

# *Northeastern District* ALLIANCEWOMEN

*District Newsletter, February 2020*

## Pick Me! Pick Me!

By Terri Groh, District Director

Every so often I start to wonder if anything I do in ministry is making a difference. Day in and day out I'm serving the Lord, but either the message falls on deaf ears, or I see very little fruit. And it's discouraging. I know that I'm doing what I've been called to do, but that doesn't mean I always see results.

Isaiah 6 tells us of the calling of the prophet, Isaiah. God sent seraphim to touch a glowing coal to Isaiah's lips to cleanse him of his sins. Verse 8 says, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Who should I send? Who will go for Us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'" I remember as a young college student at Nyack responding to God's call on my life. I felt like a child waving her hand wildly at the teacher, and saying, "Pick me!" "Pick me!"

It's been forty years since I received my call and I am still thankful that God chose me to step into the full-time ministry fray. But there are days when I start to wonder if I heard correctly and when my job will be complete. In the verses following Isaiah's calling, he asks God, "Until when?" God tells Isaiah that is to do this until everything lies in ruin.

Wow! I bet that made Isaiah pause a bit. Not only was the message he received a tough one to deliver, but people would reject it, and eventually the people would be scattered, and their cities would be destroyed. These are not the ministry results most of us look for!

Yet, Isaiah faithfully did as he was told. He was obedient to his call no matter how exhausting it may have been. My desire is also to be faithful. I am not responsible for the results I get from the message I deliver, but I am responsible to be obedient to do what God has asked me to do.

I want to encourage you as you continue to work at whatever ministry  
(continued on page 2)

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### *Inside this issue:*

Pick Me! Pick Me! (Continued from page 1)	2
Bongolo Hospital Needs	2
National Project Goals & Progress	3
Spring Refresh Info	4-5
IW Prayer Requests	6



(Continued from page one)

the Lord has given you. It may be tiring. It may be discouraging. But ultimately, as we seek to share the Good News with others it will bear fruit. In verse 13 God encourages Isaiah by telling him, "...like the terebinth or the oak that leaves a stump when felled, the holy seed is the stump." There would be a remnant that would return and out of this would be the future believers who would walk with God.

You may feel like you are getting nowhere but remain faithful to your call. God is at work behind the scenes and what you do for Christ will not be in vain!

## Bongolo Hospital Needs

Once a year, at the end of February, there is a container of supplies that is shipped from an Alliance Church in Ohio for the Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. It is too late to get things into this year's mailing, but this is a great project for your Alliance Women's groups in your churches, and you can start planning now.

Colie Lofgren is the Alliance Women's shipping coordinator for Bongolo Hospital. Colie can add you to her email list and each year she sends out an updated version with our most urgent needs and how to send packages to the container.

Or, you can go online [at https://www.alliancewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/WEB-Bongolo-Hospital-Gabon-General-Needs-List-2019-2020.pdf](https://www.alliancewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/WEB-Bongolo-Hospital-Gabon-General-Needs-List-2019-2020.pdf) to find the latest Bongolo Hospital needs list.

Thank you for partnering with the Bongolo Hospital in Gabon.



**Thank you Alliance Women for your generous giving to deaf ministries in Burkina Faso.**

**We have been encouraged by the class offered to parents of deaf children. It has added to their understanding of deaf culture as well as giving them skills in communicating. They have enthusiastically jumped in and we are thankful to bless these families through your giving. Thank you!**

**Blessings, Esther Schaeffer**



**National Goal—\$250,000  
Northeastern District Goal—\$16,000**

**Year-to-date Amount— \$7,893.42**

**Help break their chains so they can be SET FREE!**

**July 2019  
\$1,095.00**

**August 2019  
\$225.00**

**September 2019  
\$63.00**

**October 2019  
\$1,453.00**

**November 2019  
\$563.00**

**December 2019  
\$1,797.75**

**January 2029  
\$1,034.47**

**February 2029  
\$1,662.00**



### **2019-2020 National Project**

#### **Bosnia-Herzegovinia**

Roma people and women coming out of prison to be set free from heroin addiction

#### **Cambodia**

Help and a home for those seeking to be set free from drug and alcohol addiction

#### **Paraguay**

Reaching youth through camp ministry to be set free to follow Jesus

#### **Uruguay**

Encounter retreats for well-educated women in a spiritually-resistant culture to be set free from emptiness

Northeastern District Alliance Women presents

# Spring Refresh 2020

## "Set Free"

**Keynote Speaker: Merilyn Lauffer**

Bosnian Handcrafts &  
Other Vendors  
Friday Night Activity for  
Teen Girls



Fellowship  
Global Moments  
Prayer

**April 24-25, 2020**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Auburn, NY**

**Converge Speakers**



Gloria Chapman  
Former Hawaii Area  
District AW Director



Doris Strong  
IW to Asia

**Worship Leaders**



Hannah & Josh Gies  
Natalie & Austin Bates

**TAKE NOTE:**

The early bird deadline of March 20th is fast approaching.  
FINAL deadline for hotel and conference reservations is March 27th.

