

ARISE SHINE



WHEN WE RISE UP
HE SHINES THROUGH

You are invited to
ARISE, SHINE

November 7, 2016

*Baptist Women's World
Day of Prayer*

The Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is composed of 7 Continental Unions representing 193 national Baptist women's organizations from 156 countries. The 2016 program has been prepared by North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU).



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ARISE, SHINE

When we rise up He shines through COMMUNITY

Arise, Shine for Jesus in our Communities

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" and he also said, "You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." We can be this light as we reflect Jesus' light to those around us in our communities. What a mandate!

What does this look like in the context of the community? In the pages that follow are testimonies of women that God is working through in North America, and how they have risen to let God shine through. May their testimonies be a blessing and encouragement to each of you as you shine in your community, village, suburb, town, or city. People around us are living in darkness. How they need to see the light of Jesus and the hope and love that comes along with that light. We can shine in our homes, in our jobs, in the market, and in our schools. The place that God has put you, is the place He can shine through you. Smiling to each person we meet is the first great place to start.

NABWU's mission statement is "encouraging women to live out kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable." We carry this out in two ways: we strive to inform and motivate the women of North America through helping them understand the needs of vulnerable women and children around us, and offering solutions to help with those needs. We also carry out our mission statement by networking, and encouraging women who are working with the vulnerable. We are striving to connect these women to give them a place to share, seek input and pray for each other.



*Moreen Sharp
NABWU President*

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ARISE, SHINE (continued from page 1)

Baptist women in North America are seeing the needs around them in their communities. Many have recognized that even though the world is dark there is the light of Jesus, which is the light of hope and love that we can share. There is so much more that can be done in North America and around our world. Wouldn't it be exciting if people would say that Baptist women are making such a difference in this world? As we all let Him flow through us, this "city" that we are, this light on a hilltop, may shine brilliantly pointing the way to God and his great love.

Someone has said, "You are the only Jesus some people will ever see." Dear Lord Jesus, please let us rise and shine as we let you flow through us to our hurting neighbours in our communities, villages, towns and cities. Do what you want in us so that you can work through each of us in the most effective way."

God bless each of you, as you participate in this year's Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.

*Moreen Sharp, NABWU
President – 2012-2017*



2016 DOP President's Message



*Ksenija Magda
President (2015-2020)
BWA Women's Department*

Dear sisters around the globe,

At one conference, the topic of abuse against women was discussed with Nancy Murphy who is now the director of Familylife Today. The discussion was in the nineties, and in traditional Croatia (Europe) this was a new topic. Some research had been done and found that 64% of Croatian rural women believed that being beaten by their husbands "if they deserved it," was all right. It never occurred to them that no human "deserves" to be beaten. This information bothered me, and I wondered how a small Baptist church could change such an extensive problem. After all, Croatia was living in a social ghetto imposed by Communism for 50 years. It was a tiny church, and the resources were non-existent. The church had hardly any

influence in the community. I asked Nancy where to start.

"It's easy," Nancy replied. "If your church does not look away from this one abused woman, and if you show her that Jesus wants her free, soon this church will be known as a compassionate church. The word will get around. You will have a ministry going."

This turned out to be the best possible advice to reach a community. It works better than all those elaborate marketing approaches. It is also incredibly easy for any size of church, anywhere in the world. It is no mystery. It is biblical. We are not called to deliberate philosophically or politically on the big issues. Jesus calls us as witnesses. His church is His showcase which in any situation a better life is possible when God is their Lord.

The 2016 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer theme is Arise, Shine...When we rise up He shines through COMMUNITY. The program has been prepared by the North American sisters. My prayers are for the nervous among us to become strong to confront the injustice, starting at home with small steps. I also pray for the courage of those scared by secularism, who feel that our Christian values are compromised, to stand up and shine in your community. Love always transcends the word and stands up for right. Confronting the world's ugliness is difficult. It scares us. Sometimes, it even triggers memories and opens old wounds. It is difficult to arise and shine in this darkness. It would be easier to pretend everything is all right or wait on the big players to sort it out. It doesn't work that way in the Kingdom of God. We are called to believe and to look the ugly straight in the eye. God is worthy and strong enough to change any problematic circumstances in our communities. His daughters need to move with Him.

There is a lot to pray about, and now is the time to do it together through the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.

*Yours in Christ's love,
Ksenija Magda
President, BWA Women's Department (2015-2020)*

Plan Your Day of Prayer Creatively

Prepared by Renee James – Toronto, ON Canada

1. Pray

Prayer is the foundation of the Day of Prayer experience. Let planning teams begin to pray well in advance of Monday November 7, 2016, the date set aside for this Day of Prayer.

Here are suggested prayers for planning teams to use:

3 months before: August 2016

Pray for wisdom and clarity for planning teams as they choose the format for their community's Day of Prayer experience. Pray that it will be clear whether they need to use the Day of Prayer program . . .

- * On the day set aside – Monday November 7, 2016.
- * For a one-day or weekend prayer retreat.
- * As a guide for a Sunday service that involves the entire church.
- * For a 24-hour vigil with other Baptist churches.
- * As part of an open space set up with stations of prayer. (Doors to the church or meeting place are left open for a set number of hours so that people can come in and pray during those hours at any station of prayer they choose, using the prayer guide at that station.)
- * In some other way – whatever will work for your specific community.

2 months before: September 2016

Pray for the women leading the Day of Prayer experience in their communities. Pray that they will be protected from all distractions and roadblocks that may hinder or slow down their preparations.

