

# Northeastern District Great Commission Women

January 2018

## More of Him

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Happy New Year! I always love January because it feels like a fresh, clean slate as I reflect back over the past year and look forward to the coming year. I always set some goals for myself in January and I love being able to check things off my list as I accomplish them.

One of the things I also do is pray and ask God to give me a word for the new year. My word this year is also our theme, **“more.”** At first I wasn’t sure about it because it seems so general. But as I prayed and thought about what I needed, and where God was leading me, I felt that it really was a proper word.

It’s a good word because what I really want for the new year is not more money, or more success or more of a host of other things. I want more of Jesus in my life. I want more passion to serve Him. I want more of the things that break His heart.

I’m reading the book, All for Jesus by Robert L. Niklaus, John S. Sawin and Samuel J. Stoesz, which is the story of God at work in The Christian and Missionary Alliance and I’m often moved to tears as I read. Because I am amazed at the passion

our founder, A.B. Simpson, had to follow wherever God led. His desire to serve God and his passion for the lost and for missions founded a movement that is flourishing today.

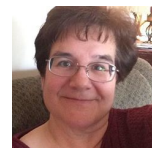
January 31st marks the anniversary of nine martyrs in Vietnam who were killed in the Tet Offense. Ed and Ruth Thompson were two of these missionaries. Their daughter Judy serves as a regional coach on the NED GCW leadership team. They gave their lives for Christ. When I hear of their sacrifice, I am ashamed at how much I whine and complain over inconveniences in my life when people have given, and continue to sacrifice their lives for the Lord.

I don’t know about you, but I want to live my life with that same type of passionate desire to serve God no matter what comes my way. I want more of Him. I want to see more people come to know Him in the new year. I want to see more people from our district being sent overseas as International Workers.

Won’t you pray with me for this very same thing? Let’s stop being apathetic and be filled with more of Him!

Serving Him with You,

*Terri*





The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the **brokenhearted**, to proclaim freedom for the **captives** and release from darkness for the **prisoners** (Isaiah 61:1).

### **Let's fill the pitcher to overflowing!**



### **The 2017-2018 National Project Covers 4 Key Ministries**

At Risk Girls ~ West Africa ~ Pregnant Teens ~ Ecuador:  
Human Trafficking Survivors - Cambodia; Female Prisoners - Philippines

National Goal - \$250,000  
NED District Goal - \$16,000

Total-to-date: \$5,910.55

**Ouagadougou Guest House goal for 2017-2018—\$1,400.00**

**Year to Date received—\$ 1,091.62**

## Surrender and God's Timing

By  
IW, "C"

The Lord has been teaching me many things as we prepare to serve in a closed access country. We recently spent a month in Colorado learning about how to learn a new language and culture, among other things. One day in training, we spent several hours in prayer. I was encouraged to acknowledge my fears and losses, like leaving my family and friends, and the loss of a stable/ safe home in my own culture. I let myself grieve them in God's presence. Yes, I am pregnant, and yes, I cried a lot!

After a while, we came together as a group to pray over these personal prayers that we had written. We then started speaking scripture into our grief. It was powerful and encouraging. God cares. Yes, He woos us by His love so that we will *surrender* our lives and wills at His feet.

Surrender is often painful. But in that wooing, He cares about our hurts and pain. I realized after I grieve each loss, it opens space in my heart for new "family" of teammates, a new home, and a new culture. I will lean on God in new ways, and my family will too! I can more easily accept the hard things to come after I have grieved each loss. I think this is true in any transition for anyone. It is important to say goodbye and grieve your losses during transition. I am now a lot more excited about the future. I am certain God has called us to serve in Africa and He will never forsake us.

Another thing Lord is teaching me is that His timing is best. We were initially planning to leave for language school in January, however we are planning to have a baby girl due this spring. We are very excited to give our extroverted-toddler a sister to play with. We are grateful for the timing of this pregnancy, so I can give birth before language school starts. We delayed our first semester in French school so we can set ourselves up to succeed. We are currently learning French on our own, which is going well by God's grace. We learned that language learning is a part of ministry because we need to be able to communicate well.

We appreciate your prayers for our French study and for good transitions for the changes and good-byes ahead. French school is 10 months: September 1 through June 2019. In June, we plan to head to our country of service to learn a second language and culture. Thank you so much for your prayers and for giving to the Great Commission Fund. We cannot do it without you!

In the King's Service together,  
~C.



more  
love

## Stories from the Field - A Journey from Hopelessness to Joy

Article submitted by an Alliance mm worker



### **A challenging childhood**

My tattered life has recovered from the hopelessness of a prison cell—a journey that started with my challenging childhood. My father was an alcoholic who did not provide for our family. At six years of age I was my mother’s assistant—doing laundry for families with more money.

While attending elementary school, I ran errands for a small street store. Once I made 40 cents, I would give it to my mom so she could buy us rice for the day.

