

An Encouraging Word

Terri Groh
NED Alliance Women Director



Thessalonians 5:11-14 ~

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.

Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

Are you an encourager? If someone were to describe you would they say, "She is an encouraging person to be around?"

Even if this is not your primary personality characteristic, we are all called to encourage one another. However, it always surprises me at how many people find this difficult to do. We don't give it much thought even though so many really could use an encouraging word. Some people feel loved when they hear words of affirmation. You may appreciate them but if you never say it, how will they know? This passage lists a few specific types of people we are to encourage.

We are to encourage the body of Christ - Do you tell fellow believers how much you appreciate them? When was the last time you went up to the worship leader at church or one of the deaconesses or the people who work with the teens or children and thanked them? All of these jobs require quite a bit of preparation and thought and yet so often, they are never thanked.

When someone is missing from church for a couple of weeks, do you call them or drop them a note and let them know they are missed? Or do you think that it is the pastor's job to do that?

We are to encourage our pastor—Have you told your pastor recently that you appreciate him? As the wife of a minister, I know how much work goes into this call. Not only does He prepare for a weekly sermon and small group, but he visits people in the hospital, does funerals, counsels and is available when people want to call and chat. Have you let your pastor know how much you are learning from him? Do you show him respect or do you

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NED ALLIANCE WOMEN DISTRICT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Director: Terri Groh

2 Westwood Drive
Jamestown, NY 14701
315-806-7011
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

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IW Prayer Requests.....2-4



Pray for our International Workers

Eikost, Mark & Kathy, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Prayer:

- In November there will be a 10-day ministry outreach to refugees and migrants in the Sarajevo area, especially those who are outside of the regular camps. These are people (including families) who for whatever reason choose to stay in abandoned buildings and open areas rather than in the designated refugee camps. The director of the outreach will be staying with us and a few of the men from our fellowships in Zenica and Kakanj will be helping.
- We praise the Lord for those who give to our ministry and enable us to buy some much-needed items like blankets and diapers. We pray that these people will experience the love of Christ as they receive assistance.

FYI: Bosnia is a "pass-through" country as people are trying to get into the European Union. However, the country to our north blocks them from moving any further, so they are often stranded here for months at a time as they try various solutions,

- Mark and I continue our regular teaching and preaching schedule and appreciate your prayers as we prepare our talks. We want to hear clearly from the Lord and depend on him for just the right words.
- Our local church is raising money in order to buy a building of their own instead of renting (after 21 years!). They have about 30% of the funds they need saved up. (Churches cannot get mortgages here.) Pray for the Lord's provision and a great price on the place He has prepared for us!

CAC Workers, K&K

We are in deep shock after the death of our dear friend and co-worker, Carina, during our retreat. We were on a short hike, climbing up on some big rocks close to our campground, when she fell off the edge on the rocks below. It was about 20-25 feet, I think. She was still alive when we reached her less than a minute later, but her injuries were extensive and her heart stopped beating in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. CPR was performed in the ambulance as well as at the hospital but they were not able to revive her.

Praise:

- Thank you so much for praying for our retreat, We had two wonderful days together! God was, and is, at work.

Prayer:

- Please pray for her family in Holland especially as they grieve this loss.
- Pray also for our team. Her ministries were extensive. Not only are we grieving her, but have a lot of "holes" to fill.
- Pray for all those who knew her. Her impact has been, and will continue to be, huge.

Hopkins, Walter & Laura, Spain

Prayer:

- We are under contract on our house and look to close just before heading out of town for our "Equipping for Cross-Cultural Living and Ministry" 4-week residential training program.
- We have received notice that our visas for Spain have been approved. Now, we need to figure out logistics to go pick them up at the consulate in NYC.

Pray for our International Workers

Ingrassia, Phil & Chelsea, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

Pray:

- Team unity while on retreat, Kids to thrive, Wisdom in our roles at the hospital, Grieving well.
- Pray for the Ingrassias as they are coming home to Syracuse for debriefing and some soul care.