2 weeks before: October 2016

Pray that all those who take part in this Day of Prayer experience will leave with their eyes and hearts wide open to how God may want to use them to shine His light in their communities and around the world.

1 week before

your community observes the Day of Prayer:

Each member of the planning team pauses for 15 minutes this week. She uses those 15 minutes to . . .

- * Give thanks for the planning teams around the world who've also prepared Day of Prayer gatherings in their communities.
- * Quietly reflect on this year's theme verse.
- * Praise God – He is the only true source of every Baptist woman's light.

2. Plan

Invitations

- * Make special invitations using the template that is found on the BWA Women's Department website at www.bwawd.org under 2016 Day of Prayer.
- * If your community has a Facebook page or group, use it to send out an invitation to the event.
- * Put an invitation in your church bulletins, and if space allows also use the Day of Prayer logo.
- * Present a brief video skit/dramatic presentation based on the theme, inviting women to the Day of Prayer program.

Present it during church announcements at church gatherings, women's meetings, anywhere where women will gather.

Promotion

- * Use the ARISE, SHINE poster or make one of your own. Hang it where lots of people will see it. A poster may be downloaded from www.bwawd.org.
- * Invite women in your community to pray for the Day of Prayer, using the suggested monthly prayers above. Have them share their experiences at women's meetings, church gatherings, anywhere where women will meet.
- * Share about preparations for the event on social media: Facebook, your church website, associational newsletters, and any place where you could reach out to Baptist women.

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Plan Your Day of Prayer Creatively *(continued from page 3)*

Decorations

Room

For a 24-hour vigil or open prayer space:

- * Have seven (7) stations of prayer set up around the room: each station will be a small table draped with a covering (plastic or cloth) that's a Continental Union color. **The Continental Union colors are:** Africa – purple; Asia – light blue; Caribbean – green; Europe – dark blue; Latin America – yellow; North America – orange.
- * On each draped table, have:
 - the centerpiece described in the program
 - the prayers for that Continental Union
 - the instructions listed under the Prayers section
 - a list of the projects that the 2016 Day of Prayer will support
- * Prepare one more table. This table remains bare, in the center of the room. One candle or lamp is set on this table and it remains lit throughout the vigil or time when the prayer space is open.
- * Prepare a small sign that explains why the candle/lamp is lit and sitting on a separate table: "This lighted candle or lamp reminds us that God's glory shines through the humblest vessel. It also reminds us that God's glory is shining on us right now because others around the world are praying for us this day." (Place this sign on the table next to the candle or lamp.)
- * Set up a CD player with several worship CDs (instrumental only) that may be played throughout the vigil or open time. Or have a small worship team (no more than two or three members) softly playing worship songs (no words – just music) that are familiar to those who may come out.

Centerpiece

Prepare a bare cross that can stand up on a flat surface. The cross may be made from stiff cardboard and tape; packing box materials; scrap wood; branches that can be bound together with twine or rope to form a cross.

- * The cross needs to stand on a table so it does not need to be too big.
- * Place one end of this cross in a bucket of sand, floral moss or some other material that will allow it to stand alone.
- * Beside each cross, place a roll of tape or pieces of paper, and pens for writing.
- * Women will need to write words on the tape, cut the tape and stick their words to the cross. Tape like duct tape or masking tape will be the best tape to use. If paper is used, place pieces of paper on each table. Pieces should be no bigger than 2 inches x 3 inches.

3. Present

For a 24-hour vigil or open prayer space:

Prayers

Each table has on it:

- * the Prayer Guide
- * a paper with printed instructions (see below)
- * a list of the 2016 Day of Prayer Projects

Printed instructions

The following instructions should be written or printed on paper and also placed on the table:

- * Please use the tape, pieces of paper and pens as you pray the prayers in the Prayer Guide. If there are any phrases, words or prayer requests from the Prayer Guide that move you deeply, please write them on the tape or paper and tape them to the bare cross.
- * The LORD's glory shines through the world, through you, only because He died on the cross for the evil, sorrow, pain, illness and death that will stop you from being able to ARISE, SHINE. He bore all the world's darkness on the cross so that His light may shine and His healing flow."

4. Offering

The offerings on this day support the continental and worldwide ministries of the BWA Women's Department. Indeed, the Department depends on this one-day offering as its main source of income.

Highlight the Offering

- * Encourage women to give double the amount given last year. Be sure those attending know that the offering they give will join with the Baptist women's offerings from the other Continental Unions in order to impact this world for Christ.
- * For the list of projects being supported by the 2016 Day of Prayer please refer to the program. (You will have done so when making up the lists to put on each Continental Union table.)
- * Inform the attendees that one-half of the offerings received remains in the Continental Union for its ministries and the other half is sent to the international office of the BWA Women's Department for Day of Prayer projects, annual program publication, and special projects to meet the needs of women around the world, leadership conference and more.

Ways to Enhance Your Day of Prayer Experience

The Day of Prayer is a blessed demonstration of the community shared by Baptist women across the world. There are two essential active ingredients to every Day of Prayer experience: **praying** and **giving**. Prayer is the lifeblood that courses through the veins of the believer in Christ. Through it, we receive hope, guidance, assurance and peace as we communicate with God. We are dependent upon it. As we unite with our Baptist sisters across the world, we are committing to uphold and support one another in prayer, for we know that nothing is accomplished without it, and great and mighty things come into being because of it. The offerings during the Day of Prayer are essential because they provide the much needed funds for the ministries and partnerships of the BWA Women’s Department and our continental unions, including the Day of Prayer projects. When we share with our sisters, we are partnering with them by giving them the tools they need to make a difference for God’s Kingdom in their own areas. As you promote and plan the Day of Prayer, please ensure that the two essential active ingredients permeate throughout your experience.

