

# Northeastern District ALLIANCEWOMEN

District Newsletter, November 2020

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## Encouraging Women to Stay Connected

By Terri Groh, District Director

I spoke at Fall Refocus on Encouraging Women in their Time of Need and have broken that message down into a couple of different articles. This is the second in the series.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Paul says, *“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.”* The metaphor Paul uses in the second part of this verse is in the Greek word, oikodome, which is translated edify or build up. The word edifice or building comes from this word and the picture Paul gives is of the body of Christ as a building.

The Master Builder, Christ, is the foundation and then the church is built upon this foundation. Each of us are the bricks in the building who have been carefully selected by the builder. The master builder hand selects each brick or person and carefully places it just so in His bride, the church.

We are to care for each other in the body. We are to make sure none of the bricks fall into disrepair. If a brick is chipped or crumbling, then it’s our job to come alongside and repair and

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**SET FREE**  
*live free*

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bolster it back up. And that is only going to happen as we have a relationship with each other. American culture prides itself on individualism and unfortunately, that often carries over into the church. We think that we are independent from others within the body, but there is nothing further from the truth. We are each part of the larger body and as such, we are to come alongside each other both in good times and bad.

If we stay apart from the body we will become isolated. If we are apart from the body and try to edify those results will be one-sided, and we will lose much of what is essential to the development of a holy character within ourselves. We aren't to seek to build ourselves up apart from the community, nor seek to build up the community apart from ourselves.

Are you staying within community? When going through difficult times do you actively seek how the company of other believers or do you pull away and stay home? I want to remind you that the church is called the Bride of Christ.

Can you effectively have a relationship with your spouse if you never spend time together? Neither can you have a relationship with Christ if you don't spend time together as a body with Him. The body of Christ was not designed to be individualistic. I need you. You need me. We need each other to work the way God designed it.

There is a quote by Ruth Haley Barton that I like. "We bind ourselves to each other in times of strength so that in moments of weakness we do not become unbound." Let's make sure that we are binding ourselves to the body of Christ. It's as we are bound together that we will present a beautiful example of what the church is to be to the world.

## **Ouagadougou Guest Home Goal—\$1,500**

(Towards a new stove—\$500; 10 stand fans—\$500; Pots and pans and utensils.)

**Year to date giving: \$ 140.00**

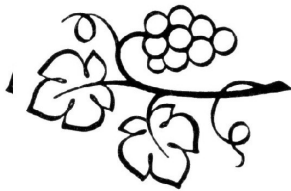


**National Project**

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

**YTD Total—\$3,100.53**

**July 2020**



**\$140.50**

**August 2020**



**\$ 620.53**

**September 2020**



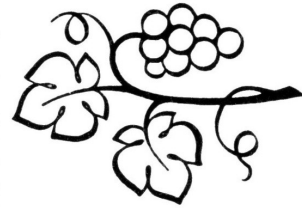
**\$ 1,871.00**

**October 2020**



**\$ 468.50**

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



# Pray for our International Workers

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

- Our biggest praise is that we have been healthy during our tour! Thank you for your prayers! We have just a few more days to go before the end of our fall tour and we thank God that we are able to finish strong.
- We also thank God for the churches who are determined to connect in any way possible to glorify God for the work He is doing around the world and hear about new challenges. For some this has meant outdoor meetings, for others it has meant a Zoom version of home group or just roped-off pews to remind us about social distancing. We appreciate everyone's hard work to make some form of missions conference possible.
- Please pray for the churches in Bosnia-Herzegovina that are battling Covid as well. In some areas of the country the situation is still very difficult. We received a special plea for prayer from a brother who works in the Roma (gypsy) community. They have been particularly hard hit economically as well as physically.
- Pray for revival which begins among us.

## **P&C, CAC**

- Pray for strength for an upcoming, difficult trip to W Africa for P. While P is overseas, C will be like a single mom for 3 weeks.
- Pray for our family as we make some big transitions and say hard goodbyes. Thank God that He has been so good to our family in allowing us to befriend dear West Africans and work alongside beloved teammates. We thank God for Alliance Women and the role of encouragement and prayer they have played. We look forward to wherever God leads us. We are hoping to stay in the Africa region.
- Pray for His leading.

