



BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER

November 2, 2020



Life!

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New Look, New Logo, New format, Same purpose

You will notice that your Day of Prayer program looks a little different this time. We have a new Day of Prayer logo! Traditionally each Continental Union has been represented by a color. These colors have been brought together to celebrate our oneness in Christ as we come together as Baptist sisters on the global scale.

The program is also different in format now. In order to increase our emphasis on our prayer together, that has been brought into a sharper focus by giving one page per Continental Union with the prayer requests as well as written prayers, along with news, stories or photos from each Continent. If you would like to incorporate the spiritual story of one of your sisters into your program, please see Mary's story on the website at www.bwawd.org/Marys-story. You can also find the promotional poster, photos for use with power point, the LIFE theme song sound track, history of Day of Prayer, videos and other resources at www.bwawd.org/DOP-Extras.

For a deeper understanding of the global reach of Day of Prayer, be sure to check out facebook.com/BWAWomenDepartment/ especially on and following the Day of Prayer. There you will see photos of some of the thousands of our global sisters who participate in this experience along with you. Send your photos to be added to the page as well!

Thank you for standing together in solidarity with your global Baptist sisters!

The Day of Prayer Story

Are we women who *do* the Day of Prayer? Or, are we women of prayer? Day of Prayer began as women in Europe emerged from World War II. Women, who had been on opposite sides of the battle, realized they had work to do in order to tear down walls the divisiveness of war had been erected. Pain and atrocities had led to feelings of anger and these women knew only God could dismantle these emotional barriers and bring reconciliation. These women were women of prayer. They came together, wrapped their arms around each other through prayer, and the walls came tumbling down.

Since that eventful period, the Day of Prayer movement among Baptist women has grown. Observances now reach women in nearly every country where there are Baptist groups, currently seven Continental Unions connecting women from 156 countries with translations of the program into over 80 languages.

Today we continue to see division in our world. Walls are built through war zones and polarization in theology, politics, cultures, ethnicities, and economic statuses. We, as Baptist Women, continue to call each other to break down walls in love, expressed through prayer. When we come together, we stand with each other at the foot of the cross, holding hands as we look up to our Saviour to bring healing and hope in a troubled and broken world. Day of Prayer is our biggest, most earth-shattering, ground-breaking opportunity to dispel the darkness and love the world and each other on a massive scale.

Prayer matters. Our voices are rising up to God with thousands upon thousands of our sisters'. God hears. God answers. Let's continue to come together to shake the world and dispel forces of darkness.

Getting CREATIVE

Culture is always changing and there are so many ways we can adapt to carry out and broaden our reach as women of prayer. Let's think creatively of ways we can bring more women into our worldwide prayer circle. Let's try new ways of experiencing our Day of Prayer and make it possible for more women to attend than ever before!

Here are some ideas:

1. Traditional Prayer Events

Conventional occasions that occur at church and various public spaces. For planning ideas for a conventional church meeting, see: bwawd.org/planning-tips

2. Private Prayer Gatherings

Intimate events, which are hosted in small locations, such as homes, libraries, or coffee shops.

3. Prayer in Public Spaces

Open prayer tables or booths in public sites, such as college campuses, subway stations, or street corners, etc. where hosts offer prayer for anyone who wants it throughout the day.

4. Praying Throughout the Year

Encourage one another to take prayer requests home and continue to pray over them during the following year.

5. Prayer Walking

Set up prayer rooms in your church and offer a variety of prayer stations representing the Continental Unions. Place prayer requests from each continent around each station and have people move from station to station praying for the concerns mentioned.

6. Remote Prayer Times:

It's not always possible to meet in person. There are ways to work with that.

- Text Prayer Groups:

- Gather a group together and commit to pray at a particular time and text each other prayer needs. Or, have one of the group members text the others with a prayer from the guide or a Bible text for reflection.
- Email Prayer Groups
 - Set up an email group and send each other prayer requests or write out prayers via email.
- WhatsApp or Skype
 - Utilize video calling to facilitate as close to an in-person gathering as possible.

As you discover creative ways to pray together even from afar, please share your ideas so we can pass them on to others. Contact us at bwawomen@bwawd.org.

For a multitude of other creative ways to experience your time of prayer, please visit bwawd.org/Creative-Day-of-Prayer. Also see www.bwawd.org/planning-Day-of-Prayer for your planning needs

Living to the Full in Jesus' Sheepfold

A Bible Study on John 10, 1-18

By Ksenija Magda

In July, a new president was elected for BWA Women for the 2020-2025 term. We welcome Karen Wilson from Australia to her new role. To learn more about Karen, please see the short biography on our website.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of serving you over the last five years. It has been a joy to meet so many of you around the world. I want to leave you with this challenge from the Word.

1. Who Owns the Sheep? Or, the Freedom of God's Children.

The metaphor of God's people as wandering sheep without a shepherd in John **10:1-18** is from Isaiah 53:7. With it, Jesus means first to reproach of the leaders of Israel of his own time about their bad leadership. Jesus tells them that they are not only blind (**9:40**), but they are also *'thieves and bandits'* (**10:1**) who stole the flock from their rightful owner. As hired staff they abuse the sheep and, in their arrogance, they fail to recognize the rightful owner of the sheep and let him in.