NABWU’s tag line is *“Together We are Stronger.”* The Day of Prayer is a perfect way to emphasize this statement. The Day of Prayer is for all Baptist women in your community, not just those who are a part of your organization. Invite them to discover how together, we as Baptist women worldwide are stronger.

When planning your Day of Prayer, think about your event as “an experience”. The word “experience” throws open the doors to creativity, allowing you to think outside the box when planning and promoting the Day of Prayer.

Because of the diversity of women, consider offering a choice of different Day of Prayer events at various times throughout the year. This will allow more women to be involved in a variety of ways.

One of the ways you can reach women in a unique way and expand your community of women is through the “Prayer & Praise Vigil” on the BWA Women’s Department Facebook page. This is a 24-hour Day of Prayer event from midnight on Sunday, November 6th to midnight on Monday November 7th. The Day of Prayer message is shared through prayer, music, devotions, testimonies, messages and photos from groups around the world – all right online!

You can reach out to your community by asking women to take their laptops, tablets and phones to those who are unable to leave their homes, or are in shelters, nursing homes, and hospitals. You can create prayer groups to expand your event to 24 hours by using Facebook and having groups gather in homes at different times for prayer before and after your event.

Distribution of Day of Prayer Offering

One half of the offerings received remains in the Continental Union for its ministries, and the other half is sent to the international office of the BWA Women’s Department. See chart below for more information.

50% BWA Women’s Department	50% Continental Union
Day of Prayer Projects	Funds to help Continental Union officers form new organizations of Baptist Women
Publication (printing & mailing): Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer program (annually)	Special programs: evangelism, young women’s conferences, Continental Union Day of Prayer projects, and other special meetings to help meet the needs of the women
Special projects to help meet the needs of women around the world	Continental Union meetings held once every five years
Leadership Conference, including scholarships	Scholarships to attend Continental Union meetings
Maintaining a website and e-news	Travel for Continental Union officers to encourage national Baptist women’s groups
Travel for Officers and Executive Director to encourage and support the Continental Unions	
Maintaining the world office (administrative cost)	
Director and assistants salaries	

Call to Action in Our Communities

This may be used as a responsive reading. The Leader reads the light print and the Women read the bold print.

All around us, within our communities, are women who are vulnerable, women who are imprisoned by their circumstances, women who are taken advantage of. Ephesians 5:8 says: "Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with light. Live as children who have light."

The time has come for us as Baptist women to rise up and let God's light shine through.

Rise up for the woman who has been physically and emotionally abused by the man who promised he would love her forever.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who is considered suspicious and is followed around, simply because of the color of her skin.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who was coerced into sex trafficking and is forced to pleasure multiple men each day.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who must make the choice of which child to feed because she only has enough food for one.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who is elderly and is abused and neglected rather than honored.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who has just been released from prison and does not know how to start a new life.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who fears for her life and fled her home country with only the clothes on her back.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who refuses medical treatment because of the stigma attached to the disease she contracted after being raped.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

Rise up for the woman who is desperately lonely because her husband of 40 years recently died.

Arise, shine for her light has come. Let the glory of the Lord rise.

As Baptist women and sisters in Christ, may we stand together in fellowship, enabling one another in times of adversity and in times of celebration as we work together for the extension of God's Kingdom.

Arise, sisters! The women of our communities await! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.

Suggestions

on how to use the poster to publicize the Day of Prayer are on page 3.

Go online to download the poster:

www.bwawd.org



*... just as you share in our sufferings,
so also you share in our comfort.*

II Corinthians 1:3-7

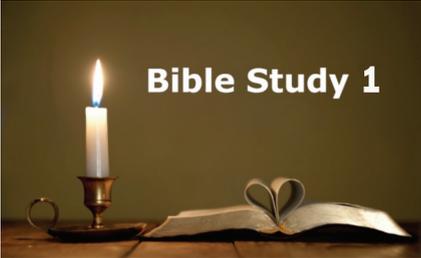
- ³*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,*
- ⁴*who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*
- ⁵*For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.*
- ⁶*If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.*
- ⁷*And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. NIV*

In this opening chapter of the second book of Corinthians, we find Paul the Apostle, along with Timothy addressing the church of Corinth that was located in the region of Achaia. Paul is teaching the people how to find true comfort while they are in the midst of tragedy and distress. At some point in life everyone will experience some form of pain, family tragedy, persistent obstacles, or personal hardship and in this passage Paul gives instructions on how to comfort others while you are in suffering.

After offering the initial greeting Paul bursts out into a joyful praise *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"* which is frequently uttered by God's people in worshipful praise and prayer. Paul is offering praise and thanksgiving to God on behalf of the addressees. For Paul knew that in the Christian life some form of hardship or suffering is inescapable but it also allows God to provide for your needs while in the midst of the discomfort. As children of God it's important to always offer praise and thanksgiving to God in the midst of good and bad times because he is the only one that can provide true comfort. God comforted Paul in his troubles so he could, in turn, comfort others.

According to the Greek language the word 'comfort' means 'a calling alongside of.' When we look deeper at comfort it implies a relationship between two people rather than an individualistic notion that exists in today's society. To comfort someone is to be able to strengthen them while they are in distress. When you are extending comfort you are encouraging them to lean on the Father in heaven who has the compassion and ability to provide them with lasting comfort. God has compassion for those who are hurting. Compassion is God's love that seeks out, extends to, and transforms the sinner. He is always ready to comfort the people who call upon His name and ask for His love, compassion, and comfort during their time of hurt and distress. There is no pain or situation that is too great for God to intervene and provide his loving comfort.

