

Life Circles

An update from Rev. Diane McBeth on her trip to Liberia

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER that back in 2016, Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec held a one-day Prayer Conference. Our theme was Ephesians 3:20 (NIV): “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” I don’t think the truth of that verse has ever been more obvious to me than during my trip to Liberia this August. Thank you so much for praying! Let me tell you a little of what God did.

I arrived during the opening session of the conference for Baptist Women of West Africa. Four-and-a-half days later, the conference transitioned into the All Africa Congress for Baptist Women. By that time, we had grown to 500 women from 20 different countries.

As many of you know, I have written a spiritual formation resource geared to an international audience called Life Circles and I am volunteering with Baptist World Alliance Women to share that resource. My goal for the Liberia conferences was simply to introduce concepts of spiritual formation and invite women to participate in online training with me during the year. I hoped they would appoint at least one person from each region. I was happy to begin in small ways.

But God did so much more than I had even dreamed of.

I made many wonderful friends during the regional conference, and some have the potential to sponsor future training in their own countries. But the big breakthrough came on the second day of the All Africa Conference. I was given five minutes to introduce Life Circles and invite women to a workshop directly afterwards. So many came that we would not have fit in any of the classrooms. We met in the main auditorium and briefly tried some of

the practices most of you have heard about— things like intentional silence and praying Scripture over each other.

Women from the workshop signed up for online training and more came to me in the following days asking to be added to the list. Several women asked me to pray for them between sessions. By the end of the conference, more than 70 women had asked for follow up information.

There was so much thirst for more of God.

As I write this, I am in the middle of preparations for the online training. During October and November there will be three workshops each in French and English, as well as two sessions for group facilitators. Then next year, we hope to do another set of sessions between January and March. Isn’t God amazing? Please keep praying.

All this is in fulfillment of promises from God.

Some time ago, God began to stir my heart again for international mission. My first thoughts were things like, “I’m too old. It’s too late. How could that possibly happen?” But God strongly impressed on my heart, “Can a nation be born in a day?” That question comes from Isaiah 66:8 and God is asking it rhetorically. The obvious answer is, ‘Of course. God can do anything He wants.’ However, our true question for God is often not “Can you?” but “Are you willing?” (Matthew 8:2) Is God willing to sometimes set aside the gradual process of sowing and reaping that He himself established? Well yes, yes, He is. Sometimes He will bring a ministry to birth in a day.

He really does do “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” 🙏

Diane is a past executive director of Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec.

CBWOQ’s finance committee and Board recently approved a grant of \$2,500 for the Life Circles program.

This will be a great start toward the expenses for me to do more in-person training at the Central Africa Regional Conference of Baptist Women in July or August 2023. Thank you so much!