**2020 Spring Refresh Women's Conference—April 24-25, 2020**  
**Meet our speakers and participants!**



**Keynote Speaker: Merilyn Lauffer**

David and Merilyn Lauffer serve as the southwest regional leadership couple of the Western Pennsylvania District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). Merilyn is a licensed Ministry Coach with the C&MA and mentors women in the deeper life and women going through the consecration process.

Previously the Lauffers ministered with the Alliance as church planters in Pennsylvania and Michigan ('83-'86 and '04-'07), International Workers to Israel ('88-'03), and denominational leaders at the National Office, where Merilyn served as the Director of Donor Engagement and David served as the Assistant Vice-President of International Ministries ('07-'18).

**Friday Afternoon Converge Session #1: Gloria Chapman**



Gloria Chapman was born and raised in Kailua, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. She did not get introduced to Jesus Christ until her late 20's when her then-boyfriend Mark Chapman shared the gospel with her and took her to his church. It was not long before she accepted God's gift of salvation. Several months later, Mark and Gloria married, and life looked like it was going "happily ever after." Nothing could have prepared Gloria for what happened one year and six months later: Mark flew to New York and shot and killed John Lennon the former Beatle! Gloria found friendship and help through her pastors and friends of Kailua Community Church (C&MA) and became active in its Sunday School program and in Alliance Women. She served in leadership roles, including two terms as Hawaii Area director. In the meantime, thousands of miles away, God healed Mark mentally and spiritually. In 2005, God gave them a ministry called All About Jesus Ministries which Gloria manages. AAJM revolves around evangelistic pamphlets Mark and Gloria have written; one contains their testimony. AAJM freely provides these materials to prison ministries, chaplains, and others all across the US and in Africa.

**Friday Afternoon Converge Session #2: Doris Strong**



Doris Strong grew up in middle Georgia and found Jesus at the age of 15. While attending graduate school she found a home at First Alliance Church in downtown Raleigh. Here, she felt God's call to missions and went with the Alliance to teach and disciple MKs at Dalat School (Penang, Malaysia). There, she met David who at the time was serving single in Cambodia with CAMA Services. David and Doris married in 1996 and served the marginalized for 16 years through Church Based Community Development in Cambodia. Then for the past 10 years they have served regionally -- consulting, equipping, and encouraging 20+ CAMA workers in 8 different Asian countries.

**Worship Leaders: Hannah & Josh Gies, Natalie & Austin Bates**



Hannah and Josh Gies are from Valley Alliance Church where they lead the youth ministry and worship ministry. They love leading worship, especially when they get to do it with their good friends. Natalie and Austin Bates live in Syracuse, NY and both grew up in Alliance churches. They are talented musically and have a great gift for worship. The four of them are looking forward to worshiping with you all at Spring Refresh this year!

**Details on [www.nedalliancewomen.org](http://www.nedalliancewomen.org), click on "Spring Refresh"**  
**Early Bird Deadline—March 20; Final Deadline—March 27**

## Pray for our International Workers

### Eikosts:

- Pray for Mark's mom who has been having horrible hallucinations and is being moved to a memory care unit near Columbus today.
- Kathy's mom has been in rehab for a few weeks, working on getting strong enough to move back to her assisted living apartment. She is also having a lot of trouble remembering things. It's hard to be so far away at times like these.

### Zoggs:

- Please pray for the Dominican Republic. We have been having a lot of election protests. They stopped the election half way through the day on the 16 due to election fraud. Please pray that there will be a non-violent end to the corruption here.

### W & S:

- Big news! We have been approved to return to the field at Bongolo coming up this summer! Prayers are appreciated for another big transition.
  - who will rent our house?
  - what will we do with all the stuff in it?
  - what will our son do when he returns from Rwanda this summer?
  - how will Hosanna adjust to boarding school?
  - how will Andre adjust to homeschooling in the jungle?
  - how do we prepare physically? emotionally?
  - how do we say all those goodbyes again?
- The Lord knows the answer to all these questions. Please pray that he will keep us in perfect peace as we watch and wait for Him to supply all our needs.

**Thank you for praying for our International Workers!**