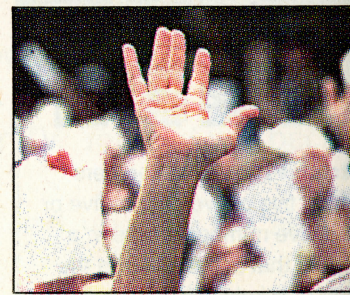


Chosen Women revival energizes the faithful



Women take turn rallying to God's cause

By Shirley Armbruster
The Fresno Bee

PASADENA — They came from Fresno, Clovis, Madera, Kingsburg, Sanger and other Valley cities. From throughout California. Some from the Eastern seaboard. Some from as far away as Russia and Mongolia.

Twenty-five thousand Christian women.

Taking their cue from the mass Promise Keepers men's gatherings, the women were eager to hear how to be better Christian women, wives and mothers.

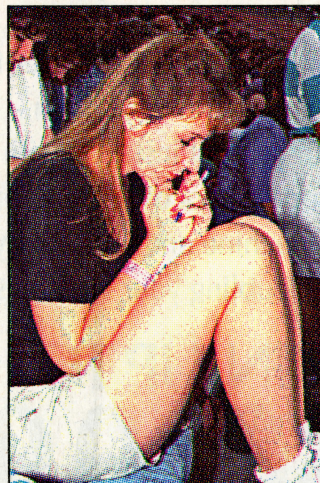
"It's our turn," many said, indicating they wanted the fellowship with other Christians and the Bible-based lessons on daily living that they had heard so much about from men who have attended the similar but unaffiliated Promise Keepers' rallies.

The women walked into the Rose Bowl stadium Friday evening for a spiritual revival called Chosen Women. By the time they walked out Saturday night, many said they were taking home sage advice on personal, family and spiritual matters that they would apply to their lives. And they were comfortable wearing the mantle repeatedly bestowed on them by the program speakers: "Daughters of the King."

They were African-American, white, Hispanic, Korean-Americans and other ethnicities. Mothers with babies, women who are grandmothers.

Whatever their differences

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TOP: Kathleen Cheeseman, who attends Bethel Christian Center in Fresno, gets into the mood of things during the Chosen Women revival Saturday at Pasadena's Rose Bowl.

LEFT: Deanna Saporetti, who attends Hanford's Grace Bible Church, prays.

RIGHT: D'Jinni Grove of Burbank, takes a nap during a break Saturday. Grove accompanied her mother from Fresno and other Valley women who attended the two-day event. Many Valley women said they attended the weekend revival because of positive experiences by their husbands at similar Promise Keepers gatherings.



Hector Amezcua

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Special moment. Two participants embrace after The Praise Band concluded Friday night at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The two-day Chosen Women revival attracted about 25,000 people.