

## The Tears of Perseverance

Hannah Gies  
Youth Leader at Valley Alliance Church



I remember crying when I crossed the finish line at my second half marathon.

The first time I ran a half marathon I felt great. I had trained well, and even though the course was hard, by the end I was so proud of myself.

The second time, I cried when I crossed the finish line because there had been a moment, probably around mile 8, where I truly thought I might not finish. I wondered, "am I going to be that person they have to rescue with the obligatory ambulance service every race has but hopes they won't need?" I said to my husband, "I don't know if I can make it". He gave me a cliff bar (which was ironic because we were trudging up a legitimate cliff) and encouraged me to just keep moving.

There have been other times, a lot since that race, where I have wondered if I was going to make it. After a year like 2020, I bet you can relate. Sometimes life feels a lot like trudging up a cliff, on mile 8 out of 13.1, wondering if you are going to need an ambulance; or, at the very least, a snack to keep you going.

I don't think I'll ever forget that race, because it was such a powerful lesson of perseverance. When I think back to it, I also see a picture of God's faithfulness. Just like my husband stayed with me and helped me to finish, God never leaves us in a hard season. He sustains us and runs alongside us, no matter how slow we must go, until we reach the finish line. He gives us the strength we need to keep going; and when we reach that finish line, the feeling of overcoming is almost indescribable. I understand more deeply why I cried at that race after enduring truly hard seasons in my life. God understands those tears, too.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 says it so well: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (NIV).

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### NED ALLIANCE WOMEN DISTRICT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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## Short-Term Missions Scholarships Available

The District Missions Committee offers four \$250 scholarships to anyone 13 years or older interested in doing a short-term mission's trip to an international C&MA field or with a C&MA International Worker. This is a first come first serve opportunity.

If you are interested contact the Terri Groh at [terrigrroh@yahoo.com](mailto:terrigrroh@yahoo.com) for an application and guidelines

## Pompidou Guest Home Needs



Just a reminder that we have a new guest home that we are supporting in Libreville, Gabon, Africa. Libreville is an important city as this is where all team members entering and exiting the country travel to as a starting point. The Pompidou Guest House has many needs and we have decided to take this on as our district project. Our goal for 2020-2021 is \$1,500 and the monies will go towards the following items that the Libreville guest home needs.

### **Pompidou Guest Home Needs:**

Bedroom Curtains—\$150.00

Sheets—\$300.00

Pillows—\$50.00

Mattress and Frame—\$800

Paint for the bedrooms—\$200

Total Project Money—\$1,500.00

Amount Raised to Date—\$ 2,126.44

Any extra that comes in over the \$1,500.00 will go towards paint for the guest home as every room in the house needs new paint.



**National Project**

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

**YTD Total—\$19,758.33**

July 2020



\$140.50

August 2020



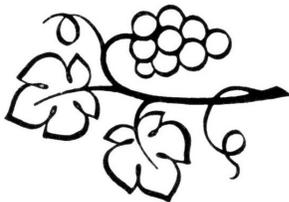
\$ 620.50

September 2020



\$ 1,871.00

October 2020



\$ 468.50

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

November 2020



\$ 757.00

December 2020



\$ 228.00

January 2021



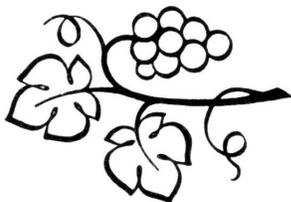
\$ 650.00

February 2021



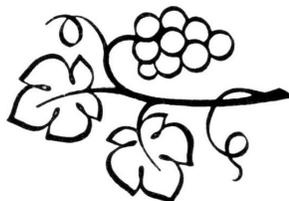
\$ 2,479.13

March 2021



\$ 1,084.50

April 2021



\$ 2,919.00

May 2021



\$ 72.50

June 2021



\$ 8,467.7

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Being renewed on the inside does not mean our hill suddenly turns flat, it means that we are given the strength to keep trudging. In the context of our lives, the hard seasons are just a moment. Yet they bring with them lessons and a closeness to our Savior that is irreplaceable, a glory that will last forever. This is the hope that helps us to not lose heart and to keep putting one foot in front of the other all the way to the end.

