

Taking off the Mask by District Director, Terri Groh

Masks. We all wear them and women are especially good at keeping their mask on.. It's the face we think people want to see. The smiling, happy one that we wear no matter how we feel on the inside. The mask of perfection. I'm good. I'm happy. All is well in my world.

But behind those masks are hurting women. Women who really wish they could take that mask off for just a moment to let their skin breathe and their true identities to be shown. But that would mean being vulnerable and that is risky. Because generally people don't want to see the person behind the mask. They want to see the happy, smiling, "everything is peachy" person. The real person behind the mask may make them have to take a look at who they are. It may mean that they have to acknowledge that they are wearing a mask. It may mean they need to stop what they are doing and actually look at the person.

I wish that we could learn to be real and transparent in the Christian community. But often, when someone does dare to take off the mask we are quick to jump in with judgement. We let them know in spoken and unspoken ways that being vulnerable and transparent is not acceptable here.

But what if we did things differently in our women's ministry? What if instead of being quick to jump in with advice, condemnation and judgment or wanting to fix someone, we just listened? Could we do that for a change? Could we let someone know it's okay to take off the mask because we still love them? Can we show them that we won't jump in with quick platitudes or telling them what we think they should do?

I've been on both ends of this conversation. I've been the one that's been quick to try and "fix" someone. But I've also been the one to take off the mask and immediately feel the shame and embarrassment of having been too transparent. I've seen the blank stares from people not wanting to hear that much openness.

I'd love to see our ministry to women be one where we say it's okay to take the mask off. Let's take off the fakeness and the plastic smiles. Be real with one another. Love one another. Let someone know it's okay to take off the covering. When we are able to be real with one another, we will know better how to pray. We will be able to support another in their struggles. We will be able to actually be effective in our relationships.

Let's work at removing our masks.

**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 terrigroh@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—\$ 2,057.00

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.

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

Jamestown C&MA Church
1011 West 3rd St.
Jamestown, NY 14701

Contact Persons: Julie Mills millsmom64@gmail.com
Duane Mills millsdad63@gmail.com

Pray for our International Workers

Eikosts, Mark & Kathy, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Prayer:

- Pray for them as they grieve the loss of Kathy's mom, Irene Mang.
- Pray for healing for both Mark and Kathy as they recover from Covid-19.
- Pray for their placement for next term. We will be working through some field strategy documents with our team later this week to hammer out our field priorities in ministry. We definitely need wisdom for that.
- Prayer as they work out their budget for the field.
- Prayer as their team discusses and figures out the best place for us to be stationed over the next term. Pray that they can hear God's voice and that the Bosnian leaders would hear from the Holy Spirit as well regarding our ministry assignment.
- Pray for Mark & Kathy as they begin their Spring Tours in early April. Pray that our churches would engage in missions that as a result support for Alliance Missions would increase.

Ingrassias, Phil & Chelsea, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon, Africa

Prayer:

- Pray for safe travels as they leave for Bongolo this week.
- Pray for an easy adjustment for both them and their children.
- They would acquire the language.
- Pray that God would guide their container arrival.

CAC, K&K

Prayer:

- We have finally finished what we are calling "The Upper Room" at our English center. It will hopefully be a place for classes, parties, Experience God events, plays and musical opportunities, playing ping pong and just hanging out, talking with our students and the local people. Please pray with us for his blessing on our center and this special room. We are so excited! In fact, I found out that the man who painted this room comes from the majority religion but really wants to follow Jesus. He told me it is only his family that is holding him back which is a line we hear too often. Pray for God to work in his heart and that of his family, that they would come to the truth of Jesus, but that we will know better how to deal with a culture where shame plays such a huge role in society.
- We started our Experience God classes this month. God is at work, friends, and we need to "storm his throne" for those attending. It is optional, so we pray for everyone to be there that God wants there. Pray for those of us who are presenters or facilitators to do it well, to have the Spirit's voice in our ears, for him to precede us in the meeting rooms, that he will open their ears and hearts, that they will have dreams about Jesus and that they will be able to take the final step in deciding to follow him.

Valach, Dr. Renee, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon, Africa

Prayer:

- Pray that Renee can get out of the country as planned in mid-March.
- Pray for opportunities to share in our district churches over the next few months.

Northeastern District Alliance Women presents



Spring Refresh 2021

A Virtual Event

“Free to Walk in the Spirit”

Keynote Speaker: Marilyn Lauffer, Two Sessions



National Director

IW Speaker



Dr. Renee Valach
Bongolo Hospital
Gabon, Africa

District Director



Terri Groh



Jen Vogel
Words of
Encouragement

**The Three Prongs of Alliance
Women's Ministry in the Local
Church**

Flyers and materials have been sent to each NED church's pastor's wife and women's ministry leader. Videos will be sent on April 13th. Please feel free to join us on April 24th for a one day event or set your own date.



National Project

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

YTD Total—\$4,735.50

July 2020



\$140.50

August 2020



\$ 620.50

September 2020



\$ 1,871.00

October 2020



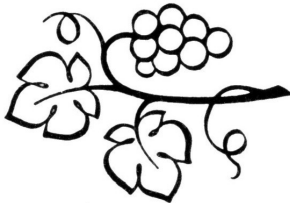
\$ 468.50

November 2020



\$ 757.00

December 2020



\$ 228.00

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

January 2021



\$ 650.00