Praise:

- The students are sharing Christ. Team-time excitement. Engineer group ideas. Released captives.

Spronks, Wayne & Suzanne, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

- Please pray for Wayne and Suzanne as they travel this week yet again back to the US to see Wayne's family. His brother has been battling cancer and is nearing the end of this life. Pray for grace and peace for the family.
- Pray for Dr. Renee who is working alone at Bongolo during our absence. Pray for strength, encouragement and endurance for her and the Gabonese staff she works with.

Strong's, Dave & Doris, CAC

Thank you and to the Alliance Women for praying for us. We know that prayer is a huge part of the work on the mission field. Without it, the work is not powered! So please thank the women and let them know they play a vital role in the ministry.

Pray:

- For the country of Myanmar and especially a location where we have work. The situation there has gotten intense and fighting is taking place due to political instability and people are fleeing.
- Pray for 2 new projects starting in Mongolia.
- Pray for one of our IWs to get permission to have access to a refugee camp.
- Pray for several of our IW units who need to get long term visas. Visas are harder and harder to get and now especially with COVID.
- Pray for one IW couple to have an open door to return to their country where they have worked for over 20 years.
- Pray for the seed that has been planted in India with many non-believers through the COVID relief that was given out through pastors, through follow-up visits and sharing of the Gospel, and through an online presentation of the Gospel.
- Pray for 2 businesses that CAMA helped start. COVID has hurt their sales. Pray God would open new doors to bring in sales and give the staff creative ways to sell products. CAMA Crafts (Laos) and Moringa for Health (Cambodia).
- Pray for an IW couple who was scheduled to go to Myanmar but now are located in Thailand. Pray we will all have the mind of Christ to know where He would have them minister. Pray there will be an open door for ministry to the Burmese people.
- Pray for us that we would know where is the best place for us to minister from. Right now we have more freedom and better access to our staff from here in the USA (there is no inter-Asia travel allowed at the moment). Pray we would know when the Lord would have us move.
- Pray for all the work CAMA is doing in Asia, that He would open doors to plant seeds of Jesus and His Kingdom. Pray God would cause these seeds to grow.
- Pray for God's protection for health and safety for all our CAMA staff.

Pray for our International Workers

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

- The Covid situation is growing worse again in Gabon. Currently, we don't have ability to do Covid tests for patients at Bongolo. In the past two weeks, we've had many patients with respiratory illnesses, and it's hard to know who to isolate. Pray for the protection of the team and the hospital staff and wisdom in treating patients.
- Continue to pray for a steady supply of medicines. We continue to be out of several important medicines and the stock of others is low.

Zogg, Edward & Sandy, Dominican Republic

- Please have people pray for an end to all the new vaccine mandates that have started here about a week ago. No person can go into stores, public buildings, banks or public transportation unless they are fully vaccinated. It is really hurting a lot of people and businesses.

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.

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just complain about him when he says something you don't like? Paul stresses to his readers that we are to honor our pastor.

We are to encourage those who are timid - Some people are natural born leaders and others are not. Some are very fearful of public speaking or stepping out of their comfort zone to do something different. Do you offer words of encouragement when they do this? If someone is fearful of something, yet never hears an encouraging word, do you think they will ever do that difficult thing again? Let's encourage those who are not as confident as us.

We are to encourage the weak - In any given church there are a few people who are in bad health. Have you sent them a card or given them a call lately? Do you give them a hug and a sincere smile and welcome when you do see them? Do you let them know you are praying for them?

There are also those in our pews who may be weak in faith. They are baby believers. They are still learning. Do you encourage them to grow? Are you willing to be understanding when they react in ways that still reflect that old nature? Do you pray with them? Do you offer them advice and encouragement? Do you make them feel welcome? Offering encouragement to the weak can actually help give them strength,

Let's work hard at being known as encouragers. Let others know how much you love and appreciate them by telling them with your words. Let the words, "I appreciate you" be quick to come from your lips. Let's build each other up so that we all feel loved and like we belong.