

Is It More Frightening to Start Something New, or Do Nothing at All in the Face of Darkness?
Author's New Book Inspires Readers to Say Yes to the Their Life's Purpose and Calling

CINCINNATI (August 12, 2020) – For over two-decades, Patti Garibay has been at the forefront of countering the cultural ideologies about womanhood, sexuality, and the sanctity of life, by leading girls and women as the Founder & Executive Director of [American Heritage Girls \(AHG\)](https://americanheritagegirls.org), a Christ-centered character development program and alternative to Girl Scouts.

While the idea of starting something new when the concept of AHG came about in 1994 wasn't her first choice, and despite insurmountable opposition, Garibay said "yes" to God and took a leap of faith in establishing AHG's framework.



In her new book, "[Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?](#)," Garibay pens her story from her emotionally turbulent life as a girl to later becoming a faith-filled wife, mother, and CEO. Page by page, she chronicles her journey of trust and obedience to God as He provided and protected her through every season of her life — even when she felt ill-equipped. Garibay wrote her story to inspire those who desire to make a Kingdom impact, yet struggle with fears of inadequacy.

"AHG has, from its beginning, been a work of the Lord, not of me. I simply said yes to His call, and each day I take the next step forward," said Garibay. "I thought I would just start a little alternative club for my daughter and it might last four to five years ... but the Lord had a much bigger plan."

Paperback copies of "Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?" can be purchased from Garibay's [website](#), Barnes & Noble, or Amazon.

"My prayer is that each reader of this book will find peace in answering the call of God on their lives and through my story grow to believe that they too are worthy for what He has in store," Garibay said.

Learn more about AHG and find a Troop near you by visiting <https://americanheritagegirls.org/find-a-troop/>

American Heritage Girls (AmericanHeritageGirls.org) is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Founded in 1995 in Cincinnati, Ohio, AHG has grown from 10 Troops and 100 members to over 53,000 members across 10 countries and 50 states. Girl Members participate in Badge Programs, service projects, leadership opportunities and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement. Follow AHG on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

For more information and interview requests, contact: Director of Marketing & Communications, Michelle Beckham-Corbin, beckham-corbinm@ahgonline.org, 513.771.2025 Ext: 124



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FAITH | SERVICE | FUN

PATTI GARIBAY

Patti Garibay is the Founder and Executive Director of the national character development organization, American Heritage Girls (AHG). Educated at The Ohio State University with majors in secondary education and French, Patti possesses a love for history and young people.



PATTI GARIBAY,
AHG Founder &
Executive Director

Patti's Journey to AHG

For more than two decades, Patti Garibay has been at the forefront of countering the culture by leading girls and women to creating lives of integrity. She is the founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls (AHG), a national Christ-centered leadership and character development program. She helps thousands of girls discover their true identity and purpose in Christ through AHG's transformative programming.

Prior to creating AHG, Patti served for 12 years as an active leader and volunteer in Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA). She was highly influential in sharing the gospel with her troop in West Chester, Ohio. In response to major changes in the direction of GSUSA in 1993, the course of Patti's life changed. She heard the voice of God call her to start something new. Patti drew strength from her wealth of leadership opportunities, her love for her country and her passion for youth development, to take a leap of faith in starting AHG in 1995. Today AHG stands strong with over 52,000 members globally. There are AHG Troops in all 50 states and 15 countries through the Trailblazer Program.

With fearlessness and authenticity, Patti inspires and motivates audiences with her wisdom and experience with raising Godly girls, following God's calling and teaching youth to serve. Through her work with AHG, Patti continues to create innovative ways to break barriers in reaching girls for Christ in the midst of today's culture. Garibay has been featured in hundreds of media outlets including:



FAMILYLIFE
today



To set up an interview with Garibay, please email
news@americanheritagegirls.org



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

AHG Troops across the nation and globe participate in badge work, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor adventure, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement.

A core tenet of the AHG Program is Girl Leadership—encouraging girls to become more confident in who they are in Christ.

SERVICE HOURS

652,000+ Service
hours completed
by AHG Members



BADGES

Girl members
can earn 276
different badges



1,200 +
TROOPS
NATIONWIDE



17,000 +
VOLUNTEERS



15 COUNTRIES
WITH AN AHG
TRAILBLAZER



52,000 +
MEMBERS
GLOBALLY



americanheritagegirls.org



Interview Questions

Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?

By Patti Garibay, Founder & CEO of American Heritage Girls

Q. Your memoir recounts many vivid memories of your father and mother during your childhood. In Chapter 4, you write, "My formative years were split, some time spent in a world of love and acceptance from my dad, and other times spent in a world of rejection and escape." How did your childhood home's dynamic shape who you are today as a wife, mother, and CEO of American Heritage Girls?

Q. Later in the book, you tell how American Heritage Girls (AHG) came to be. What is AHG all about? Why was it so crucial for you to start something new and not just revamp how you volunteered with the Girl Scouts?

Q. Growing in your identity in Christ was pivotal for you. How does AHG help girls understand who they are as daughters of the King?

