

encourage love



Dear friends and supporters of Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ),

I hope this letter finds you in good health and daily experiencing God's comfort and strength. 2021 was another year with many ups and downs, losses for many, troubling news, and the ongoing challenge of navigating this pandemic. Yet God makes it possible for us to experience peace and joy in the midst of every hardship, and during 2021, He provided CBWOQ with many avenues for life-giving ministry. I am so thankful for your faithful giving in 2021 and I hope you will be as encouraged as we take a brief look at the year behind us.

We facilitated connection to mission overseas

We continued to be the sole funders of Canadian Baptist Ministries' work among the Mising Tribe in India. In 2021, COVID-19 and severe flooding impacted this group, but the gospel continued to be proclaimed and the report has come back that **many came to know the Lord and followed Him in waters of baptism.** Praise God! Mising Tribe women in the weaving program continued to increase their output and sales of their products. Another woman who had received computer training set up a small customer service centre in her bamboo home where people could come and access the Internet.

We were also sole funders of the work among the widows of the Soura people, another Indigenous group in India. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, **280 in total** have received training through a number of programs and now operate small businesses.

One recent success story is of **two widows** who, through their earnings, **purchased small homes.** Other women have **completely funded their children's education.** Another cause for thanksgiving and praise!

We also continued in our sponsorship of two national field staff - Lilian Yang in Thailand and Xiaodan Gang Frölich in Germany. Lilian reported on the many challenges created by the political situation, pandemic and flooding, but also of the **many new believers among the local villages.** Praise God for this!

In other projects we supported, women and their families in Rwanda continued to **break through barriers** and find empowerment through a literacy/self-help program. Unfortunately, In Kolkata, India, the urgently-needed program to rehabilitate young rescued trafficked survivors faced delays due to the pandemic. Your continued prayers for this vital work are deeply appreciated.



*inspire
good*

We facilitated connection to mission here at home

We supported several local agencies including four Matthew Houses, the Oasis-Dufferin Centre and Friendship House. **Thousands of individuals and families** look to these organizations every year, and for the majority of these people, there aren't any other viable options. These centers are vital to their well-being and provide a refuge of love, hope and support to the most vulnerable among us..

We facilitated intimate experience of God

Our own **discipleship, spiritual formation and leadership programs continued to develop and evolve.** We have been so blessed to witness women discovering new dimensions to their relationship with Christ, bonding deeply with their Baptist sisters, stepping into leadership positions, and responding to God's call on their lives.

Many women joined us in our live book club, anti-racism and prayer online events throughout the year, and in April we were able to host hundreds of women for a very special time of worship, learning and leaning into God's presence together at our virtual Conference.

In the midst of all this ministry, there were a number of changes within the staff and board. In April, Dr. Darlene Maxey took on the role of president of the Board of Directors. We made the shift from having a part-time bookkeeper on staff to outsourcing this role to an agency. The biggest change, though, was that Rev. Diane McBeth finished her time as executive director at the end of August. Diane served CBWOQ faithfully with a very special gift and skill set and with deep love for Baptist women. Her contributions will be long-lasting.

As fall began and I transitioned into my role, God set a promise over CBWOQ that we are entering a season of reaping (John 4:38). Over the first months of 2022, staff, board and volunteer leaders have already experienced how dire these times are, and that now, more than ever, the world needs us to be deeply, redemptively engaged. As we push forward to see the manifestation of what God has promised, your prayers and support are greatly appreciated. I invite you to continue in ministry with us.

With gratitude for you,

Helena Bergen
Executive Director, CBWOQ

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (Phil. 1:3-5 ESV)