

Leadership in the Philippines



BY A. CLAIRE MARKER
Director of Bicol Center for
Christian Leadership

Our team continues to introduce you to women in the NAB family who are in ministry leadership positions within their churches, communities and on our mission fields. Our hope is that women who serve in leadership roles will be encouraged by their stories.

Claire Marker is from Legazpi City, Philippines. She is a 2006 graduate of Bicol Centre for Christian Leadership and a 2011 graduate of the Cebu Graduate School of Theology with an MDiv in Christian Leadership (cum laude). The Cebu Graduate School of Theology is the seminary associated with our partners in the Baptist Conference of the Philippines. Through a providential turn of events, Claire met and has now married Timothy Marker, a member of First Baptist Church of Lodi, California, and a graduate of Western Seminary.

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Claire and Tim have a heart for missions, serving as mission mentors with OMF International and teaching at Bicol Center for Christian Leadership (BCCL). Claire is prepared to lead BCCL into its next era of ministry.

How did you become a part of the ministry at BCCL? What is your role at the Center?

I got involved with the BCCL ministry by simply sharing the Gospel to a co-worker at the government health insurance company I worked at in 2004. By God's grace, this coworker came to know the Lord and was looking for a Christian church when she met sis Mayette Ativo (who was still single and the director of BCCL back then). Sis Mayette got intrigued by the believer (myself) who led my coworker to Christ that she asked my coworker if she could talk to me. Sis Mayette invited me to get Biblical and ministry training at BCCL.

I had been praying to get some Biblical and ministry training at a seminary but it was so expensive, and I had to move out of my home city (I was taking care of my dad who had a stroke back then) to do so. BCCL offered affordable yet quality ministry training.

I was doing my thesis for the master's degree in management that I was taking at a state university at that time. The subject of my thesis was about discipleship as the Human Resource Development program of evangelical churches. When I found out that a lot of pastors were attending at BCCL, I saw them as potential respondents for my research and immediately signed up for the

classes at BCCL! A bit of a wrong motive there but wrong that went good.

By the time I graduated from its basic course, God had called me into full-time ministry as full-time staff at BCCL. From being on the admin staff I became one of its local teachers, then assistant director and currently the director since sis Mayette, the founding director, passed away in 2020.

What excites you about the leadership opportunities you have at BCCL?

Just the opportunity to mentor our staff and students to be the servant-leaders that God wants them to be excites me. Helping them find their role in ministry and missions (BCCL's emphasis these days) and grow and flourish in it brings me so much joy.

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Leadership in the Philippines ...from cover

What are some particular challenges you have encountered in your role at BCCL?

One of the challenges at first was overseeing the ministry remotely. For more than two years during the pandemic, I was living in California with my husband and we couldn't travel back to the Philippines. I had to lead the ministry remotely, so I had a reverse schedule of being awake all night and asleep during the day. It was a weird time but the sacrifice was all worth it.

Another challenge at first was the inadequacies that the current staff including myself had on technological (online classes, etc.) and numbers (financial management) matters. But God has amazingly brought the right people at the right time. I am so blessed with a team of staff that is very efficient in what they do. Even if I was leading them remotely, the ministry was running like a well-oiled machine. Thanks be to God!

How has your role at BCCL helped you grow or brought you joy?

My husband and I have explored the possibility of us becoming long-term missionaries somewhere in East Asia. But we found out soon enough that we weren't church planters. We are equippers, teachers, and we love to mentor people. This is how my role in BCCL has helped me grow. I am flowing in the giftings that God has given me.

We have just started the Intercultural Ministries (ICM) curriculum this year and it has been bringing us so much joy that we are able to channel our passion for missions by being able to mobilize our students and their churches to get involved in missions. God has done so many amazing things over the last few months in our ICM program that it is making me grow all the more as a mission's mobilizer and as a servant-leader as well, as I lead by doing, by God's wonderful grace.

Are there any books offering leadership suggestions that you would recommend?

I would recommend *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others* by Scot McKnight. It's a good reminder that to be good at serving and leading others, we should lead, by example, first and foremost in loving God with all of our

As I love Him more and more, I develop His love for the people around me, thus, I am able to minister and lead them as God wants me to do so.

heart, soul, mind, and strength. Serving and leading and influencing others should emanate from a passionate love relationship with God. As I love Him more and more, I develop His love for the people around me, thus, I am able to minister and lead them as God wants me to do so.