During Paul's ministry he experienced suffering and hardship but God continued to provide for him. It is important to remain faithful during the many hardships that you face in order to enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22) It is easy to allow the situation that you are in the midst of to control your emotions and actions because you are solely focused on yourself and what's happening to you. Take a minute and look at God and see how he is with you during the difficult time and see how you can comfort your sister that is beside you. God can easily remove the hardship that you are suffering but will you trust him to be with you while you are enduring it? Suffering helps you to grow in your faith. Many testimonies are received from those who suffer and are able to see God being present with them through their difficult trials. When 'all' of God's children understand that comfort is not self-serving but is intended for the entire church to be encouraging to others while they are in discomfort, everyone will be able to serve one another selflessly. Scripture reminds us that suffering produces perseverance, character and hope. (Romans 5:3) While in the suffering and discomfort God will keep you so that you can offer comfort to your sister that is in need. As the body of believers you are responsible for extending comfort to others while you may be experiencing discomfort because it symbolizes an act of love.



Bible Study 1

*... just as you share in our sufferings,
so also you share in our comfort.*

(continued from page 7)

God sometimes uses pain and discomfort to bring people closer to him so that he may get the glory through their healing and restoration. To identify with Christ is to identify with the suffering of Christ, which was an essential part of his ministry while on earth. (Mark 8:34) Just as Christ suffered so shall you suffer, but you also should extend comfort while in your suffering because Christ has empowered you to do so. When the experience of comfort is received and imparted it produces a patient endurance of the suffering that everyone suffers.

While looking toward the future Paul expresses a hope that his listeners will be able to endure the pressure that will arise from living as a Christian. According to Paul, hope is based on knowledge that is closely related to faith in God's ability to sustain and strengthen you. There is hope in knowing that if you share in Christ's suffering you will also share in God's comfort. The more that you suffer, the more comfort your sister will provide for you, and the more comfort God will give you. Along with suffering comes relationships and spiritual growth in Christ.

In this letter to the Corinthians, Paul was not merely offering praise and worship to God for his personal comfort that he had received but instead he was encouraging everyone to offer comfort to one another because their lives were intertwined together – if you are suffering I am suffering with you while offering hope and love. This passage remind us that suffering is a part of the Christian life that is necessary in order to qualify us to be able to sympathize with others in order to administer true comfort to them.

God is the God of all comfort and his children shall all be comforted. There is no hurt or suffering that God does not know about because he is omniscient. (Psalms 139:1-4) God is infinitely sympathetic to our discomfort and through his mercy you are able to receive abundant solace. God has provided comfort for you that you may provide comfort for your sisters. Always remember that you are not an isolated individual when you are suffering but that you are a part of a community of

believers in the body of Christ. When you suffer you should bear yourself to your sister that she may provide comfort and patience to you. Likewise, if she is suffering, you are to suffer with her and should bear her burdens while offering comfort.

It's time to 'Arise, Shine in Your Community' by beginning to provide comfort for your sisters and brothers that are in pain and suffering. Allow the love and compassion of Christ to shine through you that you may be a witness to everyone in your community.

LaKeeyna Cooper – Raleigh, NC USA

Find Bible Study 2 by Rev. Sarah Scott of Woodville NS Canada on the Women's Department website: www.bwawd.org – click on 2016 Day of Prayer.

Suggestions for a One-Two Hour Day of Prayer Experience

(24-hour vigil and prayer stations ideas can be found in Creatively Presenting Your Day of Prayer Experience)

- Welcome – NABWU President's Greetings
- Hymn
- Prayer of Adoration to God
- Testimony
- Prayers for 2 Continental Unions
- Testimony
- Prayers for 2 Continental Unions
- Testimony
- Prayers for 2 Continental Unions
- Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- Bible study
- Prayers for 1 Continental Union and BWA WD Exec. Board
- Highlighting Offering (including DOP Projects)
- Offering
- "Call to Action in Our Communities" reading
- "Arise, Shine" theme song
- Benediction

Testimonials

PHOEBE Connections

A community is defined as groups of people living in somewhat close association, a unified body of individuals. We have a community of widows called PHOEBE Connections that are being lights in our community.

Through God's divine leadership, PHOEBE Connections has risen as a ministry that seeks to help widows out of their darkness of loss to understand the light they can be to others in the community. When a lady loses her spouse, she may feel in darkness, in a valley with walls so high the light of day appears for only a moment. As a widow tries to find direction in the darkness, she must first find herself. Who is she? Her couple world is gone; the circle of friends will change; finances must be evaluated. Her days and nights are lone-ly.

PHOEBE Connections began in 2012. A local pastor issued a call to his church to answer a widow's question, "When does it stop hurting?" Ronda and I met with our pastors, than four widows became involved. As our group grew to twelve we began to write a mission statement and purposes. Wondering what name to give our group, it was stated that God would give us the name in His time. After the purpose statements were written, it was noted that the first letter of each statement made the anagram PHOEBE. God had named us.

Point widows to Jesus Christ as their healer, comforter, provider and Savior

Help widows through the grieving process

Outreach to unchurched widows

Extend fellowship so widows can connect with other widows who share their experiences

Become involved in service to others

Encourage and assist widows in discovering their spiritual Gifts and their place in the body of Christ.

