



Great Commission Women of the Northeastern District

District Newsletter, March 2019

Further Up and Further In

By Terri Groh, District Director

As a teenager, I loved the books by C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In the final book of the series, *The Last Battle*, the character, Jewel says, "I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now...Come further up, come further in!"

As followers of Christ, we are longing for the day when He will return to take us to our real country and we can at long last say, "I am home!" But in the meantime, we have work to do here on this earth which can be hard. I wonder if sometimes we long so much for heaven that we forget the deepness we can find in Christ here in this world. I'm wondering if we really desire to go deeper with God or if we are just looking to get through our struggles relatively unscathed?

Psalm 42 says, "As a deer longs for streams of water, so I long for You, God. I thirst for God, the living God."

Are you longing for more of God? Are you craving Him with your whole

being? Do you desire Him more than food and water?

David laments a bit in the next few verses but then reminds himself in verse 5 of the following, "Why am I so depressed? Why this turmoil within me? Put your hope in God, for I will still praise Him, my Savior and my God.." And in verse 7 comes a reminder of the blessings that churn over him, "Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all Your breakers and Your billows have swept over me. The Lord will send His faithful love by day; His song will be with me in the night—a prayer to the God of my life."

God wants us to go deep with Him. He longs to give us more of Himself and help us to grow strong roots so we can stand firm against the struggles we face. He doesn't want you to just tolerate this world and hang on by a thread while waiting for the next. He invites us to come further up and further in.

Won't you join Him?



Inside this issue:

Looking for God's New Thing	2
Stories from the Field	3
Spring Refresh Flyer & Bios	4-5
National Project	6

NED GCW Officers

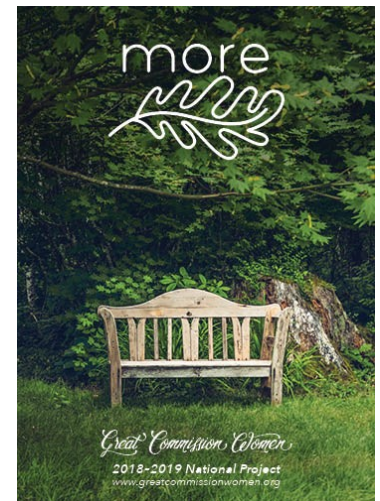
Director: Terri Groh
PO Box 224
New Haven NY 13121
315-963-2044
terrigroh@yahoo.com

Asst. Director: Jill Gies
660 Fordsbush Rd.
Ft. Plain, NY 13339
518-568-5322

giespasture@frontiernet.net
Secretary: Darlene Mason
4277 Tannery Road
Campbell NY 14821
607-527-8765
darlene4277@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jill Gregory
1995 New Scotland Road

Slingerlands NY 12159
518-439-6234
jilly122@aol.com



Looking for God's New Thing

by Barbara Linn

National GCW Leadership Team Interim Secretary, NED District Member Ex-Officio

(Reprinted from National GCW January blog)

It's a new year. If God wanted to do a new thing in you or around you this year, would you see it or would you miss it? [Isaiah 43:19](#) teaches us how to spot one of God's new things. "*Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.*"

God's new thing springs forth. "Spring forth" reminds me of a seed in a garden. The seed has been there for some time, embedded in the earth, hidden from sight. Its growth has already begun, slowly and silently upward as the ground around it warms. But suddenly it's time – the tiny leaves burst into the sunlight as something fresh and new that can finally be seen.

Has God been germinating any new things deep inside your heart and mind? Is it time for them to spring forth?

God's new thing can happen anywhere, even in the most unlikely places. Notice where Isaiah says God's new thing is springing forth. Not in a sunny, warm, well-watered garden somewhere, but in the wilderness.

