

TouchPoint

The North American Baptist Conference Women's Connection Newsletter

FALL 2025

CONNECTING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Sunshine and warm greetings welcomed members of our team to Vancouver, British Columbia the second weekend in September. Our time was filled with opportunities to meet the delightful women who are a part of our North American Baptist Conference churches in the BC Baptist Association.



On Friday evening team members hosted a Pizza Party at Bethany Baptist in Vancouver for men and women who are involved in ministry to teen girls. April Wahl shared our vision for the *You Glow Girl* event and ideas were exchanged on how we could make this gathering a reality in BC by inviting middle and high school girls and their female leaders to an evening of activities and testimonies that would encourage girls to lean into their identity, purpose and belonging as Kingdom workers. Jonah and Phoebe were a part of the planning team.



As women enjoyed a delightful lunch prepared by the Bethany Baptist team, they share experiences, plans and thoughts in response to a series of questions and topics about women in ministry through our 'Table Talk' time.



April Wahl challenged us to be intentional about encouraging and supporting the younger women in our churches by making space for them in ministries in our churches.



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Then on Saturday, women from several of the BCBA churches came to learn more about what is happening in the North American Baptist Conference and specifically in Women's Connection. The added joy was spending time with other women who desire to see that women in their churches are encouraged and offered opportunities to grow.

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Kid's Ministry Bethany Baptist

While At Bethany Baptist in Vancouver BC, our team met the 2 women who are the heart and soul of the Kid's Ministry... Angelika Hummelman and Michelle Veer. Enjoy their stories:

Tell us a few facts about yourselves

ANGELIKA - I am wife to Jake and a mom of 3. A 19 year old daughter, 17 year old son and a 14 daughter.

I absolutely love being around children. It brings me joy to watch how their little minds work as they play, interact and figure out how things work.

In my free time I like to get out and do things with my family. Whether it's going to the cabin, going on road trips, hiking (although my family doesn't like the last one), I just like to get outside and find adventures.

MICHELLE - I'm a wife and mother of 2. One daughter who's 19 and son who's 15. I enjoy spending time with my family, coffee dates with friends, doing puzzles and traveling.



Angelika Hummelman



Michelle Veer

How did you become interested in working in kid's ministry at Bethany?

ANGELIKA - I have volunteered in the Children's Ministry department at Bethany from a young age. I think my interests shared above kept me drawn to helping in this area. As I raised my own kids, having their friends over and making the visits special was always key for me. I felt like these kids were my own family. When the opportunity was presented to me to step into the role I'm in now, although I wasn't sure if I wanted a 'Job', the part of being around kids made it worth it. I love to see the relationships I've had the opportunity to build and how their eyes light up when they see me and come tell me about their week. I've also always been drawn to those kids that needed a little bit more love and care, so getting to love on

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Connecting in BC, from page 1

And we recognized women who have strategically passed the baton of faith on to this younger generation through their ministry.

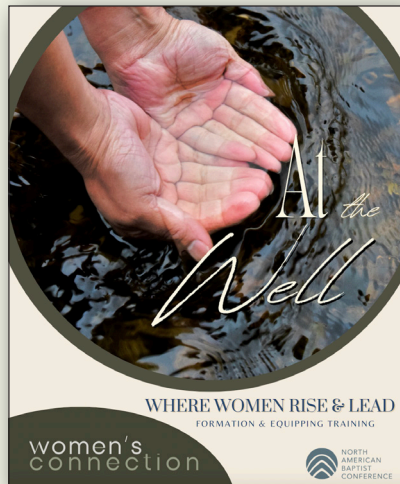
Melissa, April and Jean left the **women of British Columbia** with an invitation to join our

team in piloting an opportunity to invest in their growth and calling which we have named **At the Well**.

Our Proposal: Are you ready to grow as a leader, be equipped for ministry, and walk more deeply with God? At the Well is a unique training and formation experience created to encourage, equip, and empower women in ministry.

