

TouchPoint

The North American Baptist Conference Women's Connection Newsletter

SPRING 2026



Woman in Ministry

Joyel Huber

Children's Church Coordinator
College Heights Baptist Church

Prince George, British Columbia

Women's Connection: Please share 4-5 facts about yourself:

Joyel:

- 1 I spent time as a child in Nigeria when my parents were missionaries there.
- 2 I lived in Poland, working as an ESL teacher, and considered going into career missions.
- 3 I have a deep fear of bugs, but am married to an entomologist.
- 4 I love peanut butter and would put it on almost anything.

Women's Connection: How did you become interested in working in children's ministry?

Joyel: Initially, I didn't have much interest in children's ministry as I felt inadequate and fearful of all that this job would entail. But when a position opened up at my church, with my husband's encouragement, and sensing a divine nudge, I applied and got the job. I began to realize that God had been preparing me for this ministry without me realizing it. My Bible school and seminary education and classroom management skills from previous work were valuable in creating engaging and meaningful programs for children, and slowly a love for this ministry took root. I have now been serving in this role for close to 14 years, and I love the challenge of teaching kids about God and encouraging them to know and love Him.

Women's Connection: Describe the program you have at College Heights that reaches out to kids.

Joyel: College Heights Baptist Church offers two Sunday services with different children's programs. The 9 AM service has traditional Sunday school by grades, while the 10:45 AM service includes children in the main worship at the beginning of the service, and then dismisses them for children's church. We also run a Tuesday morning drop-in group for parents and tots, and we have various other activities like VBS. On average, we have 75-80 kids attend Sunday services, and VBS typically reaches our 150-child capacity. My goal is to help children learn about and love God while encouraging them to serve and feel like they belong to God's family and our fellowship.

Women's Connection: What do you consider the three most important ingredients in ministry to kids?

Joyel: First of all, my personal spiritual growth is important for ministry effectiveness. If I am not growing, then I don't have much to offer those God is calling me to care for. Secondly, I need to build meaningful relationships with my volunteers, the children and their families so that I can help them grow closer to God. It is so important to be present with the people we interact with on Sundays, to work at building relationships and meeting needs and help them grow. Children's Ministry is not child care or school. The heart of our caring and teaching about God is to introduce children to a genuine

relationship with God. And finally, organization and being well prepared are key. I need to be ready ahead of time so that I can support and serve my volunteers and can meet needs as they arise.

Women's Connection: How do you serve the parents of the kids in your programs?

Joyel: I support parents by trying to provide tools for spiritual growth at home, such as Easter story eggs and devotional suggestions. I also try to meet with moms, in particular, for walks and coffee when they are struggling or need extra prayer and encouragement.

Women's Connection: How do you encourage/build up your children's ministry volunteers?

Joyel: I manage a large team of volunteers in children's ministry, including nursery volunteers and Sunday school teachers. At first, I was uncertain about my leadership role, but over time, I have become more actively engaged with my team through weekly emails that prepare them for Sundays and include spiritual growth materials. Now that I have an administrative assistant, my goal is to have more one-on-one meetings with my team members to strengthen relationships and better address their needs.



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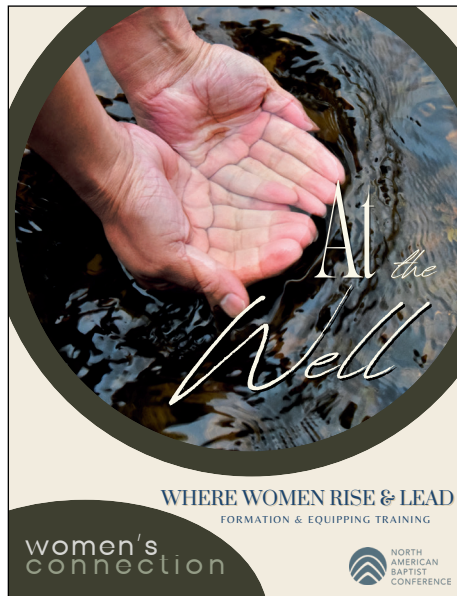
Women's Connection Launches a New Initiative for Women in Leadership in our NAB Churches

In the story of the woman at the well in John 4, we find a beautiful reminder that God sees us, calls us, restores us, and gives us purpose no matter our past. Her encounter with Jesus is more than a historical moment; it's a personal invitation to every woman today to live boldly, speak truthfully, and follow faithfully. God has called women to partner with Him and has provided opportunities to come to His well, experience an encounter with Jesus and return to their roles in leadership refreshed and renewed.

