

February 2021

Dear Baptist Women supporter,

We hope you have come through 2020 in health and are experiencing the peace of Christ. We know some of you suffered a number of losses. Most of your groups have not been able to meet, and from mid-March to early May we were not able to even enter our offices to open mail or prepare a deposit. One member of the team that prays for Baptist Women contracted COVID-19 and passed away a few months ago. And yet . . .

Many of you gave generously so we were able to meet all our mission commitments. Many of you learned how to use technology so that three times more people participated in our virtual conference. We began an online leadership development group, called Complete (with 17 participants and four leaders). Uptick Baptist Women, World Day of Prayer, and Soul Sisters transitioned to online formats. All this means we can now connect with more women . . . no matter where they live.

Needs were great in 2020 and our partners worked hard to find safe ways to meet them. For example, Oasis-Dufferin Community Centre in Toronto switched to online trauma counselling; they moved their food bank outdoors and they partnered with CAA drivers to deliver help to seniors and the disabled.

In 2020 we began supporting two Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) National Field Staff. These are women who have been called to minister to their own cultural group. Through the ministry of Lilian Yang in Northern Thailand, 44 students have continued their theological education and served in ministry in the Golden Triangle region. In Germany, Pastor Xiaodan Gang continues to reach out and care for Chinese students in Marburg and now, online, with students in Göttingen, Kassel and Heidelberg.

CBM tells us that the Kingdom impact of CBWOQ's support in 2020 was significant. In Rwanda, 90 women from five villages participated in literacy training. In Assam, India, over 60 children in five villages have been provided with quality education plus women received raw materials for weaving. In the state of Odisha, 40 widows received training and support through the Soura Widows Empowerment Project. CBWOQ also sent an additional \$2,000 CDN to that area to provide hand and laundry soap to slow the spread of COVID-19. Here is the story of one of those widows:

*Binita\* and her family live in a remote Indian village about 30 km from the town of Gumma in the state of Odisha. After her husband died in 2016, Binita and her three children survived by cultivating a small plot of land and harvesting the nuts from two cashew trees. Despite her efforts, the family lived in poverty and Binita was not able to afford the cost of education for her children. Through the support of Baptist Women and CBM's Widow's Empowerment Project, Binita received training and financial support. This allowed her to start a small poultry farming initiative. This has lifted the family out of poverty, restored dignity, and has made it possible for Binita to send her two oldest children to secondary school. Binita expresses her thanks for your support and asks for continued prayer for her children.*

*\* not her real name*



*Binita at her poultry farm  
(photo courtesy CBM)*

2020 ushered in a number of changes for staff. We said goodbye to Sarah Westman-Liu who had been our treasurer for 13 years. Keisha Cooper-Chattosingh took over just as lockdown began. That complicated her training and COVID changes added greatly to her workload, but she soldiered through and has already been a great blessing to us. By the time you read this Laura Matthews will have had a baby. (We will post a picture in our Facebook group.) We are blessed to have Abby Lamshead taking over the role of program administrator until May 2022. Diane was ordained this fall after an Examining Council via Zoom and a mostly virtual ordination service.

It has been a year full of change . . . but also of advance and of God fulfilling His promises. In January and February I repeatedly felt God emphasizing that He would “crown the year with abundance.” (Psalm 65:11). He has certainly done that!

2021 is full of opportunity! There will be book clubs and author chats, a Prayer Network workshop, interviews with anti-racism advocates, and new cohorts of Soul Sisters and Complete. In April you can participate in our virtual conference and in July, Baptist World Alliance Women will host their conference online. (Go to [baptistwomen.com/events](http://baptistwomen.com/events) for details.) We have also created a brand new website page for Community Engagement. This is full of ideas and examples to help you reach those around you.

From all of us at Baptist Women, may the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace.

Diane, Renee, Keisha and Abby

**ENCOURAGE LOVE INSPIRE GOOD**  
acting on God's promises together

**Baptist Women's Spring Conference**  
**Tuesday April 20 – Friday April 23, 2021**  
every night @ 7:30 p.m.  
join via YouTube link or phone

**plenary speaker** Karen Wilson, president Baptist World Alliance Women  
**worship leader** Jenna Cowans | **workshop leader** Mee Kim

**all women are invited + registration is free**  
**we encourage you to make a donation to the ministry of Baptist Women**

**visit [www.baptistwomen.com/events](http://www.baptistwomen.com/events)**