Take a moment, close your eyes, and picture yourself in a wilderness – not just any wilderness, but the driest kind of wilderness – a desert. See the many shades of tan and brown, the windswept ripples of sand that turn into dune mountains stretching to the horizon. Occasionally, the visual monotony is broken by a tough little shrub or cactus. Feel the weight of the unobstructed sun pressing down on you like a huge, hot hand. Almost immediately, realize your growing need for the thing that is most obviously missing here – water.

God's new thing is exactly what you need. It's like water. Not only a pool of water, but a lot of water, rivers in the desert – just what you need most, and more than enough. A river is a running supply of water that creates green places wherever it goes. Isaiah also compares it to a roadway – a path to follow to a place where God will provide things that are in short supply or missing entirely where you are now. A roadway provides a way out of or a way through a hostile environment where you sense you were not designed to live for very long.

God is asking each of us an important question: *Will you look for My new thing?*

I can think of two ways to miss it. First, we may allow our attention to be completely distracted by the desert. We look at the desert, and we feel sure that there will never be any water there. But our God can and will make it! Second, we may find ourselves with our eyes fixed on the well-watered places of the past. We let the past limit our expectations for the future. Certainly, we should reflect on the past with gratitude and thank him for what He's already done. We know that He never changes. But let's not miss the new thing He is doing just because He hasn't done it before.

Take a few moments right now in this first month of a new year, and ask God to make you aware of what new thing He is doing, both in you and around you. It may be happening slowly. Like a seed germinating, the working of God is often silent & gradual, but it is also certain. Be ready to spot a new thing springing forth, like a seed in the sun. And when you see it – don't miss your opportunity!

Stories from the Field - Crisis Pregnancy Shelter CAMA Orphan Project

by Mau Le, Alliance international worker with CAMA Vietnam

Name: Ngoc* DOB: 7/15/2007 Grade: 5—
*Name changed

Ngoc contracted the HIV virus during childbirth. She never knew her father, who passed away from HIV-related causes when she was three months old. Ngoc and her mother live in an old storage shed on the corner of their extended family's garden; meanwhile, Ngoc's older sister, who is not HIV-positive, lives on the property with the relatives in their larger home. Sometimes Ngoc is envious of her sister because she's healthy and lives happily with other family members.



Ngoc's mother does farm work and other hard labor to earn a meager living for her and her daughter. But she is unable to hold a long-term job because of the wearing side effects from her HIV-medication.

Everyone in Ngoc's life is afraid to have close contact with her. She feels rejected and unloved, abandoned by her family and community, and often asks why people hate her and her mother. At school, teachers and students keep their distance from Ngoc. She wishes that her extended family and her sister would play with her.

Only Ngoc's mother loves and nurtures her. But when her mom is too sick to care for either her daughter or herself, no one wants to help.

Today, Ngoc experiences love and care from CAMA staff. "I thank them for loving me, giving me a lot of hugs, praying for my and my mother's health, and financially supporting me so I am able to continue school and have food to eat monthly," she often tells us. "I pray that God continues to give me and my mother good health. I want to study medicine so I can help HIV patients."

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

Ouagadougou Guest Home Project

2 Air-conditioning Units—

Goal for 2018-19—\$1,500.00

Total Amount to Date—\$1,554.41

April 26-27, 2019
Holiday Inn
Auburn, NY

Great Commission Women
of the Northeastern District

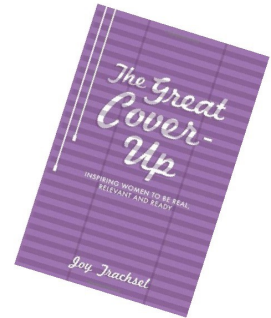
Spring Refresh 2019



Keynote Speaker

Joy Trachsel

Author of
The Great Cover-Up



"Planted for His Splendor"