Being a part of this 5 session formation and equipping training will include:

- Exploring a biblical and theological foundation for calling.
- Gaining practical tools for confident, Christ-centered leadership.
- Joining a supportive community of women walking the journey together.



For just \$250 CAD plus books, you'll receive teaching, prayer support, and two personalized coaching sessions, culminating in a retreat designed for worship, encouragement, and commissioning. Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your growth and calling!

Trainers and Counselors will include: Lyndell Campbell Requia, Melissa Chaffee, Fabiola Campos, April Wahl, Jeanie Buyer, Jean Ewing

More information for interested **British Columbia women** can be found at nabconference.org/nab-womens-connection/

At the Well questions, contact

Amy Friesen
amy@bcbaptists.cwa

Melissa Chaffee
melissachaffee@mckernanbaptist.ca

Jean Ewing
jehewing@roadrunner.com

Thank you Bethany Baptist, Heather Senges, and Amy Friesen (Executive Assistant BCBA) for your help in making the events of this weekend happen.

The Commitment
Training begins on January 13 and ends in May 2026
Zoom Launch: Tues. January 13, 2026
In Person Retreat:
Fri. - Sun. February 6, 7, 8, 2026,
Lower Mainland BC
Zoom Meetings: Tues. March 3 and Tues. March 31, 2026
Zoom Meeting: Tues. April 21, 2026
In Person One Day Retreat:
Sat. May 2, 2026

them in this setting within our church feels like I've been put right where I belong in this season of life.

MICHELLE - I have served in the kid's ministry program since I started attending Bethany in 2008. There was time spent with the newborn babies and then with the preschool age kids and then on Friday Nights or at our **Moms and Tots** program. I always felt drawn to serve in this area in some capacity, where I get to know the kids and see their growth when they start understanding their role in God's kingdom. Last summer, I had been praying to God to open a door and show me where He wanted me to serve. I had surrendered myself to His will and within the week I was asked to take on a part-time role in the Children's Ministry program and work alongside Angelika. I instantly felt God's call on my life and with much excitement I accepted.

Describe the program you have for kids at Bethany.

We have lots of programs we run within Children's Ministries at Bethany.

From week to week throughout the year we have our Sunday Programming which is for kids Newborns-Grade 5.

We have been doing the curriculum from Awana Sunday School which teaches the same story at different age levels every week. It has allowed the opportunity for parents to talk to their kids about what they learned and everyone is talking about the same thing, but with some different approaches. Our hope is to keep parents as involved in what we are doing as we can. We get to plant the mustard seed at church, but the biggest impact is what the parents can continue at home.

Tuesday mornings for about 2 hours we open our doors to moms, dads, grandparents... anyone with a toddler before school age to come and spend time in a play group. This program has been running over 20 years and we have not encountered any years where no one comes. We have a consistent 10-15 caretakers that bring their little ones every week. We put out some snacks and coffee for parents, snack time for kids and then a craft and singing time. Almost all parents are from the community and we have been able to walk alongside

I always felt drawn to serve in this area in some capacity, where I get to know the kids and see their growth when they start understanding their role in God's kingdom.

– Michelle Veer

them whether it's just in sharing day to day things or spending time in prayer with them as they are struggling through something. It has been SUCH a blessing for us and we have had the opportunity to create great friendships with our community.

Friday Nights, we have a program for kids in Grade 1- Grade 5. This year we are using the theme 'Identity Kids'. We have 2 hours where we get to play in the gym, have a snack and then do an activity that teaches God's character and who WE are meant to be as image bearers of Christ. We are made in the image of Christ and what other people say about us does not define us.

Outside of that **we host a Carnival for our community each year, with bouncy castles, face painting, cotton candy and a wide array of games.** We see LOTS of community kids coming through the doors with their parents. This gives us an opportunity to not only connect with the kids but with the parents. We have had parents come for this event that have moved away or their kids have grown out of our program because of the impact we have been able to have through the above programs over the years. This event, I have to say, is my favourite and fills my heart each year.

