

Northeastern District Alliance Women

District Newsletter, April 2019

Two Sides of the Same Coin

By Terri Groh, District Director

Often, I am asked one of two questions. "Why do we focus so much on missions when there are so many people in our own communities that need help?" or "Why are we muddying the waters by trying to include ministry to local church women, instead of keeping our organizational focus on missions?"

Those are great questions and as I've reflected on them, I've had the following thought. Believers are given a mandate by Jesus to fulfill the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you." Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." It is clear from these passages that we are to go and make disciples both here, there, and everywhere. The Great Commission isn't just a mandate to stay home, but to go out into the world.

And yet, we have women in our own communities who need the Lord and women in our local churches who need to grow spiritually as well. As I look at our list of Northeastern District International Workers, I see that it is dwindling. Many have retired or come off the field for one reason or another. If there is no one to replace them then eventually there will be no workers. Where will we find these replacements?

Perhaps a woman you lead to the Lord will hear God's call upon her life. Or maybe it's a teen in youth group. Or someone in a small group or Bible study. The workers for the mission field will come from our local church ministry.

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Change Can Be Good!
By Terri Groh, District Director

I know some of you are groaning and rolling your eyes because you don't like change. I have mixed feelings about change, but I see the changes in our organization that have recently occurred as being good ones. I shared these changes at our District Prayer Conference and Dave Linn, our District Superintendent, has given me his blessing to share them here as well.

On February 21st the National Board of Directors met and voted on some recommendations that were brought to them by Terry Smith, National Director of Church Ministries and Jen Vogel, the National Director of Great Commission Women. These recommendations were passed and went into effect immediately.

One of the recommendations was a change back to the name of Alliance Women. The reason for this is three-fold.

- 1) the name Alliance Women is used in Alliance national churches worldwide.
- 2) the name Alliance Women would be more consistent with names of other ministries such as Alliance Youth and CMAAlliance Kids, Alliance Men, and
- 3) there is a desire for a broader scope of women's ministry in The Alliance than just missions support.

The second recommendation that was voted on, and approved by the Board of Directors was that the ministry status of Alliance Women be changed from an auxiliary ministry to an integrated ministry within Church Ministries. The reason for this is that leaders function best when they are integrated into a team, and Alliance Women desires to fully function as part of the broader Alliance ministry.

There are some small structural changes that will need to be made since we are no longer an independent, auxiliary ministry and I'll be working with Dave Linn and others on these, but I'm excited about this decision to move under the umbrella of Church Ministries and to work together as a cohesive team with our National Office.

Our desire remains the same though which is to provide support, both prayer and financial, to our Alliance International Workers, as well encourage spiritual development to the women in our local bodies.

Another exciting thing is that Jen Vogel, our National Director, has been asked to sit on the President's Cabinet and women will have a voice there as well. So I see these as good changes! President John Stumbo will be sharing these at Council at the end of May and I will also be sharing more as we work out the details.

In the meantime, carry on as normal, and let's continue to work towards the completion of the Great Commission! As we move forward with these changes, our desire remains the same—to help our churches engage with missions and to make both local and global disciples of Christ.

Ouagadougou Guest Home Project

2 Air-conditioning Units—

Goal for 2018-19—\$1,500.00 Total Amount to Date—\$1,654.41

Stories from the Field - CAMA Orphan Project
by Mau Le, Alliance international worker with CAMA Vietnam

Name: Thanh
 DOB: 5/20/2000
 Grade: 12
 Sister: Linh
 DOB: 1/14/2003
 Grade: 9



When Thanh was eight years old, her father died, leaving behind his wife, three young children, and his 68-year-old mother, who is blind. Thanh's family is severely impoverished, so her mother left for Ha Noi city to find work just after his death. She has never returned to visit her children.

Since then, Thanh has had the responsibility of looking after her grandmother and younger twin siblings. After school, she does all of the household chores. To earn a living for the family, Thanh takes on a variety of jobs, including babysitting, harvesting farm vegetables, and fetching river water for other people's homes.

Thanh is thankful to CAMA for supporting her and her younger sister, Linh, with school tuition and rice so that they can continue school. Now a senior, Thanh hopes to pass a college-entrance exam in summer 2018. She wants to become a teacher and return to her village to teach disadvantaged children like herself.

**You can find more "Stories from the Field" on our
 district website: www.gcwned.org**

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I don't see this as an either/or situation; it's both/and. As we minister to women in our local church and help them to grow spiritually, they may catch the vision for overseas ministry. If we continue to provide opportunities for our ladies to engage in missions, whether that be through coming to a district retreat, hearing from an International Worker, or listening to a missions moment during a Sunday morning service, they will begin to see the mission field.