As the second oldest of nine kids, I was determined to finish school so I could help my family rise above poverty. In college I worked as a “house helper.” Working full-time while taking a full class load was not an easy feat, but I made it.

### **An unwise decision**

After college I landed a job at the Philippine National Railways, where I met my husband, George. One day my cousin visited us with a moneymaking venture. It seemed promising. Without checking whether this plan was sound, my husband and I decided to put all of our savings into this venture. Little did I know it was a scam. I was so naïve; I recruited others, too.

After six months with no communication from my cousin, those I had recruited became suspicious. I knew I was in trouble so I asked a friend for her help to return the money people had invested through me. I really wanted to make right the wrong that had been done to them.

My friend told me to meet her. When I arrived at the designated location, members of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested me. My friend had set me up.

### **Incarceration**

I was incarcerated in 2007. While in prison, I was so concerned about the well-being of my children and their schooling.

In 2009, I was blessed to meet members of the Ina-Inakay Center, Inc. Two of my children were accepted into their educational assistance program, which covered monthly school transportation expenses, school supplies, spiritual values formation, and house visitations. These were priceless blessings.

### **Release**

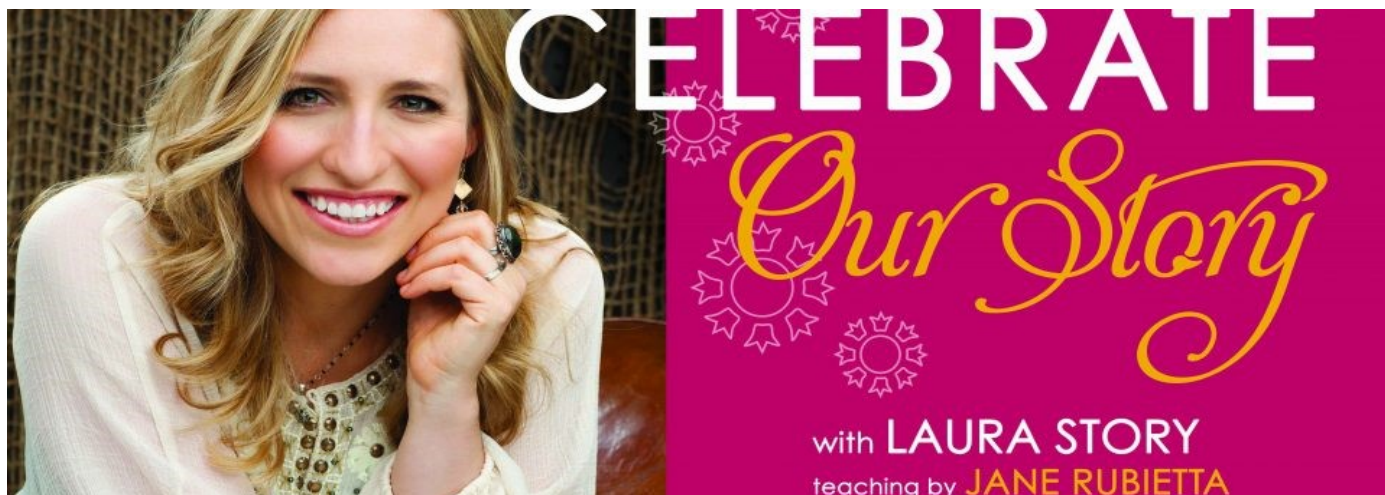
In June 2013, I was released from prison. I expected to be unwelcome at home, but, to my surprise, my family and neighbors happily welcomed me home.

In 2014, I was able to find a job in real estate and employers who trusted me. Now, my husband and I are working together to provide for the needs for our children.

I hang on to 1 Corinthians 10:13. The Lord has proven Himself faithful. I experienced so much pain and loss during my incarceration, but the Lord has been faithful. We go to a local church near our home, and my hope and joy have returned!

*Ina-Inakay Center, Inc. ministers to women while in prison and helps them transition into life after their release through housing and employment assistance.*





## Celebrate 2018 – Our Story

The National Great Commission Women's Leadership Team is excited to announce the fifth Christian and Missionary Alliance National Women's Conference: Celebrate 2018, Our Story - to be held October 11-14, 2018, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Come join us and be spiritually refreshed at Celebrate 2018.

God has graciously provided an excellent group of speakers and artists to encourage, challenge and minister to us. Grammy Award winner [Laura Story](#) will be our keynote speaker. [Aaron and Sarah Shust](#) will bless us with an opening concert and message. [Jane Rubietta](#) will be our Bible teacher. Six breakout sessions and a Missions Celebration are also included in our time together.

Registration opens **February 1, 2018**. Registration fee is \$295. Lodging at the [Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square](#) will be \$139 + tax per night. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with a reservation link to book your hotel room at the discounted Celebrate 2018 Conference Rate.

Gain new passion for your walk with Christ and celebrate what He is doing around the world. You won't want to miss this intimate and inspiring event!