Lastly, we have our yearly VBS. A week long adventure with kids/teens and adults learning who God is and practicing out what that looks like in our lives. It is a busy week with just under 200 kids attending, but it is such a joy to see how it brings our church community together working as a team as well.

What do you consider the three most important ingredients in ministry to kids?

MICHELLE - 1. Being flexible/adapting to change 2. Patience 3. Loving the kids like Jesus loves us.

ANGELIKA - Providing a place for kids to have a safe space that they can come to and know they are loved/cared for.

- Finding fun/engaging ways to show them who God can be in their lives

and why what Christ says is more important than what the world is trying to teach them.

- Building relationships/mentorship not only for the kids to have someone to speak with and trust as they grow up but with the volunteers as well and that they take on that role as a mentor as well.

How do you serve the parents of the kids in your programs

We have only JUST taken on specific ways to serve the parents in our church community. Last year we hosted a taco lunch to try to engage parents with each other. We have noticed a lot of parents dropping off their kids, going to the service, picking up their kids and leaving right away after pick up. The lunch allowed for parents to come join around tables with each other, eat, and get to know each other. We hope to host another lunch at some point this year.

We have also set up a table as parents exit the church service where they can find activities to do with their kids at home and ideas of things to do with their kids to follow up with their lessons each week. The hope is for parents to congregate in that area which may also spark conversation, but we will see how that follows through.

How do you encourage/build up your kid's ministry volunteers?

First and foremost, when it comes to our volunteers, we try to walk alongside them. Giving them breaks from one Sunday to the next is key while encouraging them in the giftings we see them use. We make sure to be there to thank them each week. Small words of encouragement, tokens of appreciation (cards with treats) can go a long way to let them know we see them and do not take them for granted. Our program cannot run without them.

We also make a point to host a thank you breakfast for all of our volunteers each year. Free waffle breakfasts seem to be a hit.

Purpose Statement

Women's Connection exists to connect women of the North American Baptist Conference, encouraging them in their desire to serve God. Our team is committed to providing resources to help women deepen their faith and equip them for ministry wherever God places them.

Our Core Values

CALLING AND WORTH

We value the essential role women play in ministry.

QUALITY RESOURCES

We value God's Word and seek resources that are Biblically sound, applicable and accessible.

BROADER CONNECTION

We value supporting the broader vision of the North American Baptist Conference and developing a connection among North American Baptist Conference women.

LEGACY AND THE FUTURE

We value the legacy of women who have gone before us and are committed to engaging the next generation.



NEW TOUCHPOINT SERIES: The Women of Kairos

Kairos University, a multi-denominational institution was formed when Sioux Falls Seminary and Taylor Seminary joined together to offer outcome-based theological education in any context. This union has opened the door for students from all over the world to receive accredited degrees. But much more than that, Kairos is a discipleship journey that focuses on content learning, character development, and practical ministry experience. In this series, we are excited to introduce you to some of its female students around the globe who keep on working and serving while learning in their context.

It is our joy to introduce you to **Miriam Modi**, one of our global partners with the North American Baptist Conference International Missions. We will be featuring women from around the globe who are/ have been involved in Kairos University theological education.

Miriam grew up in Romania in a Hungarian-speaking family and has served in full-time ministry for the past four years. During this time, she has partnered with the North American Baptist Conference, Camp Falcon Rock, and local Hungarian Baptist churches to organize camps and faith-building events for children, teens, and young adults.

She first heard about Kairos University from the North American Baptist missionary couple in Romania, who had studied there themselves. They highly recommended the program as a great fit for her as a young woman seeking formal theological education. Miriam completed her bachelor's with Kairos and is now working on her Master of Divinity degree.

Miriam shares that being a student at Kairos has allowed her to continue serving full-time in ministry while growing both in knowledge and in spirit. The integration of study and practice has challenged her to actively apply what she learns within her ministry context.