The metaphor is difficult to follow as Jesus changes points of reference in the image: he is at once the *'shepherd of the sheep'* (**10:3**), who must be let in by a *'gatekeeper'* (**10:3**), and he is also the *'gate for the sheep'* (**10:7**). It is easier to follow the story by looking at the overarching themes of Jesus' disapproval of the false shepherds and Jesus' claim that he is the only true shepherd.

Abundant life for the sheep depends first on the earthly shepherds of God's church, and that is sometimes complicated. Recently, the world has been bombarded by lists of church leaders who have betrayed their churches and God by engaging in sexual abuse and other sorts of obvious sin; they have abused their position and power as leaders. Unfortunately, their primary victims were women.

Such shepherds *'steal, kill, and destroy'* the sheep (**10:10**). It is hard for the sheep to listen to them (**10:8**) because they know that God's voice is different; life and love do not hurt and cause pain. Life is not found in places where you are abused and locked away in a narrow place, unable to live. Jesus is a different kind of shepherd. With him, the sheep are *'saved'* (**10:9**) from the constant fear of their self-installed and abusive shepherds. Life in Jesus' sheepfold is different. By entering it, the sheep are saved, but they are not enslaved by the walls of the sheep fold; Jesus is their door. They can *'come in and go out and find pasture'* (**10:9**). This is a picture of having place to come home, but it is also a picture of

freedom, of going out and exploring, finding new pastures to feed on and life bursting with joy: *'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly'* (10:10). Jesus is the door to both shelter and freedom. A sheepfold run by such an imposter, as described previously, is easily recognized by its narrowness. It does not exist for the sheep, but to further the pride and power of the false shepherds.

Think and evaluate your church experience. Is it a safe place where you can find shelter? Is it an open place where you can explore the freedom and fullness of life?

Give thanks to God for the good 'doorkeepers' of your church, of people who lead you well and who work like Jesus. There is nothing more attractive than a church where Jesus is the shepherd and the 'doorkeepers' recognise him and allow him in.

Pray for your situation if it is an abusive one. Know that your first loyalty is to Jesus, the true shepherd. The 'sheepfold' belongs to Jesus, not to humans. You too belong to Jesus. You may need to listen to Jesus' voice rather than the voice of the false shepherds and act in the freedom of God's children. Pray for the victims of self-ordained shepherds.

2. There Are Other Sheepfolds? Or, Do We Love Others as Ourselves?

The *'good shepherd'* *'knows his own'* (10:14) but his fold is not just one. There are *'other'* sheepfolds (10:16) which belong to God, and that is sometimes difficult for us to understand. Our minds are self-centred and self-absorbed. If John wrote in Ephesus at the end of the 1st century (as tradition believes) he may have been inspired by the disunity of Christians. There were those who came to Christ from a Jewish background, and those who came from a Gentile background (comp. Eph. 2:11-13). The difficulties in the church also resulted from nationalism – both Jewish and Greek. But Christ has come not 'for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God' (11:52). There is only one shepherd for the whole flock – whatever their human sheepfolds and door-keepers. The sheep are identified when they hear the shepherd's voice and are drawn in by him (10:16). Therefore, *'there will be one flock'* as there is *'one shepherd'* of them all (comp. Eph. 2:14-22).

The church has been divided. Some of this division is necessary, as we are bound to our place and often have no opportunity to see much else. But sometimes we create division where Jesus wants unity. Life to the full only comes when we recognize that God is not confined just to the people who look and act like us, or who belong to our own church. Those who belong to Christ are called to go out and know that there are 'other folds,' and they also belong to Christ. If they belong to him, they must belong to us, if we are Christ's. The apostle Paul uses the picture of the Body of Christ for the whole church, not just for the local community. When we connect, resources flow and all of us experience that amazing life.

Share your experiences of the global church. Have there been stories that have moved you and from which you learned? How have differences in culture shocked and also enriched you? Pray together through the continental stations, thanking God for 'the other folds' and for the life he shows in all the little corners of our world through our sisters and brothers.

Sometimes, the world comes to us. Can we truly embrace people of different skin, nationality and culture? Think together what you could do to make your church more accepting of 'different' people. Pray for these 'other folds' and for your unity.



Ksenija Magda, BWA Women
past president 2015-2020

Karen Wilson, BWA Women
president 2020-2025



HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is central in the life of Baptist World Alliance Women. This annual observance is the means by which Baptist women from every continent stand together, grow in effectiveness, and impact our world for Christ. Offerings taken on this day provide the main source of income needed for BWA Women's maintenance and ministries.

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer began as a miracle of God's peace-making grace in the aftermath of World War II. In 1948, nineteen Baptist women from Denmark, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Great Britain, Finland, and Czechoslovakia met in London, England, with Olive Martin, chair of what was then the Women's Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. The war had shattered their lives and their sisterhood in Christ. They came bearing wounds of loss and anxiety, suspicion and shame—wounds that began to heal as they said the Lord's Prayer together. Within three days they had formed the European Baptist Women's Union and chosen their first president, Marie Nørgaard of Denmark. She led them to dedicate the first week of November as "a week when we unitedly pray for each other and the world."

