

Nevada-Utah Conference Women's Ministry Retreat Invites Women to Share Their Story

BY SARAH ABRAHAM

Over a late-October weekend, more than 120 women gathered at the Alps-inspired Zermatt hotel in Midway, Utah, for the annual Nevada-Utah Conference Women's Ministry Retreat. At the retreat, women were inspired by the theme, "Tell Me Your Story."

On Friday evening, Melody Darrow, NUC women's ministries director and pastor in Las Vegas, Nevada, shared the story of how God has worked in her life. Her willingness to be authentic inspired a welcoming atmosphere of acceptance that carried throughout the entire weekend.

Sabbath morning worship began with an uplifting song service that included the song that inspired the theme, "My Story" by Big Daddy Weave. During the service, three women from the NUC—Stephanie Jordana, Miriam Peckham, and Sarah Abraham—shared their unique journeys and the miraculous ways God has touched their lives.

Sabbath afternoon was spent crafting beautiful promise roses, a keepsake reminder of God's promises. Afterward, attendees



(Left) Nevada-Utah Conference President Leon B. Brown Sr. and Pacific Union Conference Women's Ministries Director Dorothy Means offer prayers of dedication over NUC Women's Ministries Director Melody Darrow. (Right) A few of the retreat speakers and seminar facilitators gathered for a quick photo at the Zermatt hotel where the Women's Ministries retreat was hosted.

listened to three engaging seminars. Denetra Gary, a licensed clinical social worker and Christian marriage and relationship counselor, presented a seminar on how to heal from attachment disorder and reattach to God. "Everyone has attachment disorder because at some point in our lives we have detached from God," said Gary. "Now is the time that Jesus wants to walk us through all our hurt and pain so that we can reattach completely to Him."

Gail Merritt and Marsha Dupree, members of the Sparks church, shared a seminar focused on emotions and their effect on the body. Darrow spoke about "God time," sharing that a great way to engage with God is to take one line of Scripture at a time and ask oneself: who, what, where, when, and why? "When I did

this," she said, "I found things in every single line that I did not think of." Darrow said that this is a wonderful way to get to know God's stories for ourselves.

To close the Sabbath, Charmaine Francis shared the story of her journey in the field of education. Vespers was followed by a group birthday party, where each attendee brought a gift to give one of her sisters to celebrate the birth of each woman there.

On Sunday morning, women heard a testimony from Gail Ann Guy-Cupid, assistant social work professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, who shared her incredible story of overcoming the odds and having the courage to trust in God. To conclude the retreat, the attendees and presenters circled together to pray the words, "God, as we write our stories in this next year, please help us to keep You as the center."

For more information about women's ministries events in the NUC, e-mail melodydarrow@gmail.com.

PHOTOS BY MINGGALIA BOLES