to accompany the book and downloadable video sessions help you get to know Jen and hear her heart.

Be prepared for your life to be interrupted in a way you never could have imagined.

*“For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun.
Do you not see it?”* Isaiah 43:19

My life Interrupted



BY AMBER DOWD

This summer I had a baby. Now I'm a mom of three kids (ages 7, 5 and 2 months), and as you can guess I am no stranger to interruptions.

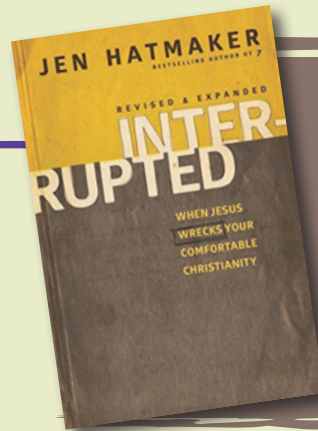
Sometimes I fall victim to the unpredictability and chaos. I feel discouraged at not accomplishing the

day's plans or having time for myself. It's easy to disappear and lose sight of my life with God and connection to others in it all. But God is showing me, though all this change, how to keep this life alive. I sense Him encouraging me that even though I am in flux, it doesn't make me useless to the world around me. In fact, He is pushing me out there because it does wonders for my heart as well.

Before Ethan arrived I was actively involved in our local school and church. At school I enjoyed leading activity centers and teaching art in my kids' classes. Now baby makes tasks like these more difficult. At first I thought I should take a break from volunteering. But now I'm seeing that the new baby interruption doesn't mean life comes to a halt. Rather, it propels me in new directions of service and relationships.

It's easy to disappear and lose sight of my life with God and connection to others in it all. But God is showing me, though all this change, how to keep this life alive.

Opportunities have come to take on quieter roles of service, such as collating papers and making photocopies. Not glamorous, but so helpful, right? And the fun part is I do this with several other moms. It gets me out of the house and gives us plenty of space to talk and laugh, and of course play Pass the Baby. I expect God to move in these friendships this school year, because He makes the smallest tasks into a holy space. And I thank God for interruptions, because they bring His life to ours!

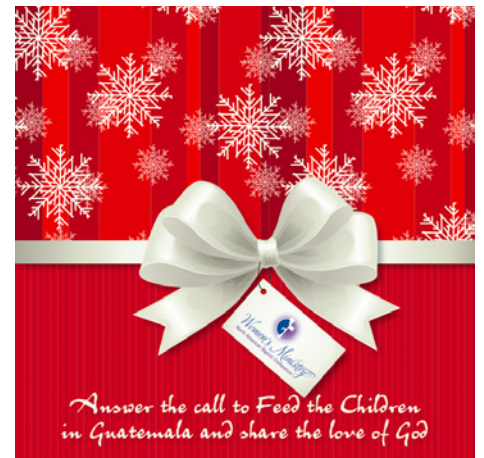


Your church/women's ministry may order **1 FREE** copy of **INTERRUPTED**

Please contact Heather Senges at hsenges@telus.net

Still accepting donations for our 2014 Christmas Project

There is still time to give to the WMLT 2014 Christmas project--Feeding the Children in Guatemala.



All gifts should be postmarked prior to February 1, 2015. Please mark all gifts with project code: **2014WMChristmas**

Make checks/cheques payable to North American Baptist, Inc. (NAB). For credit card payment by phone contact Lisa Dieterich (916) 797-6222 ext 221. For questions, contact Amber Pedroni (916) 797-6222 ext 231.

Mail US donations to:
North American Baptists, Inc.
1219 Pleasant Grove Blvd
Roseville, CA 95678
USA

Mail Canadian donations to:
North American Baptists, Inc. (Canada)
PO Box 57235 Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 5M5



North American Baptist Conference
TRIENNIAL 2015
July 1-5, 2015 • Sacramento, California

*"As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."
John 20:21*

Speakers

Dr. Mark Buchanan
Pastor David Johnson
Dr. Reggie McNeal

Location

Sacramento Convention Center

Hotel

Hyatt Regency, Sacramento





Stir the Heart...

by Carol Potratz



Contributed by Heather Senges

Interruptions can be refreshing or annoying. It all depends, doesn't it? "We're engaged!" "I won!" "It's a girl!" "You have cancer." "He had a heart attack." "I'm sorry."