Two years later (1950), their example led to the creation of the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer—a day of prayer with, as well as for one another.¹

Since that eventful period, the Day of Prayer movement among Baptist women has grown. Observances now reach women in nearly every country where there are Baptist groups, currently 156 countries with translations of the program into over 80 languages.

Born out of war and the desire to seek spiritual communion and unity, we are compelled to note that many Baptist women continue to suffer from violence and isolation of war. In many countries women meet to pray amidst turmoil caused by violence, while others fear daily for their safety and well being.

The Day of Prayer observance links women of the world, providing spiritual lifelines that strengthen and give hope. Who can measure the courage gained by these women, realizing that their sisters in other countries are praying for them? Many Baptist sisters in Eastern Europe say that it is prayer that brought freedom and peace to many of their countries as experienced in 1990. The need continues!

In some parts of the globe women are known to walk several miles, some over and down mountains, to reach appointed places of prayer. In parts of Asia and Africa it is reported that women swim small rivers and streams to participate in the Day of Prayer. Is it any wonder the movement has grown? With such courage and devotion Baptist women will continue to be the strength of their churches.

¹ Esther Barnes, *Coming Together A History of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department*, (2010 BWA Women's Department)

Projects for 2020 Day of Prayer

1. Name of Project: **We See: We Care – A Domestic Violence Resource Kit for Local Churches**

Organizations: **Baptist Women of the Pacific and Australian Baptist Women**

Persons Responsible: **Elissa Macpherson and Yvette Cherry, presidents of BWP and ABW respectively**

Country: **Australia**

The Pacific region has the highest rates of domestic violence in the world. While the rates are more prevalent in the Pacific Islands, the stats say that a woman a week is being murdered in Australia due to this problem. This issue also affects those in local Baptist churches. Pastors are looking for resources to help them work with the problem. These two women's organizations are coming together to develop a kit for Baptist churches in Australia

2. Name of Project: **Hydroponic Greenhouse**

Organization: **Shelter of Love Children's Home**

Persons Responsible: **Pastor Bora Hem, Pastor Hong Sina Mon, Director and dorm parents**

Country: **Cambodia**

This project will benefit the children of the Shelter of Love Children's Home socially and economically. They already have 3 greenhouses and would like to build another. The greenhouses are providing food for the home, and the sales from the greenhouse help to cover some of the expenses. If another greenhouse can be built, the proceeds from this fourth greenhouse would go directly towards the costs of the children's education.

3. Name of Project: **BFA Education and Engagement Church Project**

Organization: **Beauty for Ashes**

Person Responsible: **Chrissy Duke, US Director**

Country: **USA/North Africa**

Developing practical and accessible training seminars for parents and leaders in the church to gain knowledge, understanding and actionable take-aways for local involvement and global involvement. As this ministry is based in northern Africa, it will be an opportunity to

help individuals here understand the issue of human trafficking both locally as well as globally.

4. Name of Project: **Care and Share Homely Shelter**

Organization: **Asian Baptist Women's Fellowship, Hong Kong**

Person Responsible: **Latika Paul, President**

Country: **Hong Kong**

Care and Share Homely Shelter works to empower women in crisis, care for them by teaching skills to develop their livelihood and share God's love. They care for women from all walks of life but specifically women and families in ethnic minorities, from the under privileged community and oppressed women in Hong Kong.

For a fuller description of the projects, please see the website under Day of Prayer

ASIA BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION

Dear Heavenly Father,

It is such a privilege to be able to unite in one heart and one voice to praise you and to bring our supplications at your Throne of grace. We are humbled that despite our weaknesses and flaws, you listen to us and will act upon our requests according to your sovereignty and wisdom.

As we pray, may your Spirit continue to spur in us the passion to obey your teaching, and the vision to press on and soar to higher ground, for your Glory and purpose.

We uphold 34 Asia member bodies from 19 countries unto your loving and leading hands. Enable us to arise and shine for you in untracked fields of service and ministry. Grant us strength and boldness despite our age or health. May the stronger ones support and help the weaker ones. In Thy kingdom, we look forward to renewed minds to serve, to come out of our comfort zones, and to reach out to those who need help.

We pray for political stability and progress for all the nations in our Continent. We pray that justice will prevail, though we may not see it happen in our time. We believe that prayer is powerful because we are partnering with God the almighty.

Most of all, may we be mindful of the Great Commission and constantly place ourselves at the Altar for your use. Purify us to be your clean and worthy vessels for your Kingdom. Enable us to dream dreams that are pleasing to you as they become our motivation to do good works as you destined us to do.

In the wonderful name of Jesus, Amen.

