

Pamela Reeve was a new Christian, a recent graduate in architecture from New York University. While attending a beautiful outdoor wedding, as she surveyed the lovely scene, God put a question to her: “Would you be willing to go through life single **for the kingdom of God’s sake?**” At first she thought it was just a hypothetical question. When she concluded God really was asking her to remain single, the question became much harder to answer. **Her father had died, and she had only three close relatives scattered across the country. How would she economically and emotionally survive? she asked herself.**

Pamela Reeve said “Yes” to God. That was the first of many crucial “yesses” that have sent her on a journey of adventure, with Christ as her bridegroom and guide. God led her to give up architecture for ministry, to become a principal at a Christian high school, and to serve as professor and Dean of Women at Multnomah Bible College, where she established the first college major in Women’s Ministry in the United States. She has counseled, taught and mentored hundreds of students. She speaks all over the country and has published five books.

During World War II, Pamela Reeve joined the architects hired to build an entire town for 70,000 people in two year’s time in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Manhattan Project—whose secret goal was to build the atomic bomb—needed an enormous number of workers to produce plutonium and uranium. Pamela worked 60-70 hours a week and taught Bible classes at night. A pastor challenged her to go into full-time ministry, pointing out that she was working long hours for something that wouldn’t last. It was a difficult decision. Architecture was a five-year major and she had been **advancing professionally** in the field she loved for seven years. But God said to lay it down, and she again said yes.

After the war she was offered a job in southern California, where God was doing new and wonderful things. Henrietta Mears at Hollywood Presbyterian Church was active in the college ministry that was to be a model for Bill Bright as he began Campus Crusade for Christ **there**. Billy Graham’s most successful early crusade was held in Los Angeles. It lasted for many weeks, attracting thousands. Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, **had his headquarters** in the area. Pamela Reeve had the opportunity to meet or hear each of them as principal of a Christian high school. She was thriving in a ministry she felt was tailor-made for her.

Then came a crushing disappointment, the most difficult experience of her life. Because of a stand she felt to be necessary, she **resigned** as principal of the school. It was like entering a trackless desert. “There were no signs, no markers, no footprints to follow,” she writes. “Nothing on the horizon in any direction but an oppressive emptiness, a great silent void. And I, who study maps so carefully and love to chart each mile of my trek, had not seen any desert at all on them.” It would be many years before she was again in fruitful ministry. The story of what God taught her during that painful time **is told in** her newest book, *Deserts of the Heart—Finding God during the Dry Times*. “The desert is the place where we meet God. It is the place of personal transformation,” she writes. “‘Moses . . . led the flock to the far side of the desert. . . . There angel of the Lord appeared to him.’ Yes, *there*.”

Her desert experiences have been pivotal points in a life that overflows with fruitfulness. God has been a wonderful provider, financially, emotionally, and physically. In 37 years at Multnomah Bible College, she has been absent due to illness no more than 15 days. At an age when most people are leaving active ministry to others, she says she loves “the joy of conveying how **glorious** God is. If I’m in the rest home, I hope I’m ministering there.”

One of her friends describes her as “warm, open, vulnerable, flexible and optimistic.” She moderated the praise, saying “That’s the way college students are. They bring that out in me.”*[I*

know these weren't your exact words—please re-word if you like.] Asked what is her passion, she said, “I don't have a passion. I know everyone has one these days. But I just see a need and move in **with passion** to fill it. I've always been in leadership, but I haven't really sought it. I just got concerned about a need and set about to meet it.” One of the needs she has seen is to train students for ministry to women. She developed Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at Multnomah in women's ministry that include classes in leadership development, discipling, counseling, teaching and program planning.

At Bethany's conference, she'll speak four times, with “Springs in the Desert” as her theme. First she wants us to see ourselves as God sees us, to see “the beauty and the glory we are to Him”. Then she wants us to see how Christ dwelling in us can meet our daily situations in practical ways. “Everything you need is in Him for satisfaction in life,” she said. Throughout her productive lifetime, Dr. Pamela Reeve has experienced that.