

Northeastern District **ALLIANCEWOMEN**

District Newsletter, October 2020

Encouraging Women with God's Word

By Terri Groh, District Director

I shared this message as part of the Fall Refocus videos that went out and wanted to break it into a couple of different articles and share it here because I think it's so important for women (and men) in our churches to be actively encouraging one another.

Most women I meet are going through tough times, and as believers we need to encourage one another with the truth found in God's word. Platitudes and self-help books don't offer the help people need and a pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps message won't encourage those struggling. But God's word will always bring the exact words that someone needs to hear at just the right time.

As believers we are to encourage and build up the body. We are to remind each other of the truth found in God's Word. We will go through hard times and difficulties on this earth and we need other believers to come alongside us and encourage us. But we need to be encouraged with a message of truth and hope.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, *Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.* Whenever you see the word, 'therefore', you have to look at what comes before. The beginning verses of chapter 5 talk about how the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. Those who don't know Christ do not expect it to happen and those who do know Jesus as their Lord and Savior have no idea when it will happen. Paul reminds the believers in Thessalonica that they need to stay alert and be serious about their faith.

(continued on page 2)

NED ALLIANCE WOMEN DISTRICT EXECUTIVE 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



SET FREE

live free

Inside this issue:

A Different Kind of Refocus (continued)	2
Ouagadougou Guest Home Project	2
National Project Goal & Progress	3
Fall Refocus Pictures	4
IW Prayer Requests	5-7
Christmas in October?	7

(Continued from page one)

And then he uses this word, “therefore.” *Therefore*, because Jesus will return unexpectedly and at any moment, encourage each other and build each other up as you are already doing. Paul tells the Thessalonica church to “keep on keeping on!” “Keep encouraging.” “Keep edifying one another.”

The Greek word for encourage is *parakleite* which means to call to or call for, to exhort, to encourage. More specifically, many translations say “comfort yourselves together.” We are to remain in fellowship so that we can continually offer comfort and encouragement to one other as we go through difficult times. We must not only watch ourselves, but we are also called to stir up, and to strengthen and encourage one another.

How are you doing at that? Are you providing encouragement to your fellow brothers and sisters? Or do you find ways to complain, criticize, and pick them apart? Do you regularly find ways to use the word to bring words of comfort and care to those in the body of Christ? Do you open the word for yourself?

If the only time you open your Bible is to listen to a sermon, or if all the scripture you get is off a Facebook meme or short devotional then it’s time to critique yourself. Because God’s word cannot encourage you if you never read it, and you cannot encourage anyone else if you don’t know it! Dig into God’s word, learn it, soak it in. Then you will truly know how to be encouraged and to be an encouragement to others.

2 Timothy 3:16 says “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Let’s be known as Women of the Word!

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—\$2,632.03

July 2020

August 2020

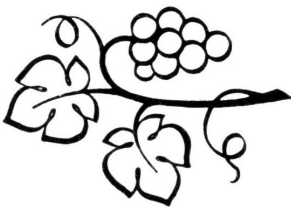
September 2020



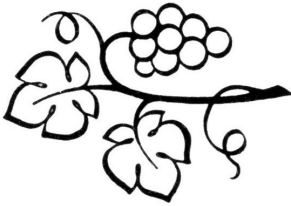
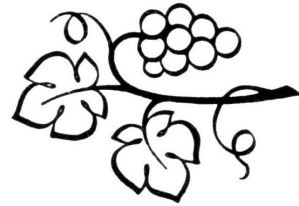
\$140.50

\$ 620.53

\$ 1,871.00



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

- Hearing the Lord clearly as we communicate with churches.
- Good sleep (a different bed every 3 days!)
- Good health (connecting with hundreds of people)
- Good stamina (to be able to keep giving our best even if #2 and #3 are not in our favor)
- Safe travel, especially as we move into deer season later this fall. We'll be driving all over upstate NY.
- Pray for an anointing as they speak in churches.
- Mark needs to keep his blood sugar under control which is difficult while on tour.
- Pray for the Body of Christ that it will reflect His love, grace and righteousness in this time before the election.
- Pray for a holy jealousy to grab the people of God in such a way that we forsake sin, proclaim Him boldly and live sacrificially.