PRAYER FOR ABWU MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. *HONG KONG – Pray for the restoration of peace and order. Pray for young people to behave maturely to regain overall well-being of the hurting society, instead of reacting violently out of anger. Pray for churches to stand in the gap in ways that are acceptable and pleasing to God.*
2. *INDONESIA, MYANMAR, VIETNAM – Pray that the barrier of ongoing ethnic conflicts be removed, and that people move towards stability and progress. Pray that churches will be more united and believers will continue to share God’s Word with passion in spite of persecutions.*
3. *CHINA, INDIA, MYANMAR, PAKISTAN - Pray for breakthrough from persecution of Christians. Pray for believers to be bold in sharing the Gospel in spite of restrictions in the country, that more men and women will be saved.*
4. *Pray against social injustice towards women in some Asian countries.*
5. *BANGLADESH, INDONESIA, SRI LANKA, THAILAND - Pray for political stability in these countries.*
6. *Pray for countries that are more at risk to natural disasters (Indonesia, India, Japan, etc.)*
7. *SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA - Pray that they would be one, united in the Lord to serve the Kingdom of God. Pray that our sisters in South Korea (KBMU) would be used by God to impact the nation by transforming women of the next generation to be prayerful with hearts of servitude.*
8. *PHILIPPINES - Pray that the proposed law on “same-sex marriage, divorce and the SOGIE bill” will not be passed. Pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will guide and give boldness to the believers to share the gospel to the non-believers.*

PRAISE FOR ABWU CORNER....

1. *Praise God for ABWU new Committee led by Dr. Vernetta Myint Myint San (Myanmar). Praise God for a smooth and successful President Summit in Aug 2019.*
2. *Praise God for leadership efficiency, integrity and cooperation amongst various member bodies. Pray for younger leaders to come in.*
3. *Praise God for membership expansion to countries that are not yet connected with ABWU.*

4. *Praise God for renewing vision and passion, so that we are always mindful of the Great Commission tasked to us.*
 5. *Praise God for effective and meaningful partnership among member bodies.*
 6. *Praise God for all the blessings received for the past years as ABWU gives thanks and honor for the Glory of His Kingdom.*
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BAPTIST WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. As we seek to broaden our horizons, pray that God would show us where we need to be stretched, and how we might enlarge our circle to reach more women with the love of Christ.

Prayer: Our gracious Father, we thank you that you have called Baptist Women of North America for such a time as this. We pray that you help shift our focus from our human limitations, broaden our horizons and move us beyond our comfort zones to reach more women for your Kingdom. We claim your promise in Matthew 7:18 that those who ask will receive, those who seek will find and the door will be opened to those who knock. We thank you for how you will enlarge our circle of women.

2. Pray that women of all ages, educational backgrounds, colors and political leanings will feel welcome and encouraged to join Baptist Women of North America in reaching vulnerable women and girls with God's love.

Prayer: Father God, we thank you that you called women of all ages and from various backgrounds to be part of your family and to be your light and witness to the world. Your word tells us we were all baptized into one body and are part of one body, the Body of Christ, help us to welcome women who have a heart to do your will regardless of age, language, skin color, national origin, or political leanings (1 Cor. 12:12-13).

3. Pray that God would empower Baptist women to stand up against all forms of injustices women and girls experience in our society.

Prayer: Heavenly father, your word reminds us that standing up for those who were vulnerable and needy was one of Jesus's priorities. Give us boldness to speak on behalf of those who have no voice, to defend all those who are passed over, and to stand up for the rights of the afflicted and poor (Proverbs 31:8-9, The Voice).

4. Pray that Baptist women will be united in promoting respect and care for all God's creation.

Prayer: Dear Father God, thank you for this beautiful earth that you have created and the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to be faithful stewards who care for the earth and not abuse or neglect it. Help us to protect it for future generations. Thank

you for entrusting us with the care of your creation and may the resources be used for the common good of all people (Psalm 24:1).

5. Pray that the Lord would raise up leaders with a heart for God who are role models in our churches and community.

Prayer: Father, we pray that you would raise up godly women leaders like Esther among us. Women of prayer who understand spiritual warfare, who fear you and are fearless in their service to you, who are risk takers for your name's sake, and who inspire and motivate others to serve you. Teach them to commit their work to you, for your word tells us you will establish their plans (Proverbs 16:3).

6. Pray for increased networking opportunities and connection among BWNA for the strengthening and encouragement of ministries to expand the Body of Christ.

Prayer: Gracious Father, we are thankful for the work BWNA are doing with vulnerable populations. We pray for increased opportunities of connection among them to share ideas and experiences. Help them to take active steps towards building a network and develop a support system that would benefit the building up of your Kingdom. (Ephesians 4:11-13.)

7. Pray that God would abundantly bless and increase resources so that we could be a blessing to others, especially in helping the vulnerable in our society.

Prayer: Faithful Father, thank you that you are the creator of this world and you own everything therein. You know the resources we require to do your work and you promise if we ask anything in your name and according to your will, you will hear us and we will have what we ask of you. We give you thanks with confidence that you have heard us and will provide (John 5:14-15).

Baptist Women of the Pacific

- Pray for Independence and for justice for West Papua.
- Pray against laws which will legalize euthanasia, abortion and cannabis in some of our countries and states.
- Pray against the evil impact of domestic violence, of which the highest rates in the world are in the Pacific.
- Pray against environmental destruction of the reefs and the devastating impact of rising waters in the islands.
- Pray for strong foundational spiritual growth for the new women's fellowships formed in Papua New Guinea.
- Pray for the new leadership teams at the continental and country levels to become unified and rely on godly wisdom in their roles.
- Pray for an increase in women attending conferences, events, and fellowships.
- Praise God for the appointment of Karen Wilson from Australia as the new president of BWA Women.
- Praise God for the national leaders, of both the Fijian and New Zealand Baptist Unions, overt support of women in their God given roles.

