

2022 STRATEGIC GIVING

Looking Ahead and Pressing On

What motivates you to give to CBWOQ? What compels you to devote your time and energy towards influencing others to also give to CBWOQ? What compelling reasons do I have for asking you to give in 2022?

These are the questions I have been asking myself and I have come up with several answers. The fact is, Baptist women have long banded together to raise money for worldwide kingdom impact. At its heart and soul, CBWOQ is a movement of laywomen who rise to respond to the needs of the times . . . with love for God and others. As we look to all that lies ahead in 2022, I want to share my compelling reasons to partner with CBWOQ through giving.

We partner in global mission.

WE LOVE THE WORK of our partner organization, Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM). In 2022, we have committed to fully funding two CBM projects in India that have direct impact on vulnerable women and children for a total of \$28,000. We have supported these projects since 2020, and last fall we were treated to a special live report from CBM's field staff in India who oversees them. It was an incredibly rich experience, but it was also sobering to learn of the ways in which COVID-19 has compounded difficulties and intensified needs.

Soura Widows (Odisha, India)

"The status of the Soura population within India has had challenges with low literacy rates and with facing discrimination as "untouchables." Soura widows are often marginalized within their communities and struggle to provide for the family. Business training, financial support and the generosity of Christians living out their faith in word and deed can help empower and dignify widows despite any barriers." (CBM.org)

Photos courtesy CBM



Mising Tribe (Assam, India)

In partnership with us and the local church, CBM is helping to transform the lives of disadvantaged youth, women and children. "With an unstable income, much of the community lives below the poverty line, especially minority Christian groups who are often the least privileged within the predominantly Hindu population. With an underdeveloped educational system, the economic situation of many in the community remains poor; alongside high unemployment and dropout rates, the literacy rate for women in the community is at merely 48 per cent." (CBM.org)

In addition to these two projects, we will continue to raise funds for two female field staff with whom we have partnered since 2019: Lilian Yang serving in the Golden Triangle Region (Burma, Thailand and Laos) and Pastor Xiaodan Gang, who works with the Chinese Ministries Team serving in Germany. Lilian's role is to equip pastors and laypersons through Christian education and theological training. Pastor Xiaodan introduces the Gospel to Chinese students studying in German universities, many of whom return home upon graduating.

We partner in local mission.

Closer to home, our partners who serve refugees,



5 WAYS TO GIVE IN 2022

1. Become a MAD (monthly automated donor). A monthly offering of \$20, \$30, \$50 or \$100 equals stability for us.

2. Make a one-time donation. This can be for our general fund or directed to a particular project or campaign.

3. Get a group of your favourite ladies together to participate in one of our fundraiser campaigns this year.

4. Take a moment to pray over our ministries in 2022. Can you and your group organize and run your own fundraiser for one or more projects?

5. Plan a legacy gift. Leaving even a small percentage of an estate can make a big impact that lasts beyond your lifetime.

newcomers and other vulnerable populations also compel us to generous giving. These include Matthew Houses in Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor and Fort Erie, the Oasis-Dufferin Community Centre (Oasis) in downtown Toronto, and Friendship House in Brantford. The daily impact these ministries have on the lives of the people who reach out for help inspires us, and we are deeply thankful to support their presence in their communities.

Over the course of the pandemic, Erika Abele and her team at Oasis experienced an increase in demand for their women's counselling program. Many women who come to Oasis to access services become volunteers. In this way, they are able to become part of a supportive and loving community as they learn job skills and learn to speak English.

In 2021, Allan Reesor-McDowell's team at Matthew House, Ottawa, provided refuge for around 40 asylum seekers and furnished about 650 homes through their furniture bank. The demand continues to be high though, and this year they are doubling their capacity for helping. Louis, a young man who arrived in Canada from Rwanda by himself in 2019, says "Volunteering at

CONNECT TO MISSION

the furniture bank is similar to living at the Matthew House. It's like a family."

We provide grants for new initiatives and leadership development.

Did you know that CBWOQ has a grant program? In fact, we have provided start-up funding for many initiatives that support our target areas of vulnerable women and children and leadership enrichment for women. Our grants program is unique in that it serves a niche of smaller projects that often do not qualify for funding elsewhere. Many of the projects we have funded are local, but others are overseas.

In the late fall of 2021, our newest grant recipients, Erik and Veronika Kress, flew to Costa Rica to begin their ministry for single immigrant mothers and their children. Extreme poverty is a reality for almost 25 per cent of Costa Rica's population and the Kresses will be offering a holistic program focusing on Bible studies, vocational training and early childhood development. We are very excited to support them in this.

We create women disciples and discipling communities.

We don't just raise funds for ministries, we build disciples who become leaders in the Church in Canada. Erika Abele, referred to above, is an example of a young woman who was identified and discipled by CBWOQ and Baptist women many years ago.

Our passion and mission is for a new movement of laywomen who are deeply and authentically experiencing God in their lives, who live in genuine community with each other, and who live missionally in the place God has set them. We accomplish this through a host of programs and resources, many of which are referred to in this issue and you'll find on our website.

As you consider my compelling reasons for giving to CBWOQ, I pray you are feeling as excited as I am. I pray also that we all experience God's abundance this year . . . to give back with generosity, joy and gratitude for the opportunity we have of making real kingdom impact.

Helena Bergen ■

A WINDOW ON LATIN AMERICA

Prayers for Latin America

DID YOU KNOW that Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ) is a member body of Baptist Women of North America (BWNA)? BWNA's prayer partner—and CBWOQ's—for the next few years is the Union Femenil Bautista de America Latina (UFBAL—Latin American Baptist Women's Union).

Join us as we begin 2022 with prayer for our Latin American sisters. These prayers were written by UFBAL for our World Day of Prayer on November 1, 2021. Let's pray them again.

- We pray over our dream to support a Latin American woman missionary to work with women in India as we take our first steps toward this goal. The project is called "Treasures in Heaven."
- We pray over our quinquennial goal which is the impact we want to have on future generations.
- We pray for Indigenous Peoples and the influence the Gospel will have in their cultures.
- We pray for PEPES, the Christian kindergarten for children from poor areas.
- Please pray for these big needs: An end to domestic violence; jobs for young people; a deepening in our walk with God.
- We pray that a free phone line would be established for EVERY Latin American country to give support to women who are facing unexpected pregnancies.

Files from bwa-wd.org ■