Converge Session Speakers

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

Teen Activity and Breakout



Hannah Gies
Teen Leader

Amy Nehlsen



Judy Button



Worship Leader



Lisa Vogan

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

2019 Spring Refresh Women's Conference—April 26-27, 2019
Meet our speakers and participants!



Keynote Speaker: Joy Trachsel

In March of 2010 Joy's life became unrecognizable. On a journey that only God could orchestrate, she found herself working in a homeless shelter for women and children. In 2016, Joy's passion for women in crisis and the Gospel took her on a new adventure. Joy currently serves women at Pregnancy Solutions, a crisis pregnancy center in Akron, Ohio. As Client Services Coordinator, she walks with women through their pregnancy decision. By God's grace she has an opportunity to be a voice for the unborn. She has been speaking to women for over 15 years both nationally and internationally. Joy can be heard on Moody Radio – Cleveland (WCRF) as part of the Pause For Prayer Team. She is the author of *The Great Cover Up* and hosts the *Running In Flats* Podcast. Joy is married to Wally and is the proud mom of Ashley, Ally, Austin and Alex and Grandma Jo Jo to Emma, Addie and Titus. You can get to know Joy better by visiting her blog at www.joytrachsel.com.



Friday Afternoon Converge Session #1: Amy Nehlsen

Amy loves the Lord Jesus Christ and is passionate about knowing God, the Word of God and sharing His Love with those around her. Amy and her husband Steve along with their 3 children (Abby, Kari, and Peter) lived in West Africa for just over 20 years. Amy and Steve have served as International Workers with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in West Africa since 1990. Coming to work at Nyack College in 2012 was not a transition that they had anticipated but a time that was very meaningful as teachers and mentors. During this time they enjoyed trips back to Burkina Faso in the summer where they are still active Board Members of Dorcas House-Burkina Faso. They are also involved in Biblical training in French and the African language of Jula.

A background in Childhood Education has provided the venue to teach in both public and Christian US Elementary Schools as well as American International Schools in Africa. Teaching illiterate adults to read and empowering young teachers are two areas of passion that have been developing in Amy in more recent years. Her Master's Degree in Education: Globalization and Educational Change from Lehigh University has developed in her a desire to empower emerging leaders to be globally-minded professionals. She also has enjoyed traveling and leading weekend retreats for women to encourage them to dig into the Word of God and to see the transforming power it has, by God's grace, on their lives.



Friday Afternoon Converge Session #2: Judith Button

Judy is the daughter of missionaries, Ed and Ruth Thompson and the sister of Dr. David Thompson, MD. She raised three girls, worked for the government for 33 years in retail, and thrived as a servant of God in His kingdom. When she retired, she moved 5 years ago to share a home and expenses with her sister, Laurel Watkins in Lockport, NY. Many circumstances, both good and terrible, contributed to her survival as a seed, a planting of the Lord. Judy is a member of Lockport Alliance Church and a speaker for Stonecroft Ministries.



Teen Activity and Breakout Session Leader: Hannah Gies

Hannah is an online student at Toccoa Falls College, studying Youth Ministry with a minor in Counseling. She has been leading the youth group at Valley Alliance Church for 5 years and loves it. She has a passion for youth and helping them meet Jesus in a life-changing way. She is excited to have the opportunity to hang out with some of the youth in our Alliance Family at Spring Refresh. When she's not studying or working, she enjoys cooking, being with people, and making some good coffee.