Wayne & Suzanne Spronk, Bongolo Hospital, West Africa

- Praise the Lord that we have a temporary renter for our house.
- Pray for our time of settling into our new home.
- Pray for protection from sickness and for Covid to end.
- Pray for Andre's schooling to go smoothly in spite of moving around the world in the middle of it.
- Pray for quiet times with the Lord in the midst of these busy days.
- Pray for our eyes and ears to be open to the Lord's agenda for each day.
- Pray for a young man named Ousmane and a young woman named Xenaboo in our former country of service--both were seekers who are being tested by being somewhat rejected by their families and left on their own--we have contact with Ousmane via texts and pray of wisdom in how to support them.
- Pray that all the supplies we need to take along with us on Thursday Sept 24 as we depart will arrive before that.
- Pray for Andre and Pascal our sons, as we leave Pascal behind for God's future direction as he considers grad schools--praise God for the part-time job for Pascal at UPS and a teaching aide job; pray for Andre to be able to do his senior high school classes during our transition and getting our house set up in Gabon

P&C, CAC

- Pray for the security situation, for peace and a good stable government. Pray for wisdom and leading for our next steps looking ahead.
- Praise God for a new believer that the team has been working with. Pray he would find encouragement and resources he needs to grow in his faith.

Keith & Krista, CAC, West Africa

Praise

- They both had negative Covid tests before leaving the US,'
- They arrived safely in their country on September 13th with all of their luggage and no problems on the way.

K&K, CAC (Continued)

Prayer

- Although they did not have any problems on either of their 2 flights back to West Africa, the flight from Paris to their city was very full, with pretty much every seat taken. When Keith showed surprise to the stewardess that someone he didn't know was sitting right beside him for the whole flight, she just said, "Of course. There is an empty seat and you are wearing your mask." It did little to comfort us. Getting off the plane here in our city was no different: there was no social distancing whatsoever until we reached the passport control line. Please pray that they continue to avoid getting the Covid virus.
- Saying goodbye to their family was difficult. Pray for their family as well as Keith and Krista as they navigate the coming days, weeks, months and years apart.

Edward & Sandy Zogg, Dominican Republic

- That their daughter, Rachel, can get acclimated back into her university in the new Covid-regulated environment.
- That they will be able to find the university that God wants their other daughter, Krista, to attend to study chemical engineering. Also, that she will potentially get an athletic scholarship.
- Wisdom for their son, Robert, for his new job and he and his new wife's young marriage.
- Wisdom for their food ministry and who to help with food and for how long to continue it.

Dr. Renee Valach, Bongolo Hospital, West Africa

- She is thankful that all the hospital staff and their family members who were sick with Covid are currently well. Continue to pray for their protection from Covid.
- Currently, there is no way to test for Covid in the province. When new people with probable Covid come and need to be hospitalized, the hospital doesn't whether to care for them in the Covid Unit, or in the main hospital and risk infecting others. A representative from the World Health Organization who visited recently, said that soon Covid tests will be available to use with one of their current lab machines. Please pray that tests arrive soon. (This WHO doctor was originally a doctor at an Alliance hospital in Democratic Republic of Congo.)
- The hospital is currently low or out of most medicines for blood pressure. A big shipment of medicines is due to arrive in the port on October 15th. Pray that these are allowed to enter through customs quickly, and inexpensively.
- There is an organization that provides grants to help teaching hospitals in Africa. Last year, they considered Bongolo, but decided to give the grants to other hospitals. Just now, completely unexpectedly, they've decided to reconsider. Certain things have changed since their visit last year that make Bongolo a better candidate. This grant could be really helpful to help Bongolo train Christian health care workers who can spread the good news all over Africa at the same time they deliver compassion care. The staff at Bongolo will speak with them in October. Pray for their decision.

Stewart Stemple, Hong Kong

- Stu is finishing up his current job in Hong Kong and he will be in Florida at his parents through Christmas.
- Pray that he finishes out his month well at his current company.
- Pray that God will direct his next steps as he puts out resumes to different overseas companies. He has interviews with jobs in Hong Kong, London, Dubai, and Singapore.
- Pray that God will lead.
- Pray that he has a refreshing time with his parents.

Thank you for praying for our International Workers

Thank you for praying for our International Workers



Christmas in October?

I know you've heard of Christmas in July, but Christmas in October? What in the world do I mean?

This is just a reminder that this is the time of year to remember to send Christmas cards and notes of encouragement to our district International Workers. Some of them are in countries where it takes months to receive mail and especially now, with some of the borders being closed, mail delivery is even slower.

Please contact me if you need mailing addresses for our IWs as some of their addresses have changed. Encourage the women in your churches to reach out and send a Christmas card and let our IWs know that even though they are out of sight, they are not out of mind.

Please remember that if an International Worker is in a Creative Access Country (CAC) to be careful what you communicate. But please don't let that stop you from communicating! They have all told me how much they appreciate mail from home.

I have the guidelines for those who are in creative access countries and can send that to you as well. If you would like either of these two documents, please email me at terrigroh@yahoo.com. Let's continue to encourage our IWs!