Isaiah 42:10

Sing to the LORD a new song, Sing His praise from the end of the earth!
You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it,
you islands, and those who dwell on them

Dear Lord,

We lift our songs of praise to you for creating and lavishly caring for those who go down to sea and those who dwell in the islands of the Pacific. Thank you for creating the stunning beauty and bounty of the Pacific. Lord, we pray for blessing on our lands. We pray for the end of drought in Eastern Australia. We pray against the on-going environmental damage on the Great Barrier Reef and rising waters in the small islands of the Pacific. Lord, teach us to be wise and honourable governors of your creation.

Lord, we pray for our sisters and brothers of West Papua. We pray against injustice and violence perpetrated by the Indonesian military. We pray they may receive and enjoy the human rights you bestowed upon them at creation. We pray for independence for their country. Lord, we pray you would raise up brave and strong political leaders in the Pacific and the global community to call Indonesia to account.

Lord, we pray for the governments and leaders of the Pacific countries. We pray they would have a heart for you and for justice, that they would lead with wisdom and humility. We especially pray against the legalization of abortion (including late term abortion), cannabis and euthanasia in New Zealand, and some states of Australia and Fiji.

Lord we pray against the evil impact of domestic violence in the Pacific, we pray against its high incidence, we pray against the devastation it wreaks on families, on children and men. We especially pray for freedom and healing for the women who suffer at the hands of violent ones in their homes. Lord we pray these homes would be filled with your light.

We pray our churches would shine with your glory like a city on a hilltop. We pray for the fellowships of women in our churches, especially those who are new in Papua New Guinea, that you would grant them firm foundations of faith. We pray for the Baptist women leaders in our countries, especially those new to their roles, grant unity in their teams and humble wisdom. Finally, Lord we thank you for anointing Karen Wilson of Australia as the president of BWA Women. Lord grant her a double portion of wisdom, grace and strength.

In the mighty name of the resurrected Christ, Amen.

Baptist Women's Union of Africa

Prayer for Togetherness

Eternal God, we praise you for sending your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to be one of us and to save us.

Father, look upon Africa with mercy as we are facing terrorist groups, political instability, poverty and social injustice. Raise up God-fearing leaders to put good governance systems in place to make a difference. We pray for more Christian women in politics to address social justice issues. Oh God, use our church leaders to challenge the political ones for the well-being and the unity of Africans. Let everybody feel loved, respected and welcome regardless of our nationalities. Heavenly Father, let us not nurture anger in our hearts that leads to resentment, bitterness and even hatred. Please make us humble enough to admit our faults and to seek forgiveness when we have wronged others. Father, please help each of us to seek peace so as to maintain harmony, unity and togetherness in the communities.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

- We pray that God will raise up another generation of women who will expand His work in Africa and beyond.
- We ask God to renew the passion of the Baptist women of Africa in the areas of missions and evangelism.
- May churches work with governments as well as partners to support the vulnerable people and address the gender issue.
- We ask God to raise up God-fearing leaders who will change the existing political and economic systems by putting in place good governance to enhance economic growth, create more job opportunities, and improve the standards of life for people living below the poverty threshold.
- We pray for sustainable peace and reconciliation across the world. May broken hearts be healed and find rest in Jesus' unchanging goodness and faithfulness.
- We are grateful to God for His sustaining power upon our lives.
- We praise God that the Women's Missionary Union of Nigeria celebrated 100 years in April 2019.
- We praise God for being at work through rural area outreach, in Côte d'Ivoire.

- We praise God for women in prayer, supported by fellowmen, for the building of the church.
- We are thankful to God for women who minister wholeheartedly despite discriminations and violence against them. We pray for God's continual strength and courage.

Caribbean

Prayer Requests from the Caribbean

- Pray that the politicians would surrender their lives to Jesus Christ and that they will seek His guidance and direction in making wise decisions for the betterment of the islands.
- Pray for children who are affected by any form of abuse at home or in school. Pray that there will be a zero tolerance for bullying and violence in schools.
- Pray that violent crimes committed by young men will cease and that there will be respect for authority, the places of worship and the dignity of human life. Pray that young men will surrender their guns and turn to Jesus.
- Pray for the people of Bahamas devastated by Hurricane Dorian. Pray that churches, homes, schools and general infrastructure can be restored quickly so that the people of Bahamas can return to some normalcy. Pray that the spirit of benevolence will continue toward those affected.
- Pray for the Baptist churches in Grenada and Barbados that their members will be committed and that there will be revival in these islands. Pray that there will be greater unity amongst the churches in Barbados.
- Pray for the eradication of gender based violence and the improvement in parenting skills.
- Pray for the younger women who are getting involved in the work of the Women's ministry to be more committed. Pray that the older women will embrace the younger women and be good mentors that the work would continue to the glory of God.

Prayer by Karlene Edwards-Warrick (CBWU President)

"Father, you are All knowing and ever wise. We the women of the Caribbean call upon you today.