Worship Leader: Lisa Vogan

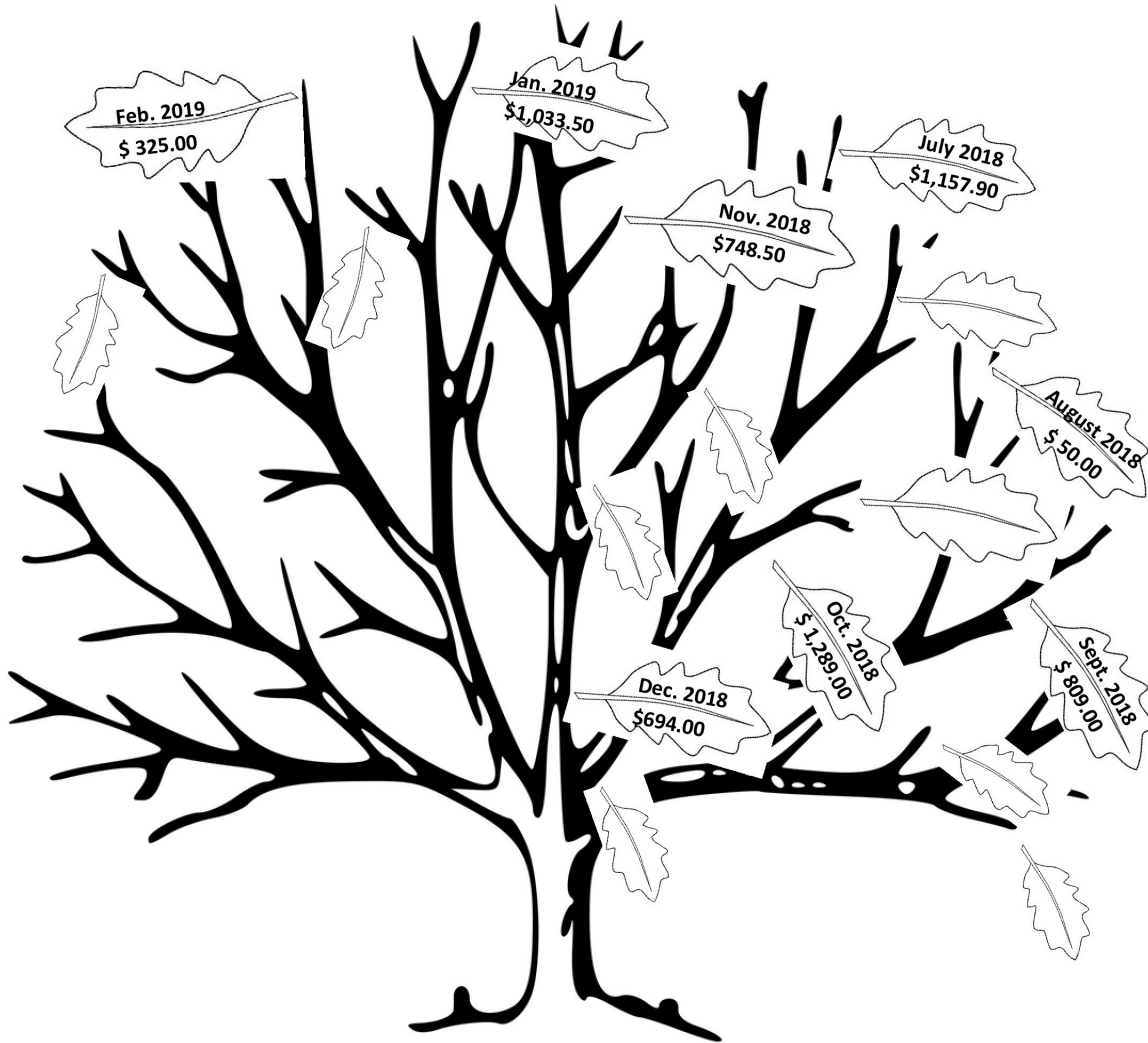
Anchored in a deep desire to communicate the Gospel, Lisa has been involved in music ministry and leading worship with her husband since 1982 in various capacities, most recently at Amherst Alliance church. She believes that God speaks powerfully through music and counts it a privilege to lead others to the throne of grace through dynamic worship. Lisa is also the licensed Disciplemaking Specialist for the Northeastern District.

Details on www.gcwned.org, click on "Spring Refresh"
Early Bird Deadline—April 8; Final Deadline—April 15

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: \$ 6,206.90

**Ladies, we still have a long way to go to meet our goal of \$20,000.
Don't give up!**