Let's remember that both sides of the coin are equally important. And let's remember Christ's words in Matthew 24:14, "This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. *And then the end will come.*"

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE—APRIL 8, 2019
FINAL DEADLINE (\$10 MORE) -APRIL 15, 2019
HOTEL DEADLINE—APRIL 15, 2019

April 26-27, 2019
Holiday Inn
Auburn, NY

Great Commission Women
of the Northeastern District

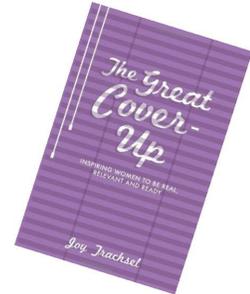
Spring Refresh 2019



Keynote Speaker

Joy Trachsel

Author of
The Great Cover-Up



"Planted for His Splendor"



- ◆ Global Moments with International Workers
- ◆ Vendors for shopping
 - ◆ Pool

Converge Session Speakers

Amy Nehlsen



Judy Button



Teen Activity and Breakout



Hannah Gies
Teen Leader

Worship Leader



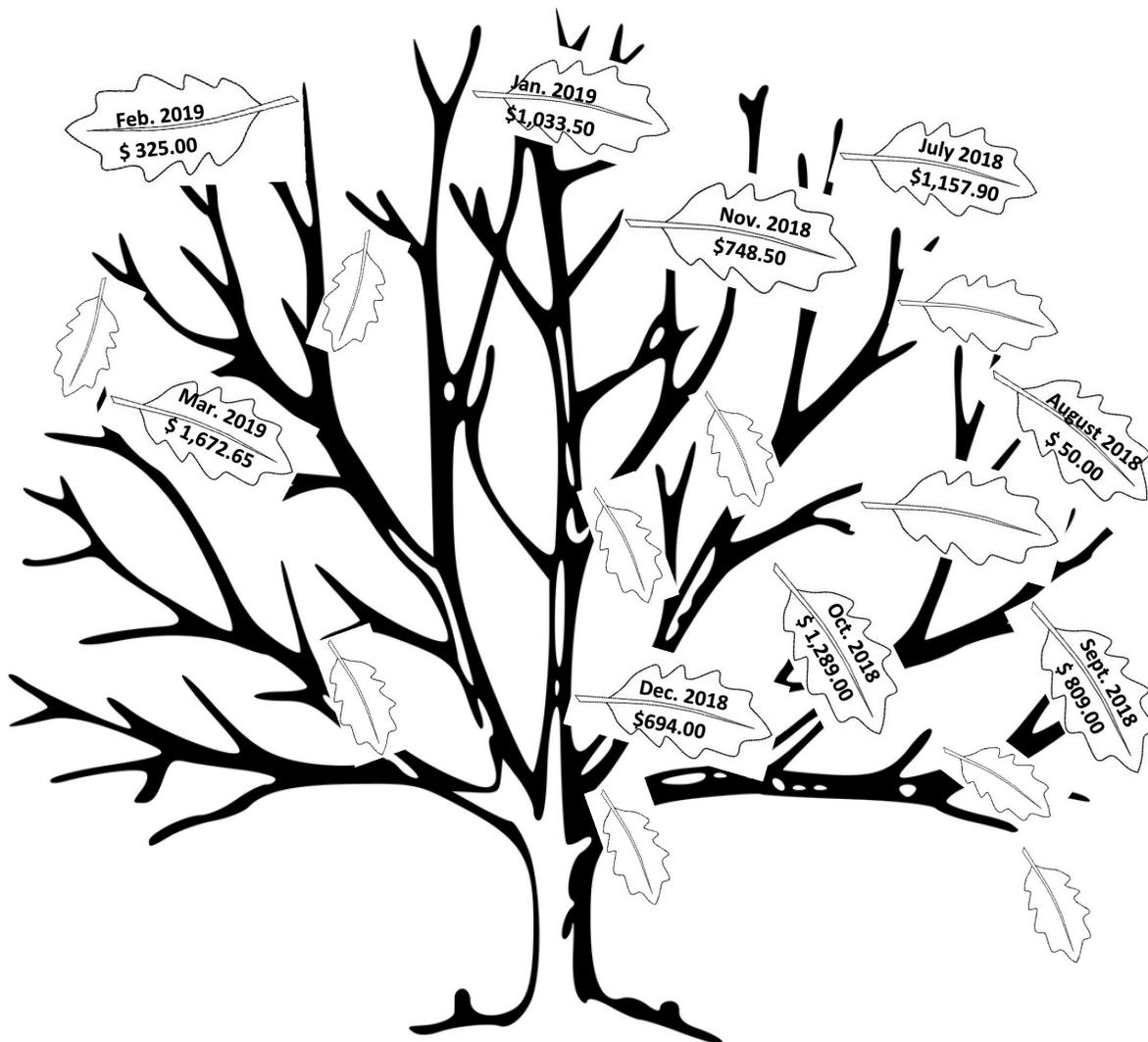
Lisa Vogan

You can also register online at [EventBrite.com/Spring Refresh 2019](https://www.EventBrite.com/Spring Refresh 2019)

More

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

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



**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: \$ 8,211.55