

Northeastern District **ALLIANCEWOMEN**

District Newsletter, December 2020

The Reason We Can Move Forward

By Terri Groh, District Director

This holiday season has been one of heartache and tears. I left for North Carolina at the end of October to take my mother to a chemotherapy appointment only to discover that there was nothing more that could be done and she was sent home for hospice care. My sister and I spent the month away from our families and caring for our mom. We also were caring for our stepdad who has dementia and trying to organize a giant-size mess. My mother passed away two days before Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was spent making funeral arrangements, away from my immediate family. Then the day after Thanksgiving we buried my mom. Needless to say, it has been a stressful time. January is going to be difficult as well as we go back down there to pack up a house and set things in order.

As I read the story of Christ's birth, I know that Mary and Joseph were also dealing with upheaval and stress. There were a few different stressors in their lives—a young pregnant girl that no one would have believed hadn't slept with a man. A young man who does the honorable thing even at his own ex

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live free

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Pense, wicked government imposing taxation on the poor. Another would have been being uprooted and traveling on a donkey while pregnant. And then finding there is no place to stay while going into labor.

And yet, even in the middle of stressful circumstances, God remains faithful to His children. Just as God was with Mary and Jospheh, He walks with us through the hard times. He provides comfort and shelter and care. He promises to never leave us and never forsake us.

And that promise is the reason we can have hope no matter what is going on in our lives. We can have peace despite cancer, death, financial ruin, Covid-19, shattered lives and a myriad of other stress-producers. We have peace because when we keep our eyes on Christ, He gives us what we need to get through each moment, each day and each week.

Keep your eyes on Jesus. In this stressful time we are all in, He is the answer to our struggles. He is the reason we can wake up each day with hope, peace, joy and love. Because He lives I can face tomorrow.

Merry Christmas!

Terri





National Project

NED Alliance Women 2020-2021 Goal—\$16,000

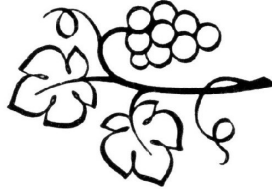
YTD Total—\$3,857.53

July 2020



\$140.50

August 2020



\$ 620.53

September 2020



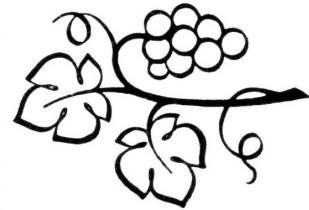
\$ 1,871.00

October 2020



\$ 468.50

December 2020



\$ 757.00

I AM THE Vine,
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.
APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO *Nothing*
JOHN 15:5



Pray for our International Workers

Edward & Sandy Zogg, Dominican Republic

- Pray for spiritual and emotional strength. The whole pandemic is really wearing us down.
- Pray for Krista and her College selection. She was hoping to retake the SAT to increase her merit aid to colleges but that doesn't look like it is going to happen.
- Pray that we will be able to fly to Florida to visit Sandys family for Christmas.
- Pray For some much needed refreshment.

Dr. Renee Valach, Bongolo Hospital, West Africa

- We are thankful for the expected arrivals of the Thranes and the Ingrassias. The Thrane family is expected to come from Albertville just before Christmas. Britta is a nursing instructor and Kalen will Manage Projects and Maintenance. Then the Ingrassias should arrive after the New Year from Syracuse. Chelsea is also a nursing instructor and Phil is a nurse anesthetist who will help teach in our training program. Pray for their things to arrive from the other country.
- Currently, the only way to get a Covid test for a suspect patient, is as part of research study through the research institute 4 hours north of here. Pray that we would have access to Covid tests for patients who need them. We had one suspect patient this week who died.

Wayne & Suzanne Spronk, Bongolo Hospital, West Africa

- Praise God that Emma was able to come to Gabon, even after a brush with COVID just before her departure.
- Praise God for a successful bonfire with many of our African colleagues in attendance singing praises around the fire.
- Praise God for a couple teen boys who have come from time to time to see Andre.
- Praise God for the blessing and satisfaction of seeing three very sick patients survive.
- Praise God that the Gabonese church was finally given permission to meet again starting in December, but with very limiting restrictions. Pray for the churches to rebound in good health from a long time of not meeting.
- Pray for travels--Suzanne to Senegal on Dec. 16 and returning with Hosanna on Dec. 19. COVID has complicated travel arrangements. Pray for a better return flight connection so they don't have to stay overnight somewhere on their return.
- Pray for Andre and Hosanna to stay strong to the finish line of final exams.
- Pray for patients who are diagnosed with HIV to trust the Lord and to be faithful to take their medicines.
- Pray for two chronically sick patients from another country and religion to receive Jesus and good medical care.