Ladies of PHOEBE Connections reach out to new widows in the community. Letters are mailed, personal contacts made, invitations are extended. Those who have walked the journey serve as a beacon of light for new widows as they begin to find their new identity.



Widows need support for weeks/ months. They need to find purpose, a sense of security, and well being. Ladies need to feel they are "women of worth" in their singleness.

PHOEBEs shine in the community by planning and participating in ministry projects. The light of Jesus is shown as ladies participate in a missions fair and Christmas parades; give of themselves in service to food pantries, rehab centers, and shelters. School supplies are provided to homeless children and cookies are baked and delivered to community officials, law officers, and emergency workers.

The ladies of PHOEBE Connections let the light of Jesus shine. Smiles begin to replace sadness; confidence shows as success is felt through ministry to others. Jean, says that PHOEBEs is the "Best thing ever for me". Lisa first came with a face full of sadness; now, she smiles, volunteers, and is taking a leadership role.

As we reach out into our community, we are blessed. A man received his first pair of gloves after PHOEBEs donated over 100 pairs of gloves and mittens for a food pantry. You might be surprised what a bar of soap and a toothbrush can do for a person's confidence when a hygiene bag is received.

As Phoebe in Romans 16 was God's servant in her church and community, the ladies of PHOEBE Connections strive to do the same. They "arise and shine" in their neighborhoods. It does not matter if the widow is seasoned or new to this journey, the light of Jesus can fill the darkness and reflect through her and shine in the community.

Website: www.phoebconnections.com

Elaine Pearson – Lebanon, TN USA

Testimonials

Arise and Shine at Friendship House



It was March of 2005 when I entered into the building which was once the old Temple Baptist Church, but now renamed Friendship House. I had been interviewed by the board and given the job of planning, organizing and running a children's after school program. My, what a task! Forty-five children aged between 4 and 14 come running and screaming into the building at 3:30 pm and left again at 5:00 pm. This wasn't a program, it was crowd control. My co-worker Merran, who has such an amazing love for children, was as frazzled as I was and we agreed that some serious prayer time was needed followed by some serious planning. Friendship House is situated in the middle of a community struggling with the effects of drug and alcohol abuse. Poverty and malnourishment are high, and damage of their mental well-being is evident. With this knowledge we studied and prayed over our mission statement. Our mission statement reads: "Friendship House is here to build relationships as we seek to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people by sharing Christ's love within a caring environment – showing the unconditional love of Jesus Christ through our actions and acceptance of all people".

"But what does that love look like Lord?" I queried. I searched through scripture and came upon the verses in Matt. 25: For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me and I was in prison and you came to visit me! So the mission was set, the vision clear and the volunteers ready to work.

Now, ten years later, we have a variety of successful programs. We meet the children each week to teach cooking and basic skills. We do the same for our many seniors who are alone, hungry and searching for ways to meet others like themselves, to feel encouraged and to meet the God of hope. Our clothing closet is in constant demand and our food bank used on a regular basis. Our little café – the 'Dewdrop Inn' – has brought many in off the streets to share a hot meal, conversation and friendship. Those who are ill, some terminally, and those who have stayed in prison come and visit with us. There are those who not only visit but pick up an apron and become part of our dynamic team.

There is never a cost for any of our meals or programs. I searched the scriptures and couldn't find anywhere that stated that Jesus charged for His service. Being ambassadors we decided not to charge too but to rely solely on the abundance of God's provision for all our needs. We're so glad we took this course of action as we have the pleasure and delight of seeing God at work, every day.

May God's light continue to shine in this building touching all those who enter, bringing His everlasting life, hope and peace. Friendship House, showing God's love in action.

Website: www.friendshiphousebrant.com

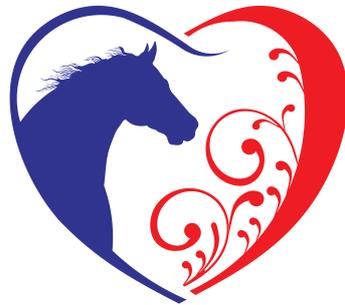
Carol Owen – Brantford, Ontario, Canada



2016 DOP Projects:

- 1. Name of Project: Girls Only Equine Therapy Empowerment Program**
Organization making application: Farmtown Canada aka Funny Farm Ministries
Person responsible: Kelly Franklin, Executive Director

Description of Project: The program runs in one week blocks during the summer and fall months. The program could be described as a Christian equine therapy and life skill development course. The goal of this program is to provide a loving, nurturing Christian environment that teaches biblical principles about respect, positive choice making, peer pressure, self-confidence, and personal growth as well as reinforcing basic social skills such as cooperation, team-building and conflict resolution. Additionally this program delves into Christian equine-assisted therapy. This is something that is cutting edge in Canada. There are Christian equine centers, and equine therapy centers, however we have written Christian-specific curriculum that encompasses all therapy through Christian based instruction and supports.



- 2. Name of Project: Oasis Women's Counseling Program**
Organization making application: Oasis Dufferin Community Center
Person responsible: Erika Abele, Director of Women's Programs
Description of Project: One of the main programs Oasis currently offers is a weekly food bank. The Oasis Food Bank serves a high number of Latin American people. The community programs at Oasis have involved job-skill training, ESL classes, cashier and bank teller training, and a seniors program. In more recent years Oasis has launched programs that involve youth in sports activities, partnerships with local schools, and the establishment of a new church plant congregation. Its approach focuses on meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of clients to bring stability into the lives of those in our community.