In order to encourage women who serve in leadership in our NAB churches our team felt compelled to offer an opportunity for women to be in community with other women in leadership in their region. And so, *At the Well* was created!

We invited women from the British Columbia region of the NAB to join us during the winter and spring of 2026 in the piloting of this equipping program designed for those already working in the church (paid or lay leader) or considering vocational ministry. We are working through three modules, where our team will address the common challenges that leaders face: the care of our spiritual lives, understanding the biblical foundations for leading within the church, and leading well out of our identity in Christ.

We launched this experience with an in-person retreat at the Mark Centre in



Abbotsford, BC, in February 2026. Eleven women from Vancouver, Prince George and Kamloops are journeying through this course as we prepare it for women in our other NAB regions. Three Zoom calls will help these women explore a biblical and theological foundation for calling, gain practical tools for confident, Christ-centered leadership and experience the journey together with a community of supportive women. At the end of the five months we will gather for a one-day celebratory retreat somewhere in BC.

Our team is grateful for the supportive leadership of the British Columbia Association, the eleven women and their churches who are a part of this adventure and to Church Investors Fund for their financial support.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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TOUCH POINT SERIES: The Women of Kairos

MEET RENATA BALDISSERA FROM BRAZIL

through counselling and leading ministry to women. Renata and her husband have a four-year-old daughter.

Renata first heard about Kairos from NAB missionary Lyndell Campbell Requia. They've known each other since 2020. Renata shares, "I've always wanted to pursue a master's degree and go deeper in my studies to improve my service in the Kingdom of God. In 2025, it was the time God appointed for me to pursue my master's degree." Lyndell has since become Renata's academic mentor and is grateful to join Renata on her discipleship journey.

For Renata, being a student at Kairos has been an amazing experience. She is learning a lot, being transformed by the prospect of not only being a student, but also having her character evaluated. Her faith has grown as she must put this new knowledge into practice in her own life

and in the context in which she serves, making her a more consistent leader and minister.

So far, the most remarkable experience has been sharing a case study with other students. She presented a situation and explained how it was resolved through conversations, biblical counselling and a lot of prayer. This exchange brought Renata immense growth and allowed her to learn from the experiences of other sisters in Christ.

As a woman in ministry, Renata finds the challenge lie in balancing her academic life with her professional life, motherhood, marriage, and serving the church. Finding this balance is the hardest part. What excites her the most is being able to learn more to serve better. She truly enjoy studying, and it brings her so much joy to grow in knowledge to serve the Kingdom.

What a pleasure to introduce you to Renata Baldissera. She is from Brazil and lives in the city of Canoas in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. She is a dentist and a theologian. Renata is married to a pastor and serves a Baptist church together with her husband

From page 2...

A recent assignment for Module 2 asked us to choose a woman in ministry from the Bible that we most identified with and answer 2 questions:

- What is it about this woman's story that resonates with you? Why do you identify with her?
- How has her story impacted your faith journey? Your ministry?

Heidi Strybos, from College Heights Baptist Church in Prince George, British Columbia, wrote:

I have chosen Eunice, Timothy's mother, as my person of interest. She is mentioned once by name in Scripture in 2 Timothy 1:5 "...I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (NIV). Timothy's family is mentioned in Acts 16:1



stating his mother was Jewish and father was a Greek but that ends any specific reference to Eunice. Her teaching of the scriptures to her family, I believe, is referenced further when Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:15 "and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

I was drawn to her brief reference, after the discussion at our retreat weekend, to **legacy**. What do I want people to remember me by after I have passed away? Paul characterizes Eunice with a sincere faith that she passed down to her son. He sees the same traits in him that were in his mother. This caused a stir in my heart. What a thought to be remembered as someone who had a sincere faith that was evident to those around her and passed on to her children. Paul also references sincere faith in 1 Timothy 1:5: "the goal of our instruction is love, which springs from a pure heart and a good conscience and



a sincere faith" (AMP). I hear so much about the prayers of parents and grandparents, but this additional acknowledgment of sincere faith resonated with me.