[Click here for more information or go to www.greatcommissionwomen.org](http://www.greatcommissionwomen.org)

More Information to Follow!

**Don't forget to like us on Facebook:**

**[Great Commission Women of the Northeastern District](#)**

**Check out our new website: [www.gcwned.org](http://www.gcwned.org)**

# Spring Refresh

**Keynote Speakers**  
**Converge Speakers**  
**Global Impact Moments**  
**Teen Breakout Session**  
**Worship in Music**  
**Fellowship**  
**Fun**

**April 27-28, 2018**

**Holiday Inn, Auburn**



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Heather Smith**

**Speaker & Author**  
**Women's Ministry Leader**  
**Board Member, CAMA Services**

## Converge Speakers

**Lisa Vogan**  
**District Disciplemaking**  
**Ministries Director**  
*More Hope*



**Katie Wells Barrera**  
**Author, "Reckless**  
**Design: WildSurrender"**  
*More Victory*



## International Worker Speakers



**Sue Stern**



**Wendy (East Asia)**

**Online registration as well**  
**as mail in forms available.**

**More information to come!**

## Worship Leaders




**Scott & Lori Suckling**

## Teen Leader


**Jessica Sears**  
**"Do You Have**  
**Room**




**2018 Spring Refresh Women's Conference**  
**Earlybird deadline coming up, April 6. Hotel reservation deadline April 16.**  
**Final registration deadline April 16 — Meet our speakers and participants!**




**Keynote Speaker:** Heather Smith is the Director of Women's Ministry at CrossPoint Alliance Church in Lewiston, ID. She is a board member of CAMA Services, and was a certified Christian conciliator for Peacemakers Ministries. She graduated from Trinity Seminary with an MA in Biblical Counseling and also holds a BA in Speech and Broadcast Communications from Geneva College. Her husband, Paul, is pastor of CrossPoint Alliance Church and they have two children.



**Friday Afternoon Converge Session #1:** Lisa Vogan is the licensed Disciplemaking Specialist for the Northeastern District, specializing in Children's ministry, Lisa spends her time coaching, consulting, equipping, speaking and facilitating leadership growth across the District and the United States. She serves small alliance kids as a Regional Connector for the Northeastern District and as a Coach for the Children's Disciplemaking Leadership Certificate Course (CDLC). Lisa is a certified Administrator and Trainer for Plan to Protect™. With a Bachelor's degree from Houghton College, completing Consecration in the C&MA in 2006, and over 30 years of ministry experience within discipleship and leadership contexts, Lisa resides in Buffalo, NY with her husband.




**Friday Afternoon Converge Session #2:** Katie Wells Barrera grew up in LaFayette Alliance Church and went to college at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul, MN. She was an International Worker with South America Mission In Bolivia for 8 years. She lives in Houston with her husband and they minister in Iglesia Bautista Del Redentor. They also have a community center through Urban Outreach INC and she works as a counselor at Lantrip Elementary School with The organization Communities In Schools. Katie is the author of Reckless Design: Wild Surrender. She and her husband have two children, a prairie dog and a bulldog.



International worker, Sue Stern, felt God calling her overseas in 1973 and took classes at Houghton and Nyack College, as well as Alliance Theological Seminary. She has served in Argentina since 1980. She met her husband Bob there in 1982 and they worked with The Alliance as church planters until the field closed in 2010. They continued to serve in the city of Buenos Aires from 2013-2017 with International Teams. They now attend CrossTown Alliance in Wells-ville, where Sue grew up and are looking forward to what their next chapter will be!



International Worker, Wendy has been serving in East Asia for the past 5 years. She and her family live and work on a University campus, teaching English and sharing His hope with students. She, her husband, and their 3 amazing kiddos (ages 11, 8 & 4) are enjoying their first furlough, soaking up the blue skies and eating too much ice cream!



**Saturday AM Teen Breakout:** Jessica Sears is the Northeastern District GCW Church Planter's Kid (CPK) chair, the Children's Ministry Director at the Alliance Church of Cheektowaga, and serves on the District Disciplemaking Team. Jessica lives in Springville, NY and works as a nanny. She is looking forward to spending time with the teens at Spring Refresh!



**Worship:** Spring Refresh Worship Leaders are Scott & Lori Suckling. Lori and Scott Suckling received their undergrad degrees in music from Nyack College and currently live in Cornwall on Hudson, NY where they work as graphic designers. They have two college-age children: Matthew (Eastman School of Music) and Kayleigh (Full Sail University). The Northeastern district is very special to both of them. Lori grew up attending the Horseheads Alliance Church and both she and Scott enjoy spending time at their cottage at Delta Lake.

**April 27-28 — Join us for spiritual "refresh"ment!**  
**Auburn Holiday Inn—details on [www.gcwned.org](http://www.gcwned.org), click on "Spring Refresh"**

**Registration packets arriving in the mail soon!**