Through various courses, she has learned to be more attentive to the world around her — observing, questioning, and seeking to understand people and contexts more deeply. She shares: "This process has shaped my perspective, teaching me to look outward so I can serve those entrusted to me with deeper relevance and effectiveness. Moreover, Kairos has encouraged me to intentionally reflect on God's activity in my life, keeping me on a continual journey of growing in love, awe, and faithfulness to Him."



In Miriam's context, which tends to be more conservative, her greatest challenge and joy come from pioneering new ground. While more women in Romania are stepping into full-time ministry, few have in-depth theological education or serve in teaching roles. She hopes to help expand these opportunities—not only for herself but for the many young women who will come after her with a heart to serve faithfully and use their gifts.

As Miriam prepares for her future, her vocational calling is to serve teenagers, young adults, and local churches throughout Romania. She desires to see greater inclusion of those often marginalized or overlooked—whether women, youth, or people from different ethnic and denominational backgrounds. She longs to see barriers broken down and the body of Christ united, each member actively playing their part to bring the body to fullness under its head, Christ, and complete its calling in this world.

Lyndell Campbell Réquia
Kairos Affiliate Professor
Women's Connection Team Member

Interested in finding out more about Kairos University? Go to kairos.edu

White Cross USA Update: Debbie Long

As an entirely volunteer-run ministry, White Cross USA has been blessed by God with a great number of volunteers and an abundance of medical supplies and equipment to ship to Cameroon. From November 2024-September 2025, we have shipped 5-40 foot shipping containers filled with equipment and supplies. This has been the busiest year since White Cross moved to Bismarck in November 2020.

Many US churches financially support White Cross as do many individuals who contribute monthly. With the cost of shipping a single container being \$11-12,000 we have spent \$60,000 on the transport of hospital beds, exam tables, waiting room chairs, IV poles, over the bed tables, and a host of other items for medical clinics and hospitals. Our shipments also include medical supplies of 4x4 bandages, rolled bandages, absorbent pads—items which are historically associated with White Cross ministry.

Across the North American Baptist Conference of Churches, we have witnessed dozens of churches supporting the ministry with

medical supplies. A church in California sent a box of sewn drawstring bags which are perfect to use as a gift bag to hold all of the baby items that we send. Other churches have joined in the sewing of these colorful cloth bags. Each mother receives the bag filled with a blanket, 2 cloth diapers, a sleeper, a knit baby hat and a welcome Bible verse for their newborns.

We average about 3 work teams at the spacious warehouse in Bismarck, ND and are blessed to have students and adults from the North Central Association who sort and inspect supplies donated by local hospitals, nursing homes and laundries.

We are thankful for the support of many NAB churches, and blessed to be able to serve alongside everyone who is willing to serve in this medical ministry to the brothers and sisters in Christ in Cameroon.

Thank you White Cross USA Lead Team: Dan and Debbie Long, Doug and Robin Wonnenberg, Connie Grause, Paul Herr

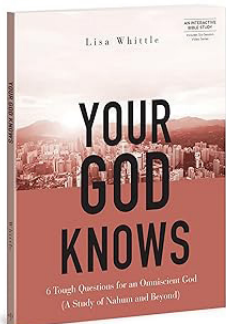


White Cross



BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY FAVORITES

from the Women of British Columbia



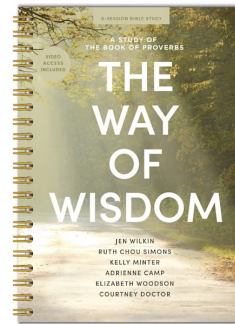
Your God Knows

When your worries and whys need more than temporary relief

by Lisa Whittle

This powerful six-session Bible study reminds us that God is ever-present, always working, and forever faithful, no matter how weary or abandoned we

may feel. Bible teacher and bestselling author Lisa Whittle explores the biblical book of Nahum—a rarely studied collection of prophetic poems about God's justice—as well as other scriptural truth. Throughout history, God has said to His people: "I see you. I know you. And I will make this right." This is a crucial message for women today, as we so deeply need to rest in an all-knowing God who can handle what is happening in the world and in our lives.