How do I resonate with Eunice? I can only hope to identify with her within both my family and my ministry. Sincerity means having transparent motives and a desire to do what

is right. I would love to be remembered this way. Sincerity can be described as not being hypocritical, not necessarily on display, sometimes in the background but making a difference. Ministry is not always on stage. However, whether up front or in the background, character and sincere faith create the foundation on which ministry can thrive. I continue to run the race concentrating on sincere faith like my Biblical ancestor Eunice, who is cheering me on in the cloud of witnesses mentioned in Hebrews.

10 Practical Tips for Leading a Successful Women's Bible Study

Gaylene Klapstein & Patti Baby from McKernan Baptist – Edmonton, Alberta



One of our great passions and joys is leading women's Bible studies together! We first met at Alpha in 2019 and have since grown to be partners and wonderful friends! We've had the privilege of leading 4 studies together over the past few years.

Our approach has been shaped by the different journeys in our faith. Gaylene grew up at McKernan Baptist and has lived out her faith her entire life. Patti came to McKernan 7 years ago as a newer Christian with a desire to grow and better understand Scripture. These experiences have been a gift; they bring together steady faith and fresh questions, lifelong belief and renewed curiosity. Women are reminded that there's no "right" place to be on the faith journey, whether you've walked with God for decades or are just finding your way. Everyone belongs, and every perspective matters.

Leading a Bible study is a powerful and meaningful way to create space for women to grow in their faith, build meaningful friendships, and spend time in God's word. Over time, we've learned that while every Bible study looks a little different, there are a few key things that consistently help create a welcoming, meaningful experience:

1. Start with prayer, and keep praying.

We begin with prayer, asking God to lead us to a study that will truly connect with the women in our church. We pray for wisdom in choosing the right material, for open hearts, and for God's presence to be felt in every conversation. Prayer keeps us grounded and reminds us that this is God's work, not ours.

2. Choose a study that invites conversation.

We look for studies that are rooted in Scripture and include lots of open-ended questions. Women's studies are beautifully rich as we share our experiences, and talk about what God has done in our lives. We want to encourage sharing and thoughtful conversation.

3. Keep it short and doable.

We've found that a 6–8-week study is the sweet spot. It feels manageable and makes it easier for women to commit, especially with busy schedules. Shorter studies often lead to better attendance and help everyone stay engaged from start to finish.

4. Spread the word (and have a little fun with it).

Promotion matters! We share information through announcements, emails, word-of-mouth, and signs in the women's bathroom (those work really well!). Clear, friendly communication helps women know what to expect and makes joining feel easy.

5. Organize table leaders ahead of time.

We try to identify table leaders before the study begins, even if we're estimating attendance. Table leaders help guide conversation and make sure everyone feels included.

You don't need to have all the answers, or be a Bible expert, to lead a table. What matters is being comfortable guiding discussion, listening well, and creating space for women to share honestly. Having a backup leader is also helpful in case someone can't attend one week.

6. Send a friendly welcome email.

Before the first week, we send a welcome email with all the important details, start time, end date, what to bring, how to get materials, and how to prepare. This helps women walk in feeling comfortable and ready, instead of unsure or rushed.

7. Encourage preparation but lead with grace.

We encourage women to look over the material ahead of time, each week, if they can. When we prepare, we get more out of the study and can contribute more to the conversation. That said, we always lead with

grace, and everyone is welcome whether they've had time to prepare or not.

8. Create a warm, inviting space.

We love setting the tone with soft background music and warm greetings as women arrive. Name tags are especially helpful in the first few weeks as relationships begin to form. Coffee and snacks are always a bonus (and appreciated!), but the most important thing is creating a space where women feel comfortable and seen.