We thank you for creating us in your own image and calling us out of darkness. We thank you for your love and grace. We intercede today on behalf of all the Caribbean islands and ask that our leaders and politicians who do not know you as Lord and Savior would come to know your saving grace. We pray that you would guide and direct their decisions as leaders for the betterment of the islands. We lift up our children who are in situations of abuse whether mental, sexual or physical in their homes and schools. We renounce today any form of bullying and violence in our schools. We pray that every stronghold will be broken. We ask for your intervention in the lives of the young men who are caught in a web of violence. Grant freedom to those who seek you and may they come to know you as Lord and Savior. Cause them to change their lives and put down their guns, respect those in authority and have an appreciation for life and the sacred places of worship.

We remember the people of the Bahamas as they recover from the effects of hurricane Dorian. We pray that people would be drawn to you during this time of adversity and crisis. We pray for the preservation of lives. We pray that other islands would continue to give financial and other resources to Bahamas. We also remember other islands that are still recovering from recent natural disasters that they too would continue to receive assistance in the ongoing recovery process so that the citizens of these islands will be able to return to normalcy.

We pray for the islands of Grenada and Barbados; that there will be unity among the churches. We pray for revival in all the Baptist churches on the islands. We pray that citizens will give their lives to you and be committed in their calling. We pray that the leadership of these churches will employ good evangelism strategies so that they can reach the lost for Christ.

Precious Lord, we pray for the eradication of gender based violence in the Caribbean and pray that parents would take seriously the responsibilities of raising their children. Teach them to be good parents.

We pray for our young women who are giving themselves for ministry we ask Father that they will be committed. We pray that there will be opportunities for intergenerational ministries and that there will be greater mentoring relationships between the younger and senior women. May you be glorified through these relationships. Continue to empower us to do your will, these things we ask in Jesus' name Amen".

I CAN DO ALL THINGS

CBWU INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: Karlene Edwards-Warrick and Donna-Daile Smart

Mary Fabien Charles was born on April 2, 1962 at the San Fernando General Hospital and has lived in South Trinidad all her life.

Because of her love for people and her caring spirit, Mary chose the field of nursing and started as a nursing assistant at the San Fernando Hospital in 1982. Her co-workers noticed that her face appeared twisted, and on their advice Mary went to the doctor. The results of a subsequent CT Scan revealed a massive brain tumour.

On July 18, 2016, Mary underwent emergency surgery to remove the tumour and was left unable to use the left limbs of her body. Mary has never missed a day of prayer or reading her Bible; she is determined to be victorious. She says the experience has brought her closer to God and she is very grateful to those who have cared for her.



A scripture she holds dear is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." And it is this mind-set that led Mary to the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago Women's Department (BUTTWD) Lydia Retreat which was held in Tobago this year.

She says it was the best time she ever had. She participated in the fashion show and when the group went on a prayer walk Mary walked around the building and when they went sea bathing Mary shared her faith with the life guards. She says she shares her faith wherever she goes and with everybody; she simply cannot hold her love for, and her gratitude to God inside.

As we wrapped up, Mary reinforced her gratitude to God for life. While she has not yet started receiving her pension, she has no worry for God takes care of her. She wished us travelling mercies and we left Mary – a shining example of faith and strength and an inspiration to others. We wish Mary all God’s blessings.

Mary at Fashion show - Photo by
Arleen Barington

Written by: Donna-Daile Smart - Trinidad and Tobago

To see a fuller version of Mary’s story, go to DOP Extras on the website

EUROPEAN BAPTIST WOMEN UNITED

Abundant Life

Jesus said: 'I came that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**.' (John 10:10, NRSV).

As a pastor of an active church in South Wales, one of my roles is to visit the elderly and the sick at home or in the hospital. The other day I went to visit one of our neighbours who was in the hospital. In the far corner of a room was my neighbour, now a mere shadow of his former self with pale, hollow cheeks and a body that had become so small and frail. I had seen that look before and thought to myself that he probably didn't have many more days to live. He was sleeping when I sat by his bed and his breathing was irregular. I did not wake him but prayed quietly by his bedside and left a note to say that I had been to visit.

A few days later I asked his son about him, wondering if I should offer to conduct the funeral. To my surprise he told me that after a few days of good care in the hospital and a blood transfusion, his father had made a remarkable recovery and was looking forward to coming home. It was as if he had been brought back from the dead and given new life!

As I reflected on this incident I realised that this is exactly what God has done for us in Jesus. We are new creations, brought back from the dead. Once we were dead in our sins and could not respond to God the Father, but now, through the blood of Jesus, our desire is to love God and love his people.

I see this as the main task of Baptist women throughout Europe and the Middle East - to bring hope where there is despair, joy where there is sadness, freedom where there is imprisonment, and always, always bring life where there is death in the name of Jesus. Praise God, Baptist women in every corner of Europe and the Middle East are responding to God's call on their lives and there are many projects supported by the EBWU run by women for women, children and young families. Some projects help women train for the ministry, others help Syrian refugees in Lebanon, support widows in Moldova, provide Summer camps for children with special needs in Latvia and provide shelter for women who are the victims of domestic violence in Poland. These projects and others need our constant support and prayers. They are the means by which we can bring life where there is death.