- 3. Name of Project: Food Truck for Training Purposes**
Organization making application: Mary Magdalene Ministry Gateway Baptist Church Victoria, BC, Canada
Person responsible: Donna Forster, Member

Description of Project: Food truck to be used as a training project to teach work ethic for people living in the margins of our society who want to get a job and work their way into mainstream society. Women in the sex trade who want to get out will be their main focus. They hope to offer employment in all areas such as the service industry, learning how to run a business, create and balance a budget, and learn to live within and operate the business within that budget. All profits from the food truck business will be placed into an education fund for those who wish to attend college, learn a trade or upgrade their education to attain their ultimate goal.

- 4. Name of Project: Women Building Resources to Exit Poverty**
Organization making application: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of Middle Tennessee, USA
Person responsible: Rebekah K. Sumrall & Tracey Gholson, Executive Director & Ministry Director

Description of Project: CWJC of Middle Tennessee empowers individuals to overcome the obstacles caused by poverty by providing education, mentoring, Bible study, and resources. They provide education to help women obtain their high school equivalency diploma. They also offer computer and job skills training, English as a Second Language, and literacy classes. Every student who enters their program and every child who participates in their childcare is involved in Bible study on a regular basis.

- 5. Name of Project: Continental Union (CU) Special Project Fund**
Person Responsible: BWA Women's Department Executive Board

Description of Project: This fund may be used to assist any Continental Union in a special project or event on the Continental Union level.

Send Offering Receipts to the Appropriate Continental Union

North American Baptist Women's Union

NABWU
P.O. Box 282
Bordentown, NJ 08505-0282
USA
The checks need to be made out
to NABWU.

Note: Canadians can give
through their member body.
Please see www.nabwu.org for
the address.

Baptist Women's Union of Africa

Name of Bank:
First Bank Corporation (FBC)
Account Number: 1025150550117
Swift code: FBCPZHWA
Branch: Zvishavane
Branch code: 8508
98 Robert Mugabe Way
Zvishavane, Zimbabwe

Asian Baptist Women's Union

Account Name:
CECILLIA MELANIE
PALANDENG
US\$ Savings Account Number:
026-221-142-6
Name of Bank: Bank Central Asia
Bank Address: BCA Cabang
Manado
JL. Sam Ratulangi Kav 17-19
Manado 95000, Sulawesi Utara
Indonesia
Swift Code: CENAIDJA

Caribbean Baptist Women's Union

Mrs. Marjorie Fletcher
Treasurer, CBWU
Duncans P.O.
Trelawny, Jamaica

European Baptist Women's Union

Account Number: 272728
Bank Name: Spar-und Kreditbank
Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher
Gemeinden eG
BIC: GENODE51BH2
Postgach 1262
61282 Bad Homburg
Tel: 06172/9806-0

Baptist Women's Union of Latin America

Email UFBAL Treasurer
Ofelia Rendon de Tapuy at:
luz_ofely@yahoo.es
or Sara de Barrios UFBAL
President at:
saradebarrios@hotmail.com for
information on how and where
to wire your offering.

Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific

For more information on how to
send in your offering please
contact BWUSWP Treasurer,
Fran Benfell at
fran_benfell@xtra.co.nz
or admin@bwuswp.com.

Online Giving

Donations can now be made online
at www.bwawd.org – click on the
donate tab and then the “e-giving”
button. Donations may be sent
from anywhere in the world using
a credit card. You save time and
money with no transfer or wire
fees. A receipt will be sent with
50% designated to the appropriate
Continental Union and 50% to the
BWA WD.



International Officers 2015-2020

President: Ksenija Magda
Email: ksenija.magda@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:
Kathy E. James
Email: treasurerwd@bwawd.org

Vice Presidents:

Africa: Joina Dhlula
Email: joinadhula@gmail.com

Asia: Precy T. Caronongan
Email: caronongan.precy@gmail.com

Caribbean: Yvonne Pitter
Email: jypitter@hotmail.com

Europe: Aniko Ujvari
Email: ebwu.president@gmail.com

Latin America: Sara de Barrios
Email: saradebarrios@hotmail.com

North America: Moreen Sharp
Email: president@nabwu.org

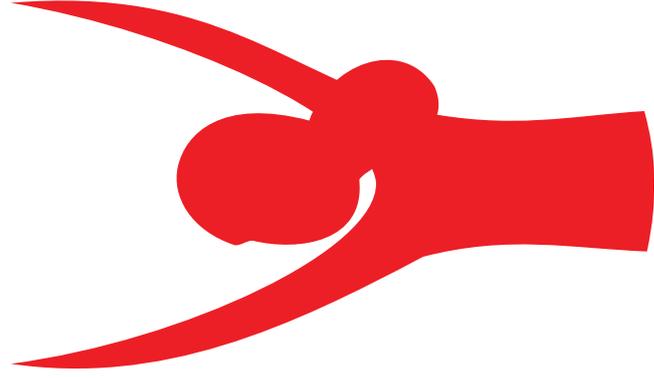
South West Pacific: Amelia Gavidì
Email: agavidi@gmail.com

BWA Women's Department:

Email: womenbwa@bwawd.org

Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific (BWUSWP)

1. Pray for God's leading and guidance as the Australian leadership seek to equip and provide the on-going support for each other in their state and territory.
2. Pray for both National and local leaders in Papua New Guinea (PNG) that they will have new visions and dreams to run constructive programmes and to move their women's work to another level.
OPray for all Baptist women who have a job in PNG that they will raise their banner high to Arise to Shine in their family, work place, community, and nation.
3. Pray against the spirit of suicide amongst the children in Fiji that there will be measures put in place to try and curb this problem such as Christian counsellors in the schools, and parents to be more vigilant and aware of what their children are doing.
4. Pray for effective government policies to reduce domestic violence in New Zealand which is often related to drug or alcohol abuse. Pray for the renewed interest and support for National and International Baptist Women's Ministries.
5. Pray for the Baptist women of West Papua that they will continue to stand together in unity and be bold and courageous as they face political and religious threats in their country. Pray for god-fearing leaders in the church and nation of West Papua.
6. Pray for the BWUSWP leaders to be more bold and aggressive in prayer and to be united in hearts as how to be more effective in their leadership for the women of the Pacific.