The Way of Wisdom

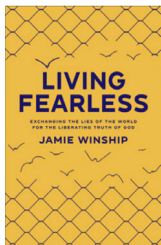
Lifeway Publishers

by Sarah Young

In The Way of Wisdom - Bible Study Book with Video Access, Bible teachers Jen Wilkin, Ruth Chou Simons, Kelly Minter,

Adrienne Camp, Elizabeth Woodson, and Courtney Doctor invite you to place your feet firmly on the path of life revealed in the book of Proverbs. As you consider wisdom principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence, and more, you'll discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world.

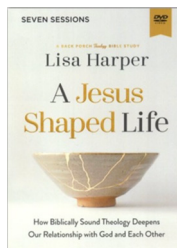
MORE BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY FAVORITES



Living Fearless

by Jamie Winship

Unpacking the power of knowing our true identity in Christ, Winship takes us on a journey of telling ourselves the truth, changing our mindsets, and experiencing actual life transformation that leads to radical courage in the face of all that life throws at us.



The Jesus Shaped Life

by Lisa Harper

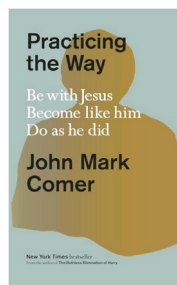
This seven-week Bible study by Lisa Harper, titled A Jesus-Shaped Life, is your invitation to explore the depths of God's character, God's love for you, and how your relationship with Him transforms you. Ultimately, you will experience how biblically sound theology deepens your relationship with God and each other.



How God Sees Women

by Tervan Williams

A meticulously stated case that shows God's moral compass points to the unity of men and women in creation, in the church and in Christ.



Practicing the Way

by John Mark Comer

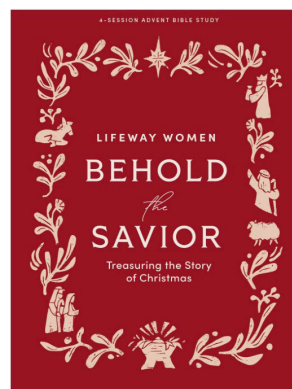
We are constantly being formed by the world around us. To be formed by Jesus will require us to become his apprentice. To live by what the first Christian disciples called a Rule of Life—a set of practices and relational rhythms that slow us down and open up space in our

daily lives for God to do what only God can do—transforms the deepest parts of us to become like him.

This introduction to spiritual formation is full of John Mark Comer's trademark mix of theological substance and cultural insight as well as practical wisdom on developing your own Rule of Life.

These ancient practices have much to offer us. By learning to rearrange our days, we can follow the Way of Jesus. We can be with him. Become like him. And do as he did.

Featured New Study for Advent: Behold the Savior



"Look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- Luke 2:10b

Behold the Savior is an invitation to slow down and refocus our hearts on Jesus this Advent season, making space to

receive the greatest gift of all. Through this 4-week study written by a team of women, you'll take a slow walk through the first two chapters of Luke verse by verse. You'll reflect on the significant people and events found in these chapters, celebrating the first Advent and looking forward to Jesus's return. You'll learn to treasure and meditate on the wonder of the Christmas story and the glorious moment when heaven came to earth through the birth of Jesus our Savior.

Features:

- 4 weeks of personal study and guided reflection for the busy Christmas season
- Leader guide to facilitate engaging small or large group discussion
- Activities and challenges to help prepare your heart for Christmas
- Beautiful full-color interior to enhance your experience

Benefits:

- Prepare your heart and mind for Christmas.
- Study Luke 1–2 verse by verse.
- Experience community and fellowship through group activities and discussion guides.
- Be reminded of the beautiful truths nestled in the Christmas story.
- Celebrate the first advent of a Savior for all people as you anticipate His return.