But 'tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word.

Carol Potratz knows all about life interrupted. She could write a book about the times an interruption changed the course of her life and God led her in a new direction.

Read her story of how God directed the interruptions in her life the year before she went to Japan.

The year prior to going to Japan in 2010 showed me over and over how sweet it is to really trust in Jesus. Several years

before, the Lord had prompted me to claim scripture—to trust that God would keep His promises, live up to His name, and continue in His faithfulness.

He brought me PEACE when sorrow seemed overwhelming from my many losses: my job, a clear direction for my life, and family deaths.

He gave me LIGHT for my way by unmistakably calling me to Japan. He then showed me whether to sell or rent my condo in a downward and depressed market. Selling became the obvious answer.

He provided HOPE for my retirement finances. I was made aware that the years I worked and contributed to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) could not take effect unless I worked in Canada one more year. Christ showed up and led me to move to Canada while raising support. I was able to get a part-time job and take of my CPP contributions. An added plus—while there I got to witness the weddings of my nephew, Bryson, and my niece, Amber!

God supplied TRUTH as an offer on my condo fell through. Well-meaning friends told me to rent it, but God reminded me that I was to sell it.

And Jesus was my WAY-MAKER as

more deaths, more friends losing jobs, and more discouragement washed into the shores of my mind. Jesus, the Way and the Life-Giver, cut through the darkness and opened me up to the truth that He is always there:

- My condo had five showings in three days and sold in a down market, with 45 houses for sale in my neighbourhood.
- Rudy and Hilde Renz opened their hearts and home to me until I departed to Japan.
- I was commissioned for service at the 2009 Triennial Conference along with Yuri Nakano and Becky Lengefeld—two women I had recruited. What an honour to stand with them and be sent with them!
- Zion Baptist Church offered me a part-time job on their pastoral staff.
- In July, my support level was at 1%. By year's end it was 25%.

God does not make empty promises. My life was interrupted, but God never took His eye off me. He walked with me through all these events, and is already waiting for me as 2015 comes just around the corner—praise be to God!

Triennial Women's Luncheon

Women's Luncheon
Sheraton Grand Hotel
Friday, July 3 12:15-2:00 pm

With a program centered on the theme "Life Interrupted," you will explore, as women, how God stops your self-planned journeys and inserts His transformative power into His Spirit-guided directions. Around tables of food, you will connect with new and old friends. You can anticipate times of joy, laughter, care, and learning.

Hear how other women throughout the conference are living missionally – being sent by God and relating to their neighbors and communities in refreshing ways.

The NAB Women's Ministry Leadership Team will host and inspire you with news about new opportunities for women within NAB churches.

The cost of the luncheon is \$30. Pre-registration is required.

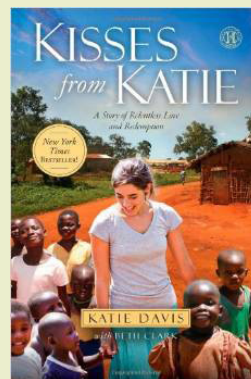
KISSES FROM KATIE A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption

By Katie Davis, with Beth Clark

Life Interrupted...that's exactly what you find when you read Kisses from Katie.

A privileged, even affluent, teenage girl from Brentwood, Tennessee, was called by Almighty God to leave the comforts of home and a future of advantage to live and serve in one of the most destitute areas of the world: Uganda.

Following high school graduation in 2007, promising her parents she would return for college, Katie Davis traveled to Uganda and lost herself in the people. By age 22, Katie had legally adopted twelve young Ugandan girls. In 2008,



Katie founded Amazima, an organization that educates, feeds (physically and spiritually), and meets children's medical needs. Amazima basically cares for the whole person.

This true and continuing story of God's overwhelming work in Katie and the lives she touches is incredible. READ THIS BOOK! Check out the website amazima.org. Google

Katie Davis. Friend her on Facebook.

Ladies, I guarantee you will be amazed at Katie's ongoing story of God's power at work today in Uganda and around the world. Life Interrupted indeed!