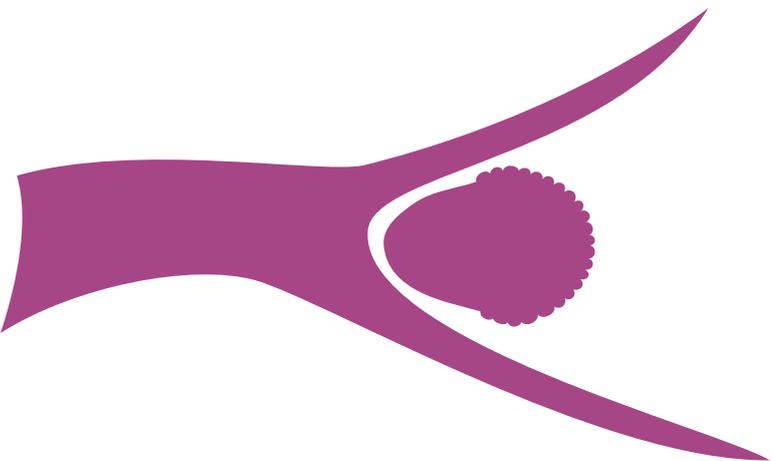
ARISE SHINE

... through Prayer



2016 Prayer Guide

Baptist Women's Union of Africa (BWUA)



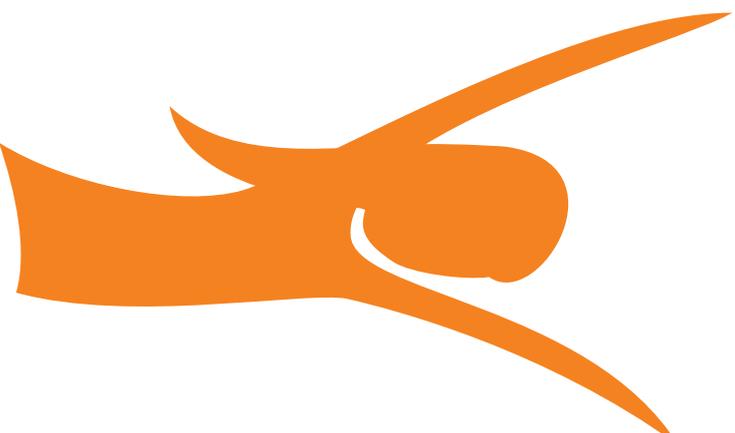
1. Pray for BWUA executive as they make preparations for the BWUA Continental conference to be held August 24-25, 2017.
2. Pray for Baptist women in Africa to be able to develop projects to eradicate hunger and poverty.
3. Pray for the spirit of giving to prevail among Baptist women to positively support planned activities.
4. Pray against diseases like Ebola, cancer and HIV/Aids which are ravaging most countries in Africa.
5. Pray for peace in Northern Nigeria and Northern Cameroon where Boko Haram is causing a lot of unrest.
6. Pray for God fearing leaders at all levels in the Baptist church in Africa.
7. Pray for equity in distribution of resources without regionalism, tribalism or racism.

General Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Paul Msiza, BWA President
2. Pray for Neville Callam, BWA General Secretary



North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU)



1. Pray for the leadership of NABWU's 17 women's organizations that they may have the necessary vision, wisdom and discernment.
2. Pray that the ministries receiving 2016 NABWU Day of Prayer project grants will be encouraged, strengthened and mightily used for God's glory.
3. Pray that the North American women who attended the Leadership Conference in South Africa, use their experiences to expand their horizons as they engage in God's worldwide redemption.
4. Pray that Baptist women would become involved in NABWU's anti-trafficking initiative that seeks to educate trafficked women about the resources available to save and protect them from further exploitation.
5. Pray for the preparation and programme of the NABWU 5-year Assembly – Together We Are Stronger – to be held in October, 2017.
6. Pray that the awareness of and participation in the Day of Prayer will be increased throughout North America and that giving will be sacrificial.



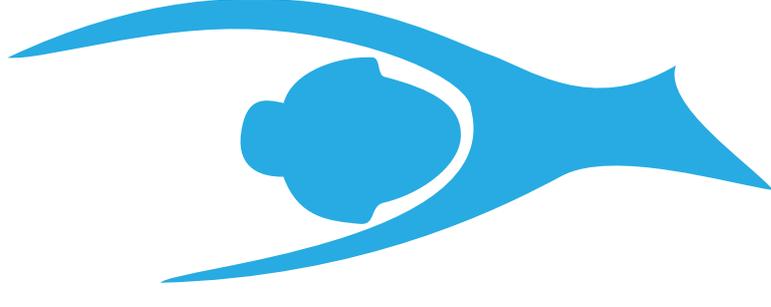
Baptist Women's Union of Latin America (UFBAL)