## Pray for our International Workers

### **Hopkins, Walter & Laura, Spain**

#### **Prayer:**

- LIFE International School (where I'll be serving as the director) is in need of a lead preschool teacher for this fall. Please pray that the Lord would provide the right person to fill this role.
- Please pray for our family as we begin the journey of inviting people and churches to partner with us in our ministry in Spain. We are confident that the Lord has called us to this ministry and that He will provide for our needs, but we appreciate your prayers for His provision.
- Please pray for our kids, Zach and Eliana, as they continue to process through the upcoming move. Pray that we will be a support for them as they grapple with the excitement of what is to come and the challenge of saying goodbye.

### **CAC IWs, Dave & Doris**

#### **PRAISES:**

- Local leaders and churches are actively involved in COVID Relief distributions in the Asian countries where we work.
- God is providing COVID Relief funds to CAMA for the work in South Asia as there was an upsurge in COVID cases the past month. One donor provided a \$100,000 matching grant as CAMA raised funds. Thank you to any of you who have given to the CAMA Relief fund in recent days.
- CAMA is sending one family (who has been waiting in the USA for 16 months) to NW Thailand on a temporary 1 year assignment — while they wait for their neighboring country to open.
- God has provided finances to CAMA IWs even in the midst of COVID.

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Pray for our many local partners and pastors in Asia who a) have lost church and family members during this past wave of COVID b) who are continuing to provide compassionate relief with food packets, subsidies for medical expenses, and cash subsidies to prevent evictions.
- Pray for us (David and Doris) as we have been the leaders of the South Asia Relief response (working with 7-12 partners on the ground) for the past 2 months. Pray that funding will get to the receivers despite logistical challenges and that God will multiply the efforts there.
- Pray for Myanmar - we have tried for 3 months to send assistance to our Alliance church there and it can't get in. We are trying a new way through a neighboring country. The situation in Myanmar is very tense and that God would bring peace to that land.
- Pray that we will have discernment and that God would open the right doors at the right time for our return to Malaysia. That country is on a strict lockdown. We have been in the USA 2 years while our HA was scheduled for 1 year. We have continued to do our work in 8 Asian countries virtually. Pray for wisdom as we continue to come alongside other CAMA IWs also in our situation.

### **CAC Worker, S**

- S will be teaching English in a CAC, starting on June 13 through to August 4th. This is with a Christian organization that places Christian teachers in locations around the world. Pray that S will build strong relationships with the students and be able to share with them the Good News and the love of our Father. They will mostly be people who are “m”.
- Pray the team (there are six people on the team) will be united and close, and that they can encourage each other and build each other up...and that they will make a positive impact in that city for Jesus.
- S still doesn't know where he will end up in the Fall, and is continuing to interview with companies. Pray that God will continue to direct his paths and lead him to the role (and country/location) that He has for me in the future.

### **Zogg, Edward & Sandy, Dominican Republic**

#### **Prayer:**

- Please pray for Krista and her transition to college and to living in the USA. It is going to be hard for her to leave here and all her friends.

### **Eikost, Mark & Kathy, Bosnia-Herzegovina**

- July is "Go Time" for us. We will be speaking at Family Camp, Renew, Rome Alliance Church all before we leave July 15 to head back to Bosnia for our next term.
- During this time we will also be sorting and packing our things for storage or to go back with us. Of course, we need to say "one more goodbye" to family and friends. So, the first half of the month will be pretty full.
- THEN, we transition to Bosnia. We hope to find an apartment or small house in our new ministry location of Kakanj. So far, our friends who are already looking for us have not found anything. Please pray that just the right location opens up for us. If we need to, we can commute from Zenica, which has lots of housing and is a 30 minute drive. However, our preference would be to live in the town where we will be working.



# SUMMER RENEW

**Delta Lake Bible Conference  
Center**

**During Family Camp**

**Where: Delta Center  
(Downstairs in Room A)**

**Time: 3:00 p.m.**

**Date: Sunday July 4th**



**WORSHIP**  
**INTERNATIONAL WORKER, KATHY EIKOST**  
**INTERNATIONAL WORKER, LAURA HOPKINS**  
**2021-2022 THEME & NATIONAL PROJECT**  
**BOSNIAN HANDCRAFTS**