



Great Commission Women of the Northeastern District

District Newsletter, September 2018

Developing Deep Roots

By Terri Groh, District Director

Imagine the seed of a tree that is planted in the ground. The seed is placed deep in the dirt, has plenty of sunshine and water and is in a well-drained spot. The seed is tended to on a regular basis and it begins to grow and develop small shoots and leaves. It eventually becomes a sapling. And yet, it never progresses beyond this point. It is alive and does not wither, but it never becomes a full-grown tree. Whenever the wind blows, the sapling bends and sways and eventually becomes permanently deformed. Would that be considered a not healthy tree? I would suggest that it would. It is a tree, but not a mature and fully grown one. Continued growth must happen for health

to occur in plants. The same can be said to be true for our Christian walk. We come to a saving faith in Christ, experience regeneration and receive the Holy Spirit, but if we never grow beyond that, and never become more like Christ then we are stunted. We do not have spiritual health and we are not fully experiencing sanctification. We will remain a sapling our entire life.

I don't know about you, but I want to allow God to work in my life and I want to grow and mature and develop deep roots. Our desire as a follower of Jesus Christ should be to thrive and grow and develop strong roots in the Lord. We should be

continually growing in faith and obedience. As we learn to follow the prompting of the Spirit, use our spiritual gifts and walk in God's ways, we will grow as a healthy believer.

Psalm 1:3 tells us that the one who delights in the Lord's instruction is "...is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither." Isaiah 61:3b says, "And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the Lord to glorify Him." Let's allow God to work in our lives, obediently follow Him and grow to be righteous trees so that He may be glorified through us.



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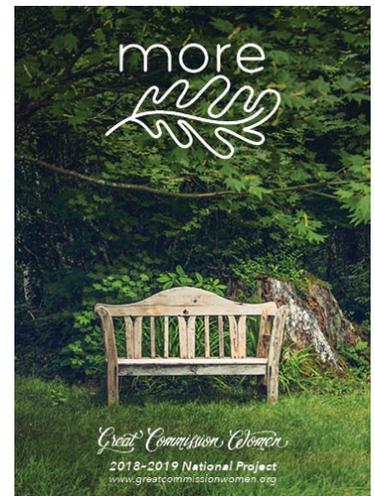
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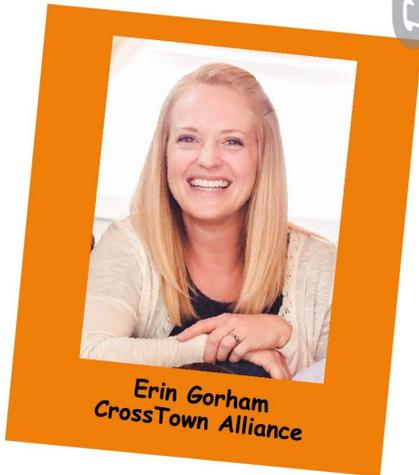
Laura Swanson
Global Moment



Heather Wallace
Kenya



Dr. Renee Valach
Bongolo Hospital, Gabon



Erin Gorham
CrossTown Alliance



Jessica Sears
Teen Sessions



Miki Reaume
Southside Alliance



Fall Refocus on Missions
Delta Lake Bible & Conference Center

September 21-22, 2018

Prayer Stations Fellowship
Global Impact Moment
Shopping in Book/Gift Room
Teen Breakout Session & Activities



Sara Sanders
Worship Leader

Early Bird Deadline—September 7th; Final Deadline—September 12

Fall Refocus Info

- ◆ Prayer Stations
- ◆ If you have untrimmed stamps for the stamp ministry, please feel free to bring them and leave them at the registration desk.
- ◆ If you are able to, please feel free to bring donations of baby hats, baby t-shirts, kimonos or onesies, receiving blankets, and baby socks or booties for Mama Packs. We will have a station set up for ladies to do this. Drop them off at the registration desk.
- ◆ Bosnian Handcrafts, local authors and other items for purchase will be available.
- ◆ There will be two offerings—one for Phil & Chelsea, new CAC workers and one for Dorcas House in Burkina Faso.
- ◆ Delta is having a concert on Saturday afternoon and you can purchase tickets to attend following the retreat at www.thelighthouseevents.com.
- ◆ You can register online for a small fee. Register at [EventBrite/Fall Refocus on Missions 2018](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-refocus-on-missions-2018)



Don't forget to like us on Facebook:

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

Check out our new website: www.gcwned.org

Stories from the Field - Women's Ministry Center

by Bob and Cheryl Fugate,
Alliance international workers to Guadalajara , Mexico



Claudia

After her husband was late coming home from work one night, Claudia, a faithful member of our church, Breath of Life, received the call that so many Mexicans fear. It was Luis' kidnappers, demanding a ransom. If she didn't pay it, they would kill him. Claudia knew she would likely never see him again.

Although Claudia was a believer, Luis was nursing a 20-year grudge against God. Last year, two of their daughters accepted Christ and were baptized. Although Luis refused to attend their baptism, Claudia refused to give up on him.

After hanging up the phone with Luis after his abduction, Claudia prayed, **"Lord, I don't think I will ever see my husband again; please take care of him."** Claudia couldn't go to the police, as that would ensure her husband's death. Kidnapping victims in Mexico are warned by their abductors that if word gets out about their abduction, the entire family will be killed.

In desperation, Claudia took a risk and called Breath of Life's assistant pastor. He prayed with her and informed Bob and Cheryl of the situation, and they joined in prayer. No one else in the congregation could be told.