1. Pray for greater community ownership by Baptist women in Latin America.
2. Pray for Baptist women in Latin America that they will help depressed communities in their respective countries, as well as indigenous populations, women and children in situations of abuse and violence.
3. Pray for groups of Latin American women in leadership positions at political, social and economic level. So that the Lord will rise them up and bear witness to truth, justice and peace that comes through Jesus Christ.
4. Pray that the Lord will use the mass media in Latin America: radio, television, magazines, newspapers, discipleship materials, prayer books, books, etc. and so that they can rise to shine the light of Christ in every corner of our Hispanic communities and Latin Americans.
5. Pray for Latin American Baptist women that are part of national, regional and local Baptist Women's Unions as they develop specific ministries in a community: missionaries, pastors' wives, pastors, directors of projects, community service, among others. May our Lord fill them with his grace, power and wisdom so that the light of the Gospel shine in every community where they are.
6. Pray that that Baptist women will rise and shine in the new generations that serve the specific developments of the different communities that make up the countries of Latin America and Hispanic America and other regions of the world.



Asian Baptist Women's Union (ABWU)

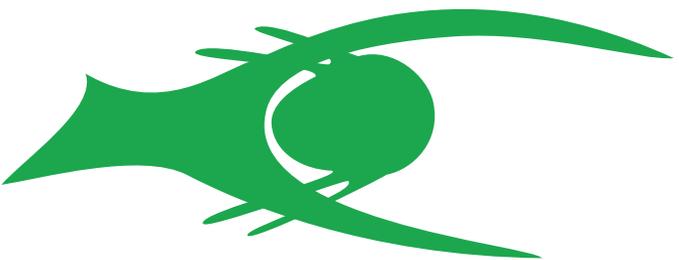


1. Pray for women of Asia to be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of their communities, taking lead and initiative in addressing these needs.
2. Pray for creative ideas to minister to the needs of children, women and the elderly in their communities.
3. Pray for the involvement of women in promoting the health of their communities in cooperation with the existing health agencies in their areas as in the programs of elimination of AIDS and other venereal diseases, communicable diseases and campaign for immunization for the children.
4. Pray for the Baptist women to be blessings to their communities as they reach out to the families moving in to their communities.
5. Pray that women of Asia will be peace-keepers and promoters of peace in their communities.
6. Pray that women see the important roles and influence they have in their communities, in order that they may become actively involved.
7. Pray for women to be involved in the care of the environment through the proper disposal of waste, practice recycling, planting trees, and vegetables as space allows.



Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU)

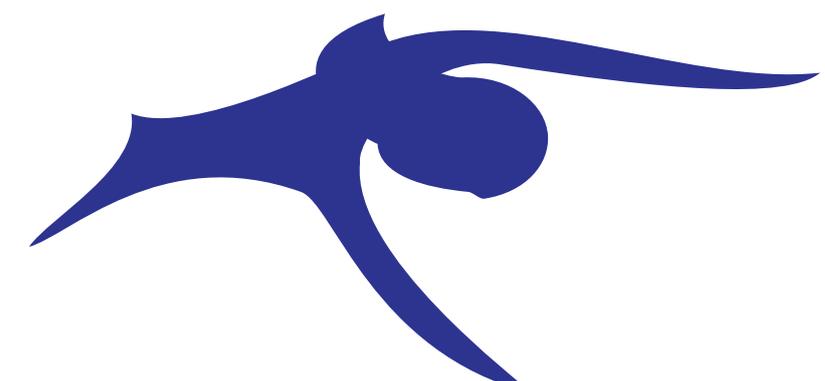
1. Pray for the people of Dominica who were devastated by hurricane Erika that God will provide them with the resources to get back on their feet.
2. Pray about the challenges that families face in the Caribbean especially at this time: for example – immorality, unemployment, peer pressure among children and young adults, high cost of living, and the lack of Christian values and attitudes.
3. Pray for our young people who are facing severe economic challenges in financing their education at the University and other Tertiary Institutions.
4. Pray for greater unity among Caribbean Islands women so that they will support each other in reaching the Islands for Christ.
5. Pray that Christian women in the Caribbean will Arise and Shine for the Lord and do what the Lord has called them to do. That their service will be Christ centered and all inclusive.
6. Pray that women will strengthen their stakes as they reach out to unsaved among them and then lengthen their cords to other boundaries.



BWA Women's Department Executive Board

1. Pray for Ksenija Magda, BWA WD President
2. Pray for Kathy James, BWA WD Secretary/Treasurer
3. Pray for the following BWA WD Vice Presidents:
Africa: Joina Dhulua
Asia: Precy Caronongan
Caribbean: Yvonne Pitter
Europe: Aniko Ujvari
Latin America: Sara de Barrios
North America: Moreen Sharp
South West Pacific: Amelia Gavidi

European Baptist Women's Union (EBWU)



1. Europe has a rich history of Christianity. Pray for the Christians to live as Christians, and to be the light and salt all around Europe.
2. Pray for the Christian women as they are present in the society, in the church, in the families representing the love, mercy, acceptance, and opening doors for the people from their neighborhoods.
3. Pray for the people in all the European countries as they work on how to relate to the different cultures, and life styles that are entering Europe, and that they may build bridges between the cultures in the name and love of Jesus Christ.
4. Pray for the children and young people to learn to think not just about themselves, but to see the blessings of sharing and giving, and to be more considerate.
5. Pray for the young women and elderly women to be open to meet and learn from one another, and to share their experiences, as well as to accept one another.



The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Program is Published by:

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