Q. AHG's tagline is Faith, Service, Fun, how does the program practice each of these elements?

Q. What is unique about the AHG Program that makes it a different ministry than Sunday school or a youth group?

Q. Why should a church consider adding the AHG Ministry? **Q.** Why tell your story now, 25 years later?

Q. What do you hope readers take away from your book?

Additional AHG-specific Questions:

Q. What are some of the benefits of having a Christ-centered, girl-focused program?

Q. What are the ways that AHG fosters leadership in girls at all levels?

Q. How difficult is it for a mom or dad to join the ministry, and what are the benefits of adult involvement?

Q. Why would a girl want to be an American Heritage Girl? Why would her parents want her to be?

Q. Why have a Respect Life Patch for girls to earn?

Q. What do you wish everyone could know about the American Heritage Girls?

Q. What types of outdoor adventure can girls in the program experience?

Q. Where do you see the future of scouting?

Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle? [ISBN: 978-1949572865, \$15.99]
published by Carpenter's Son Publishing. It is available for online at
<https://www.whycursethedarkness.com/>

For review copies or to interview Patti Garibay, contact AHG Director of Marketing & Communications, Michelle Beckham-Corbin, beckham-corbinm@ahgonline.org,
513.771.2025 Ext: 124



What Others Are Saying About

Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?

By Patti Garibay, Founder & CEO of American Heritage Girls

With great transparency and insight, Patti Garibay walks us through both the joys and trials she has experienced over the years – and the series of events that led her to launch American Heritage Girls. Her determination to “light a candle” amidst the cultural darkness around us is sure to inspire many people to consider God’s unique call on their own lives.

- Jim Daly, President – Focus on the Family

*In *Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light A Candle?* Patti Garibay shares a life journey full of unexpected twists and turns that prepared and positioned her for God’s great plans for her. If you are looking at your circumstances and wondering what is possible, this book is a must read. I highly recommend.*

- Phyllis Hendry Halverson, President & CEO, Lead Like Jesus.

Long ago, Joseph told his brothers, 'What man planned for evil, God planned for good.' Throughout both her painful early life and her years as a wife, mother, friend, and leader since, Patti Garibay has shown that, like Joseph, God can take the wet, formless clay of suffering and turn it into a vessel both beautiful and uniquely prepared for His service. Patti is a testament to the value of moral courage, of taking a stand graciously but firmly and then launching out in faith when called to do so. Tens of thousands of girls and young women are having their lives transformed because Patti and her wonderful husband Pat have chosen to bring the light of their Savior to the gathering darkness of our culture.

- Robert Schwarzwald, Senior Lecturer, Regent University, Former Senior Vice President, Family Research Council

Patti has changed the lives of so many girls and women through American Heritage Girls. I always wondered how she got there so fast. Her riveting story reveals how the power to culminate change was forged in the hard things of life. But God has proven faithful. She's brought so much light to our broken world. This is an enjoyable read.

- Dannah Gresh, founder of True Girl and best-selling author

*In her new book, *Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?*, Patti Garibay shares a life story. The reader gets in on God shaping and preparing someone for an extraordinary Kingdom assignment. What I love is that it also serves as a guide to help you assess what He is doing in your own life. Filled with hard places and harder decisions, we see when God's hand is on you, the outcome brings light and glory to His purpose. I highly recommend this book because it is an inspiring story and affirms that when we trust God with our life, He redeems all of it!*

- Tami Heim, President and CEO of Christian Leadership Alliance

I can't remember the last time I've read a book I simply could not put down until it was finished. Patti Garibay's story and life lessons is not for sissies. It is brutally honest. She exposes her fears, insecurities and moral failings – things we all deal with but few will admit- in a way that will bring you to tears, but will leave you on a mountaintop with a renewed determination to allow God to work in your life in order to mold you into the person He created you to be.

- Jane Chastain, Nation's First Female Sports Broadcaster, Author and Columnist

"One life can impact tens of thousands of people for Christ. Light **can** shine in this darkness and bring hope and victory! *Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?* is a riveting account of Patti Garibay's journey. Through her story you will witness God move through her to face giants, obstacles, tragedy, mistakes and to stand boldly for truth and righteousness!

As Patti trusted God and persevered against all odds, God raised her up to do the extraordinary. She has led AHG for over 25 years impacting tens of thousands of girls and families worldwide for Christ. And God is waiting to do the same in you! When an extraordinary God touches an ordinary life, we become His vessels in which His name is glorified and many will see His story through our lives. I pray as you read Patti's story you will say here I am God use me and allow God to move through to "light a candle"

Don't miss out, read this story, share it and become a part of what God is doing to bring light and hope to our world today! "

- Sally Burke, President, Moms in Prayer International

Patti's transparent sharing is both brave and inspirational. Her legacy will be found in the organization she built, as well as the example she provided for her children and grandchildren. Well done, Patti!

- Mark Hancock, CEO of Trail Life USA and best selling author

"With humble authenticity, Patti Garibay helps us see that God can use anyone for his purposes. Through her autobiographical account, she shows how God prepares us for the assignments he has for us—even if we don't think we're prepared for them. If you read *Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?* with an open heart, be forewarned: you might see yourself in her story and hear the call of God to light up the darkness near you."

- Robert McFarland, President, [Transformational Impact, LLC](#), Bestselling Author

Pure Inspiration! The transparent and spiritually challenging manner in which Patti communicates her life experience and the founding of AHG will inspire every reader to follow the Good Shepherd with their whole heart!

- Holly Culhane, Founder and CEO, Presence Point , Inc.

***Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?* [ISBN: 978-1949572865, \$15.99] published by Carpenter's Son Publishing. It is available for online at <https://www.whycursethedarkness.com/>**

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