But we are only human! Yes, Jesus has given us this transfusion of new life, but Jeremiah says we are like 'cracked cisterns that cannot hold water' (Jer 2:13). To stop the new life

trickling away through the cracks, we must spend more time in the presence of our Lord, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can mend the cracks in our lives.

Most of the promises of Scripture are directed towards the body of believers and not the individual. As a global community, as a body of believers, we must seek more of this life transfusion and stop the body leaking grace by addressing unforgiveness and indifference.

If we can stop this life and grace leaking out of us as individuals and as a body we can become much better channels for God's life-giving grace to our needy world. When we act as Christ's agents united as one body we are the bringers of new life wherever God places us.

Rev. Alexandra Anderson
Wales

Prayer requests from the EBWU

Pray for peace in the countries in the Middle East. The living conditions in the refugee camps are very hard. Many refugees try to go to Europe in very bad conditions and they are not always welcome in the hosting countries. Pray that the hosting countries will see them with Christ's eyes and that every orphan will find a family.

Pray for a revival in Europe where many Christians are self-centered and lukewarm. Pray that they repent and become passionate for Christ.

Pray for countries in Europe and the Middle East that are still facing economic crisis and its consequences.

Pray that the authorities will fight against modern day slavery and people trafficking (women, children and men – young workers – coming from Eastern Europe to Western Europe).

Pray that the young generation – who has no hope, no value and feels lost – will meet Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life.

Pray for those who are persecuted because of their faith.

BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION OF LATIN AMERICA

- Pray that in Latin America we will get the toll-free 0800 line to care for women who suffer from abuse and have unwanted pregnancies.
- Pray for the rulers in our countries, so that there is no corruption and justice is applied at all levels, so that there is no longer violence, drug trafficking, kidnappings, human trafficking, and that our Lord raises brave women to carry the message to the lost.
- Pray for evangelization throughout our Latin America. Pray for creativity and impact of the massive evangelism programs of each country, to win a million for Christ and that each person is disciplined. Pray to spread and preach the Word of God in clinics, hospitals, health centers, and prisons. Pray for the situation of the caravans of immigrants arriving in our country and that we can share the message of salvation with them.
- Pray for the 11 Social Projects we support as UFBAL.
- Pray that the PEPE programs will be multiplied.
- Pray for the Plan Obrera and the Missionary Groups Programs.
- Pray for the husbands who do not yet know Christ. That they will be won by our conduct. (1 Peter 3:1)

PRAYER

God-fearing women are not the type of people who sit around and accept whatever comes.

We must fight in prayer for our families, leaders and for our country!

As Christian women, we have a challenge to be able to spread the gospel and may God touch each person's heart to carry on:

That each woman would have a consecrated life and be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

That we as women would speak the message of salvation to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and give testimony to impact the lives of these generations.

Bea Mesquías
Vice President, UFBAL TEXAS

"Heavenly Father, you know all the problems that Latin America is facing; sin is wreaking havoc at all levels of society and many people live without hope because of violence, injustice and corruption. We beg you for your people there, so that we as Christians announce the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ through a life sanctified for you and willing to serve you in what you command. We pray in the Powerful name of Jesus. Amen "

Eduviges Pastor
Vice President, UFBAL PERU

Merciful Father, creator of heaven and earth, and all that exists, we praise and glorify your name; forgive us Lord for our sins.

We come to you, Father of Glory, because as your Holy Word says, everything we ask in the name of your son Jesus Christ, you will do for your glory, and therefore we pray to you Lord and put your beloved countries in Latin America under your care, to each one by name, by its territory and by its population. We ask you to heal the socio-economic and political situation of each country, specifically for Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, Bolivia that are in difficult conditions. Lord, we beg you to give wisdom to their authorities, to the rulers, to those who are in eminence, so that they know how to conduct them with justice, with rectitude, respect, and with equal rights for the good of the populations.

Also, Lord, we pray to you to keep and bless each family of the continent, to remain united and in love, to have good communication in the homes, to provide work and everything necessary for their material and spiritual sustenance.

Dear God, we ask you also, for the pastors and pastors wives of our Baptist Churches, to strengthen them, bless them, give them wisdom to manage their lives, their families, and help them in the ministry to which you have called them. Lord, do not allow for the cares of life, difficulties and stumbles to make them fall into depression, anxiety, or any disorder.

Strengthen them Father, take care of their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health so that they may continue victorious in this great task that you have entrusted to them.

Take care of their families, provide them with what is necessary for their lives, bless them Lord, we beg you all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. AMEN, AMEN.

Lizet of Trinidad

Vice President, UFBAL NICARAGUA

Global BWA Women and Baptist World Alliance

Our aim is to connect Baptist women globally because we believe when Baptist women come together in Christ, God creates shalom for all. Please pray that God will work powerfully through these connecting opportunities and that His shalom will impact lives.

We live in challenging times with COVID-19, plus many tragedies and devastation caused by storms, flooding and drought around the world affecting your Baptist sisters. Pray for the leadership of BWA Women as we each in our various contexts, work to bring leadership into these situations, with the desire to bring God's love, light and hope into the trials and darkness.