One Sunday morning while Luis was still in captivity, Claudia testified to the congregation, "God is faithful!" By selling what she could and obtaining a loan, she was able to meet the required ransom. Luis was miraculously released.

A Joyful Reunion

Several days after Luis was reunited with his family, he was ready to open his heart to God. The couple approached Bob to tell him that Luis wanted to surrender to Christ.

Prior to his abduction, Luis told Bob that he had sensed the Lord speaking to him. He had prayed, "Lord, I need to return to you. Help me to straighten out my life." Luis said that throughout the ordeal he never feared for his life; he was at peace, which further infuriated his captors. He knew God was answering his prayer.

Luis promised Claudia and Bob that he would listen to the Holy Spirit's voice and begin attending church with his family. He has followed through on that commitment, with Claudia overjoyed yet still unable to tell anyone else what happened.



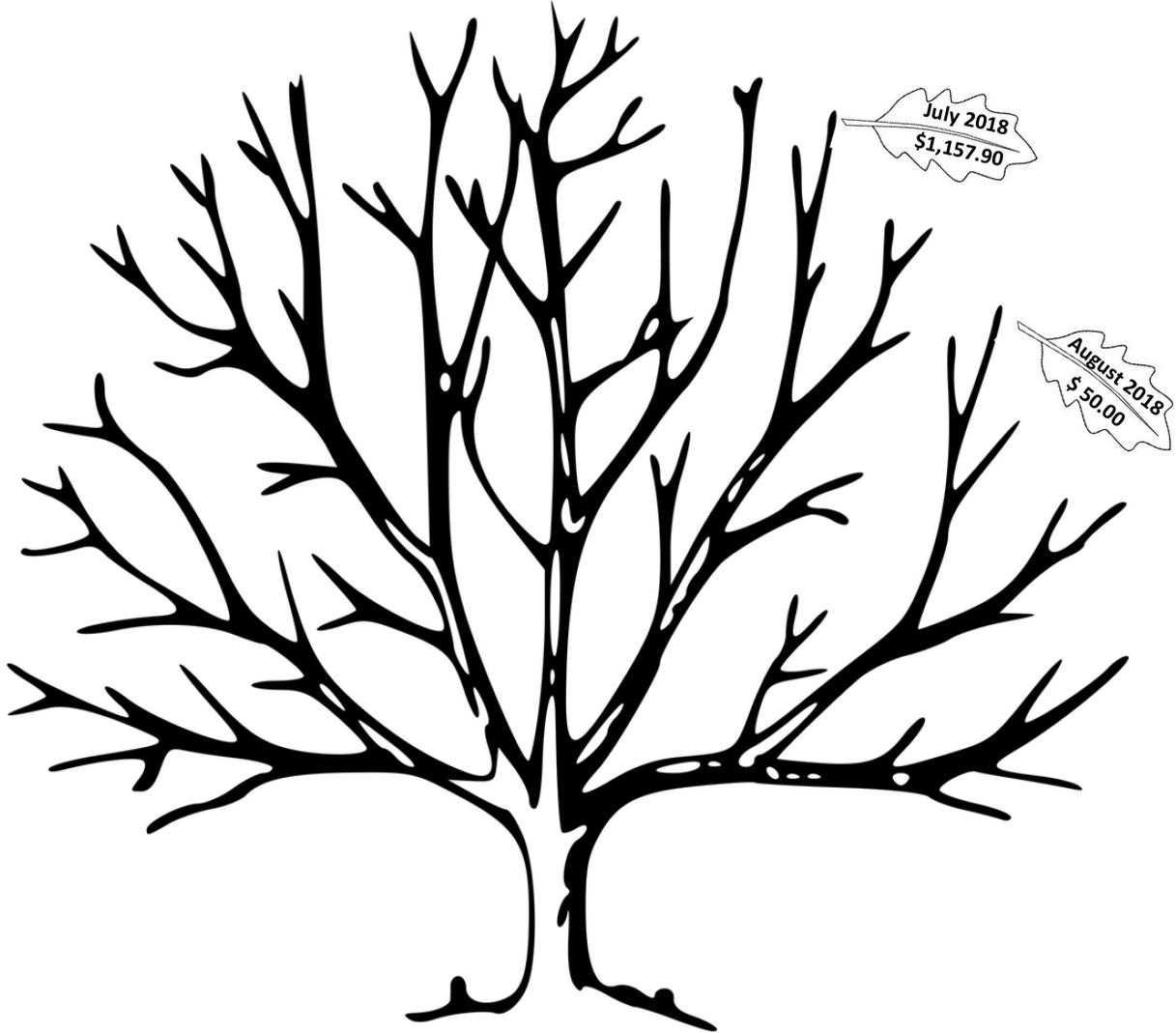
Claudia, her daughter and Cheryl Fugate

Claudia is not the first woman to deal with this type of horrific experience, and she won't be the last. But we can come alongside women like her, sensitively providing support during the terrible hardships they endure.

Isaiah 61:3b ~ They will be called **oaks of righteousness**, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.

More

Let's fill the tree with living, growing leaves!



2018—19 National Project
Silver Lining Orphanage ~ Women's Ministry Center ~ Santidougou Widows Center ~ CAMA Orphan Project ~ Crisis Pregnancy Shelter

National Goal - \$157,500
Northeastern District Goal - \$20,000

Year to Date Amount: \$ 1,207.90

Ouagadougou Guest Home (2 air-conditioners)
2018-19 Goal—\$1,400.00; Total to date: \$ 100.00