



A Thank You from Baptist Women and all those you helped in 2018

Once again thank you for your generosity! We hope you will feel a deep sense of fulfilment at all that has been accomplished through you. It has been a great year of *firsts*. Here are just a few highlights:

In 2018 we hosted our first *Uptick*—a comprehensive leadership development program for women 22–35. These young women will make an impact on their spheres of influence for decades to come. Here is how one participant described it,

“We were inspired by and connected to other women in our family of churches who are leading flourishing ministries and have in many ways paved the way for us. We were also invited to vulnerably dive deeper into our faith, identity and patterns of living.” Ten more kingdom changers have been nominated for *Uptick* 2019.

At the CBOQ Assembly we hosted receptions for pastors wives and for female clergy. This led to our first ever conference for female clergy. The registration of 53 people far exceeded our expectations. It was wonderful to look out over the tables and see leaders deeply connecting and supporting each other. CBOQ sponsored the event and McMaster offered a free course audit to all attendees. Plans are already underway for a repeat in 2019.

There were other firsts: our first fast on the Sundays leading up to the conference; our first fast on criticism at Thanksgiving; our first series of Soul Sisters. Other ongoing programs and regional events went especially well.

Why was this a fruitful year?

I think that is largely due to the final *first* I will tell you about—our new prayer team. This year a small group of women began a pilot project praying for Baptist Women staff, board members and events. They have ministered to us so graciously, and co-laboured with God on your behalf. In May we will publish the method that has been developed, and invite all of you to be part of an entire prayer network.

In July we experimented with a fresh *In-Canada Mission Trip*. Our team partnered with Dixon Ministry in Toronto to lead morning sewing classes for mothers and a tutoring group for their children. In the afternoon we divided into groups of three and went to different houses to befriend families new to Canada. We tutored children, visited and ate together. Dixon Ministry Director, Jeff McCarrell, wrote, “After your week of being with [the families] I can see that they have opened their hearts to you and want to welcome other Christians as friends.”

As always, we are committed to mission. Thanks to those of you who supported #GIVINGTUESDAY! We were able to send \$3,460 to International Justice Mission Canada toward rescue operations of trafficked people in Dominican Republic. That is exciting! How many chances do we have in life to literally set the captives free?

In 2018 we donated more than \$55,000 to Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM).



clean water – happy smiles | photo courtesy CBM

You supported the literacy program run by CBM and the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda through taking part in the Great Canadian Bible Study. And this year, you again supported women's self help groups in Kenya. Here is the story of one of them.

Adiva (not her real name) is a refugee from Somalia living in a poor area of Nairobi, Kenya. She and her four children eat and sleep in one room. They share a bathroom with neighbours. Their street is filled with garbage and Adiva realizes that is the cause of the many illnesses of her children. Two years ago she joined a Self Help Group (SHG) and is learning skills that she hopes will someday allow her to get a job or start selling something to earn a little income. Adiva says, "I have benefitted a lot from being a part of the Self Help Group. I have met women who share their lives with me, they are my friends and we are like family. I cannot go hungry when they know; they always try to help me and my children." One initiative of the SHGs is to provide water filters to each family. Adiva is thrilled with hers. The children are sick less often, which also means she spends less on medicine.



You funded 10 different projects run by local churches in Bolivia so they could offer both the love of Christ and the message of the gospel. Those projects are now self-supporting. Thank you.

We have a completely new list of projects that cannot run without your help. Download the list at baptistwomen.com/causes.

Thank you again for your generosity. There is so much that can be done to make people's lives better now and to create possibilities for a different future. At Baptist Women we also need your financial support. We have planned more exciting things for 2019: new prayer initiatives including The Prayer Network, the launch of Soul Sisters 2 plus more events and invitations to be involved in mission. We hope you will stay connected.



Registration is open for our spring 2019 Women's Conference. It launches our new two-year theme of **Chosen | Holy | Called . . . declaring the goodness of God**. Please consider coming and taking part. We would love to have you.



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With sincere gratitude,
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