9. Allow flexibility at first.

For the first couple of weeks, we let women move around and find a table where they feel at home. After that, we encourage everyone to settle into a consistent group. Sitting with the same women week after week helps build trust, deepen relationships, and create space for more meaningful sharing.

10. End on time, with room for prayer.

We aim to end on time, knowing schedules matter. At the same time, we allow tables to wrap up naturally and close in prayer as conversations come to a close. This balance keeps things respectful while still leaving space for connection and reflection.

When we pray intentionally, plan thoughtfully, and focus on creating a welcoming environment, Bible studies become more than weekly gatherings, they become a place where women feel connected, encouraged, and excited to grow together in their walk with God. For those who have been walking in faith for years or are just beginning to explore it, there is a place for every woman at the table.

While leading a Bible Study may come with a few bumps and growing pains, it's a beautiful opportunity to connect, build Godly community, and grow together in faith... blessing both the women who attend and those who lead.

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

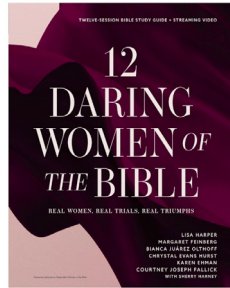
We value supporting the broader vision of the North American Baptist Conference and developing a connection among North American Baptist Conference women.

LEGACY AND THE FUTURE

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



Spring Picks



12 Daring Women of the Bible

In this twelve-session video Bible study, some of today's best-loved Christian authors and speakers look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve daring women in the Bible and what they mean for you today.

You'll study the lives of . . .

1. Shulamite Woman: We Had God at Hello (Lisa Harper)
2. Deborah: Fight Like a Girl (Bianca Juarez Olthoff)
3. Proverbs 31 Woman: How Not to Do It All (Karen Ehman)
4. Ruth: Staying Focused in a World of Distractions (Chrystal Evans Hurst)
5. Puah and Shiphrah: How to Fight Your Fears (Margaret Feinberg)
6. Esther: Letting God Be in Control (Courtney Joseph)
7. Priscilla: Living a Life of Blessed Ordinary (Karen Ehman)
8. Mary and Martha: Finding Life in Death (Bianca Juarez Olthoff)
9. Bent Woman: We've Got God's Complete Attention (Lisa Harper)
10. Woman with the Issue of Blood: When Persistence Pays Off (Chrystal Evans Hurst)
11. Elizabeth: How to Win the Waiting Game (Margaret Feinberg)
12. Anna: How to Live a Life Devoted to God (Courtney Joseph Fallick)



The Great Morning Revolution

Tara Beth Leach

Many people struggle to make time for God in their busy schedules or just aren't morning people—this book addresses those issues by helping Christians establish (and stick with) a spiritual morning routine.

The practice of waking early to seek God's presence is woven into the fabric of God's word.

From the Gospels to the Psalms, from the wisdom literature to the historical narratives, the Bible resounds with the call to seek God early, to set the tone of our day with prayer, and to surrender the unfolding hours to his presence.

In *The Great Morning Revolution*, Tara Beth Leach shares how she adopted the ritual of rising early and discovered transformative power of mornings with God—and she invites you to do the same. With practical guidance, spiritual encouragement, and a structured-yet-flexible approach, she shows you how to find serenity in the early house that will reshape your perspective and deepen your relationship with God. The book also provides tools for building the discipline needed for habit formation and lasting change.

For those who desire a deeper relationship with God but have trouble setting aside time for Him, *The Great Morning Revolution* holds a promise of renewal.

White Cross USA Update:

On February 17th, we had a great day loading a container of donated medical items from CHI St Alexius Health's warehouse and the White Cross warehouse in south Bismarck. We are very grateful for our shipping team and thankful for God's protection as these palettes are loaded.

Another container is scheduled to ship in March. This container will consist of 15 hospital beds, 20+ exam tables, over the bed tables, and many other medical supplies as will fit into the container.

Thank you to all of our White Cross church teams and individuals who make and donate much needed supplies throughout the year. Thank you to all who give financially to cover the cost of shipping a container to Cameroon. It is truly a joy to see all of the doors that God opens to make these shipments possible.

Debbie Long, White Cross USA volunteer

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