Pray for the Baptist contingent of women who attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women each year in March. Even though this is not a "Christian conference," there we join with 10,000 women from around the world to discuss and learn about solutions to issues that women are facing all over the world. When our Baptist women come together to this conference, they learn and then can apply these solutions along with God's love in their contexts. Pray for each woman who attends this conference that they will know how to apply what they learn there.

We praise God for answering prayer and for leading the Search Committee to our newly elected officers: President Karen Wilson and Secretary-Treasurer Sherrie Cherdak. Please pray for them as they adjust to these new roles and ask God to use them mightily during their five-year terms.

Please also pray for our new Baptist World Alliance president, Tomás Mackey, as he steps into his new responsibilities.

Finally, please pray for our BWA General Secretary, Elijah Brown to have wisdom and strength as he leads BWA and travels to represent Baptist Christians throughout the world.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before you as your women, ready and willing to be all and do all that you are calling us to be and do. We want to be faithful. We want to be strong. We want you to

work through us to shine your love and your light so those around us can know your love, too. Please help us encourage one another along the way.

Give our new leaders all they need for the jobs you have called them to; help them lead well. This is your work, Father. You have shown us over and over that you still have much you want to accomplish through us. We know you see this work as important for your kingdom. Please give us, as leaders, the wisdom to know what you are saying and learn to do your work even better. The world needs you. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERINGS!

How your DOP offerings are used:

Thank you for taking an offering! The offerings given during the Day of Prayer are essential. They are the main source of income for the ministries and partnerships of Baptist World Alliance Women on the global and continental scale.

Global: BWA Women

This 50% goes toward connecting Baptist women virtually, through prayer and for in-person events

1. Virtually: monthly e-letter, website, sharing stories, Facebook, blogs
2. In person events such as the quinquennial Women's Conference, scholarships, theological conferences, young women's consultations, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and traveling for officers and Executive Director to encourage and support the Continental Unions
3. Through prayer: Day of Prayer (promotion, design, printing and mailing of programme)
4. Supports the global Day of Prayer projects to help meet the needs of the women around the world
5. Maintaining the world office (administrative costs)

Continental:

1. Help Continual Union Officers form new organizations of Baptist women
2. Support special programmes which include evangelism and women's conferences
3. Support Continental Union Day of Prayer Projects
4. Provide funding for special meetings to meet the needs of women
5. Provide scholarships for Continental meetings held every five years
6. Subsidize travel for Continental Union Officers to encourage national Baptist Women's groups
7. Off-set operational costs for the Continental Union administrative work.

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is central in the life of Baptist World Alliance Women. This annual observance is the means by which Baptist women from every continent stand together, grow in effectiveness, and impact our world for Christ. Offerings taken on this day provide the main source of income needed for BWA Women's maintenance, ministries and projects on the continental and global scale. Thank you for donations!

Please send offerings to your Continental Union

Asian Baptist Women's Union

Receiving Bank: Oversea – Chinese Banking
Corporation Limited
Beneficiary Name: Lim Sai Mooi/Myint Myint San
Account: 687-514216-001
SWIFT Code: OCBCSGSG
Bank Code: 7339
Branch Code: 687
Bank Address: 65 Chulia Street OCBC Centre
Singapore 049513

Baptist Women's Union of Africa

Name of Bank: UBA
Account Name: Baptist Women's Union of Africa
Swift Code: UNAFMCX
Country Code: CM21
Bank Code: 10033
Branch Code: 05207
Account Number: 07031000281 – 31
IBAN: CM21 10033 05207 07031000281 31

Baptist Women's Union of Latin America

BANCO	WELLS FARGO
NUMERO DE CUENTA	1582644942
ABA	121000248
CÓDIGO SWIFT	WFBIUS6S ("S" not "5")
DIRECCIÓN	10781 West Flagler Street Miami FL 33174.
Teléfonos:	305-229-1252
BENEFICIARIO	UFBAL INC

Baptist Women of North America

Baptist Women of North America

P.O.Box 3578

Southfield, MI 48037

The checks can be made out

to BWNA or NABWU

Note: Canadians can give through

your denominational Women's

Department. Please see

www.bwna.today for the addresses.

Baptist Women of the Pacific***Baptist Women of the Pacific***

Name of account: Baptist Womens Union Of The South West Pacific

Bank: Westpac Bank, Lake St, Cairns, Queensland 4870, Australia

BSB: 034 167

Account Number: 184 644

Swift Code: WPACAU2S ("S" not "5")

Caribbean Baptist Women's Union

Mrs. Marjorie Fletcher

Treasurer, CBWU

Duncans P.O.

Trelawny, Jamaica

European Baptist Women's United

Bank account owner : Bapt. Theol. Hochschule, EBWU

Bank name : Spar- und Kreditbank

Bank address : Postfach 1262

61282 Bad Homburg, Germany

Bank account number : 272728

IBAN : DE45 5009 2100 0000 2727 28

BIC/SWIFT : GENODE51BH2

Online Giving:

Donations can also be made online at www.bwawd.org/giving

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This program is published by Baptist World Alliance Women. Please feel free to copy whatever you want. You will find more resources on the website under

www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer-this-year

For images and photos for power point: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/I3vt4I7kZn>

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