## **Keith & Krista, CAC, West Africa**

### **Praise:**

- Our English classes are going well; good rapport with the students
- Experience God night is going well, also, with about 7-9 students in the Discovery Bible study, and over 20 in "The Chosen" film series.

### **Prayer:**

- Our daughter-in-law is due to give birth on Nov 10; she needs extra strength to get through these last few weeks.
- Open hearts and minds in both the bible study and "The Chosen" groups, and that someone will come to salvation.
- Extra strength and patience as we continue to clean our house and guest house, as well as repair broken items. It has been a big job and taken longer than we expected. People have helped us, however, for which we have been extremely grateful.

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

- Wisdom for our food ministry. We started this out at the beginning of the Pandemic and God has incredibly blessed the work. We are seeing people coming to Christ and many new faces in the church. That said we were hoping to taper this off but the need is still very large, We want God to give us wisdom what He wants us to do, We want to help people, but we don't want to create dependency.
- Wisdom for our thanksgiving outreach. As you may remember we use the Thanksgiving holiday (which is not a holiday here) to reach out to people who are family and friends of the church who don't know Christ. To share the gospel and why we give thanks to God and especially for our salvation. We are struggling because we usually do 5 turkeys and have about 100 people. But with the current situation packing 100 plus people in our tiny church doesn't seem like a good idea. So we are leaning toward cooking food and delivering to the needy and the homeless.
- Wisdom for Krista's College. We are in the thick of trying to find a good college for our youngest daughter Krista to study Chemical Engineering. We are praying for a good academic school (preferably Christian) where we will get a great financial package and an athletic swim scholarship.

### **Dr. Renee Valach, Bongolo Hospital, West Africa**

- Praise that the Spronks have arrived!
- We have had two fires in the past week. The fires have occurred in the same overhead wire on near the new Ophthalmology Clinic building. At the time of the first fire the eye surgeon was using the operating equipment. We were able to cut off the electricity to the hospital, and move all the patients on oxygen to parts of the hospital supplied by generators. We called technicians in Libreville after the first fire because the work is under warranty. They made plans, to come, but had to do the Covid test before travel to the interior of the country. Before they arrived there was a second fire bigger than the first. The second time we made arrangements for them to come with the hospital airplane and bypass the need for the Covid tests. We are thankful for the availability of the plane, thankful no patients were hurt, and no equipment was lost. Both fires occurred during the day, when we spotted them quickly.
- The plan is to reopen churches and schools next month. We are thankful for that because unlike the US there is not the opportunity for virtual church or online learning here. At the same time we pray against a second wave of Covid.
- Pray for the arrival of the container of medicines. We are out of many medicines, and very low in others. The container should have arrived in the port in Libreville. Pray that it moves through all the steps to clear customs smoothly and arrives here quickly.

### **Stu, CAC, East Asia.**

- Pray for wisdom for his next steps. Stu has finished his job in Hong Kong and will be moving to the US temporarily (until the end of the year) while he looks for a new job.
- Pray that God will give him guidance on which role is the one HE wants for me...and that He will close other doors and/or let my spirit know what is the right direction to take.
- Pray that he will have a very special and meaningful two months with my parents in Florida.

## Pray for our International Workers (Continued)

### Wayne & Suzanne Spronk, Bongolo Hospital, West Africa

#### Praises

- safe arrival on the field
- Staying healthy during travel
- Starting work at the Bongolo hospital
- Settling in to our new home
- Spending time with new teammates at Team Time

#### Prayers

- Finding our new rhythm and roles
- Friends for Andre
- That we would make connections with the African doctors and their families who live on the station
- Smooth travels and no Covid-related complications for both Emma and Hosanna who plan to visit in December



**Andre Strong, outside the operating room at Bongolo**

**Thanks to your generous giving \$,2808.30 was raised for Mark & Kathy Eikost's Work Fund through Fall Refocus offerings.**

**Thank you!**