Mark & Kathy Eikost, Bosnia-Herzegovina

- Our main prayer request is for clear direction as we (together with our team) map out what our next ministry assignment will look like. We thought we would have some new workers coming in this summer, but they have decided to wait another year or so. This changes a number of things for us and possible assignments. We want to hear clearly from the Lord about HIS priorities for us.
- We praise God for continued good health and several opportunities to spend time with our family.

Wheels Transportation Ministry **By Julie Mills**

I have always had a heart to help Alliance International Workers and up until a couple of years ago I was the Alliance Women's Director at my church, Jamestown C&MA Church. It was through the Alliance Women's Retreats and Delta Lake Family Camp that I got to know some of the International Workers (IWs) by name. I began to write to several IW's about 8 years ago, and actually sent out a letter asking what some of their needs were. I was determined to help them, but I just didn't know how.

As I read of Paul's journeys in the Bible, I see that the missionaries were not on their own in their travels. They had support on the field and from home churches. In Philippians 1:4-8, Paul says, "Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the good news about Christ..." (NLT) Paul also writes to the church in Colosse in Colossians 1:4ff "For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven..." (NLT)

Those 2 passages from Paul tell us a lot. Churches were partners to IW's. Paul prayed for those churches with joy. Paul had co-workers. And, the Good News is bearing fruit, or changing lives because of our International Workers. When we support IW's, we are not only partners with them, but it allows the gospel of Christ to be shared all over the world. Our efforts to be partners, whether in prayer, giving, or support of any kind to the IW are signs of being a faithful servant and allow less worry for the IW so that they may focus more on ministry.

When I asked those questions several years ago, the one response that spoke to me the most was the IW need for a good vehicle. Traveling to see family and speaking at churches sharing about their ministry depends on good transportation. It is very hard to come home for 3 months to a year and try to purchase or even lease a car. The responses to follow-up questions about using a car while on home assignment were eye-opening. The cars they were able to use were either expensive, in bad shape, or constantly breaking down.

Some IW's have had better experiences, but most of the time the IW get the "leftovers" or "pickles". My heart longs to encourage IW's in a way that helps them to have less stress as they come home and need to find transportation for both family and ministry.

I heard of a Church in Pennsylvania that had started a ministry in 2008. The Spring Grove Alliance Church felt the call and Pastor Nate Conklin headed up a ministry called Missionary Wheels. His church only has about 25 people, but they have 6 cars in use.

I have felt led to join with Spring Grove Alliance Church and coordinate with them and eventually bring this to our district through Jamestown C&MA Church. So how can you help? The first way is pray. I will be sending out an updated letter twice a year in October and April. The second way is to give financially (see attached bulletin insert), and the third way is to donate a vehicle that is in decent and working order.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. My contact information is on the bulletin insert. Feel free to share with your Alliance Women's groups and your local church family. I pray that God will stir your heart in some way, whether it is to pray for or help provide for our International Workers. God is good and we are partners!

Missionary Wheels

Spring Grove C&MA Church in Pennsylvania acts on faith to provide vehicles for international workers to use while on home assignment.

Please Contact Pastor Nate Conklin @

www.sgacma.org

You may donate online (or)

Make checks out to:

Spring Grove Area C&MA Church

213 N Main St

Spring Grove, Pa. 17362

717-225-0343

The Jamestown C&MA Church is working in support of the Wheels Transportation Ministry. Our hope is to bring part of this ministry to the Jamestown area. Until then, our goal is to support what is already in place through the Spring Grove Area C&MA Church.

Please contact Julie if you would like prayer requests, Information on how to donate or if you would like more information on how your Church can be a part of this ministry. We are all partners!

Philippians 1:4-6 and Colossians 4:1-7

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A ministry of the Spring Grove C&MA Church