

Like legal counsel before a jury, two anointed women make the compelling case for the full release of women in unrestricted gospel ministry. The progressive building of argument, based on solid exegesis, leaves the reader with a well-substantiated verdict—it is God’s will to use all of his servants, male and female, in the fulfillment of His plan to build His Church.

— RICHARD L. DRESSELHAUS, *Executive Presbyter*  
*General Council of the Assemblies of God*

This book is destined to become an indispensable guide to readers who want to deepen their knowledge of the effective place for women in life and ministry. It is a thought-provoking volume and extremely practical in helping pastors and church leaders apply exegetical understandings of the biblical basis for women in ministry. This is one of the most important studies on the leadership of women available today.

— ROBERT E. COOLEY, *President Emeritus*  
*Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary*

With the spirit of sincere seekers after truth, Barbara Cavaness and Debbie Gill portray with clarity biblical teachings concerning women. Using principles of sound scholarship they walk us through difficult passages to an understanding of the freedom women have in Christ. This book will greatly benefit the Church as both men and women gain understanding of the propriety and value of releasing women for ministry.

— PEGGY MUSGROVE, *Former Director*  
*National Women’s Ministries Department, Assemblies of God*

God’s Women is written the way books should be—compelling arguments made in a clear and concise manner. Its straightforward style makes it accessible to everyone. Both clergy and laypersons will profit from the reading of this book.

— DANIEL CRABTREE, *Associate Professor*  
*Central Bible College*

A must-read for women in ministry and for men interested in God’s ways, this book is chock full of helpful information. Though coming with much study of Bible texts, contexts and history, Doctors Gill and Cavaness have managed to write an easily accessible book, which will teach, encourage and inspire.

— CAROLYN TENNANT, *Professor of English*  
*North Central University*

What an excellent resource you will find here by two outstanding biblical scholars! This will become a standard tool for anyone genuinely interested in the role of women in the Church, in the marketplace, or in the home. The authors present comprehensive biblical and theological evidence on this extremely important subject in a very readable style with superb summaries at the end of each chapter. Additionally, their practical applications in the last three chapters assist the reader in moving from theory to everyday life. I commend this book as a must read for men and women alike.

— DON MEYER, *President, Valley Forge Christian College*

In light of the full scope of Scripture, the authors approach the oft-quoted, controversially-interpreted words of Paul regarding women in ministry. This work is a gift, not only for its excellent biblical scholarship but for its positive approach to an issue that sadly divides the body of Christ. One need not agree with every point the authors make to recognize they serve the Church well by bringing readers face-to-face with God's ideals for men and women in relationship and in ministry and by encouraging us to grow toward them with integrity.

— BETH GRANT, *Chairperson  
Assemblies of God Task Force for Women in Ministry*

I commend the authors for their systematic foundational appeal for the legitimacy of women in ministry both "then and now." They have built their case. It is biblically solid and historically clear. Now is the time to move ahead to proactively empower women who need a nudge toward greatness and will pay the price for the next generation to be mainstreamed. God's call and being part of eschatological destiny is empowerment at its best.

— BYRON KLAUS, *President  
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary*

As a credentialed minister, I am sadly aware of the tragic loss to the Church and pain to the called caused by those who would limit the ministry of women. Thank you, Barbara and Debbie, for this well-written book. May the Holy Spirit use it to help readers consider the New Testament record of ministering women, and then rethink their position to be sure it is a biblical one.

— ARLENE ALLEN, *Director  
National Women's Ministries Department, Assemblies of God*

Dr.'s Gill and Cavaness have provided the Church with a solid presentation of the biblical, theological, and historic basis for women in ministry. They have examined the tough texts and with an excellent hermeneutic and exegesis, their presentation is right!

— DON ARGUE, *President, Northwest University*

Dr. Deborah Gill has been and continues to be used of the Lord powerfully as a leader, mentor, and speaker, having served as a pastor and professor. Dr. Barbara Cavaness has ministered in many Asian countries as a missionary-educator with cross-cultural sensitivity and anointing. Their gifts as ministers of the gospel have enabled them to articulate in the writing of the book, *God's Women—Then and Now*, the biblical place for women in the ministry.

— THOMAS E. TRASK, *General Superintendent*  
*General Council of the Assemblies of God*

With superb scholarship the authors analyze and explain the meanings of words, metaphors, concepts, and cultural contexts. With no hint of protest or controversy, the authors make explicit the scriptural teachings concerning gender relationships and leadership processes. So objective and precise that it could serve as a study in biblical interpretation as well as a text on the subject of women's place in Christian ministry, this book is enriched by living and current experiences of the authors who have lived, taught, and addressed major gatherings in many countries and cultures. They speak with a unique combination of knowledge and experience of *God's Women—Then and Now*.

— BILLIE DAVIS, *Professor Emeritus, Evangel University*

It is refreshing to find a truly scholarly treatment of the role of women by two highly respected and competent women. Dr. Cavaness and Dr. Gill once served as single women making a very positive impact on the mission field. Both are now married and continue their ministry as professors and leaders in the Church. They are not crusaders, but earnest seekers after the truths that will guide women to serve the Lord in His divine plan. I highly recommend this book to those who will approach it with an open mind and an open Bible.

— RONALD A. IWASKO, *President, Global University*

Pentecostalism owes a great debt of gratitude to the pioneering contributions of women preachers. Yet the fact that the Holy Spirit has been equally poured out on men and women still surprises many Christians. Gill and Cavaness provide an insightful biblical theology of women that is faithful to the text of Scripture and relevant for women in ministry in today's church.

— GARY B. MCGEE, *Professor of Church History and Pentecostal Studies*  
*Assemblies of God Theological Seminary*

## ENDORSEMENTS

Biblically sound and culturally relevant. A book for our time. Since the time of the prophet Joel (2:28-29), God has made it clear that He pours out His Spirit on “sons and daughters,” men and women alike. It is time to embrace all whom God has called. *God’s Women—Then and Now*, carries this profound message and encourages all to support women who are following the Lord in ministry.

— JOHN BUENO, *Executive Director*  
*Assemblies of God World Missions*

The authors take their readers on a journey through Scripture, history, theology, and ministry experience that authenticates the role of women in ministry, missions, and leadership today. I believe that God will use this writing to be a defining work that brings hope and encouragement to many women who have been called into ministry.

— LILLIAN E. SPARKS, *Former Director*  
*National Women’s Ministries Department, Assemblies of God*

This book is a powerful exposition of God’s use and intention for women in ministry. It clearly shows the importance God attaches to the ministry of His female prophets, preachers, and teachers through the ages. The few proof texts against women in ministry are plausibly explained and fall into logical order before the clear exposition of two experienced and academically qualified women ministers who have given us a fine handbook that ought to be read by all ministers, male and female.

— EDGAR LEE, *Senior Professor of Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Theology*  
*Assemblies of God Theological Seminary*

I am delighted to see this important work. Gill and Cavaness represent the often-silenced feminine voices that we need to hear—not only on the issue of women’s roles in ministry, but on issues of biblical interpretation, church ministry, and spiritual authority.

— JOSEPH L. CASTLEBERRY, *Academic Dean*  
*Assemblies of God Theological Seminary*

Barbara Cavaness and Deborah Gill bring us a very readable book, deep in biblical scholarship, and rich with practical understanding from their own personal histories of effective ministry as women.

— EDMUND L. TEDESCHI, *Pastor, Summit Church*  
*Assistant District Superintendent, Minnesota District of the A/G.*