How can the women in our North American Baptist churches support you?

Through prayers first of all. We need to be surrounded with serious intercession as the BCCL team and I are at a new season.

We are leading our ICM students to interact and engage cross-culturally with people from other religions. A simple interview with Hindu medical students has given birth to a regular (monthly) cultural exchange ministry. We experience the spiritual battle each time we interact with them with the love of Christ. So please be interceding for us.

A prayer concern would also be for God's provision for the regular support of the BCCL ministry; it has been on deficit for a few years now. Pray for generous hearts that would help with BCCL's monthly support. Pray also for provision as we take our ICM students on much-needed short-term mission

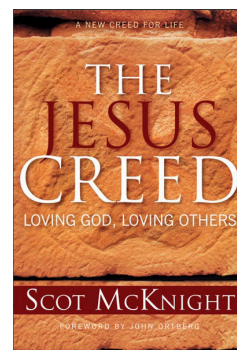
exposure trips in-country and maybe in East Asia as well (where there are a lot of unreached people groups at 3.2 billion people!).

Please also pray for Tim and I; we decided to move to the Philippines early this year due to the ministry's great need that I lead it in person. We are currently not official missionaries of any organization, so raising funds for our living expenses is not easy. We continue to trust that where God leads, He will provide.

Also, please pray for strength and less stress for us each day. Until now we are not yet quite settled in our place—our kitchen is still gutted, although it is now slowly being built but it's been difficult cooking outside and washing dishes in our bathroom sink, etc., but we know that's part of the adventures of missionary life. Little things like the constant brownouts, broken pipes, devices not working as they should can sometimes get to us and can be distracting, so we would appreciate your prayers a lot!

Thank you so much for this opportunity of sharing God's work in my life and ministry!

THE JESUS CREED



Be the first to email Jean Ewing (jhewing@roadrunner.com) and receive a copy of Claire's recommended book.

CONNECTING IN IOWA

BY JEAN EWING

As I sat in the Des Moines airport waiting for Fabiola and April to arrive in Iowa, I was energized with the excitement of meeting more women who faithfully serve in our NAB churches. We have touched the lives and been inspired by women in 5 other NAB regions through our connecting luncheons.

Our 1 ½ hour journey to Steamboat Rock was filled with excited chatter as we were eager to launch our special Friday evening time, *You Glow Girl*, with high school- and college-age women and meet the women who had responded to our invitation to lunch on Saturday.

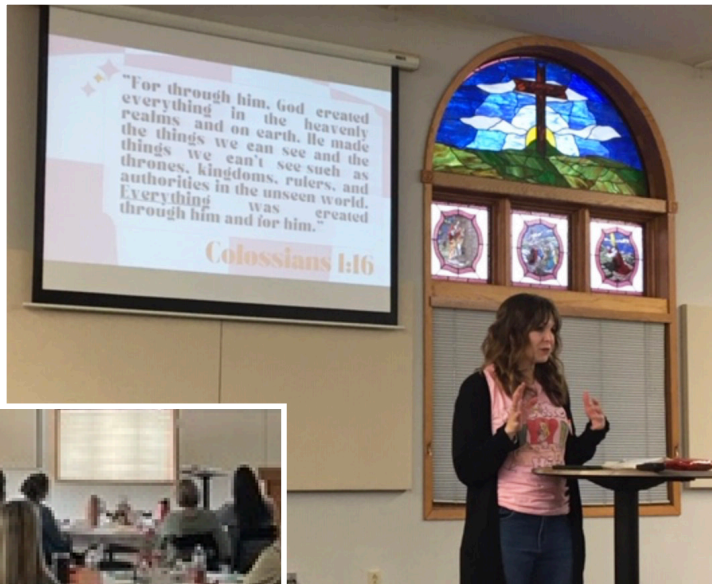


Jane Kramer from Steamboat Rock Baptist shares:

"The women at Steamboat Rock Baptist were encouraged and challenged as women of faith to continue to share in God's mission by our NAB Women's Connection Leadership team. We would encourage women in other regions in the NAB to experience a wonderful time of fellowship – encouragement – and inspiration by hosting the NAB women's leadership team.

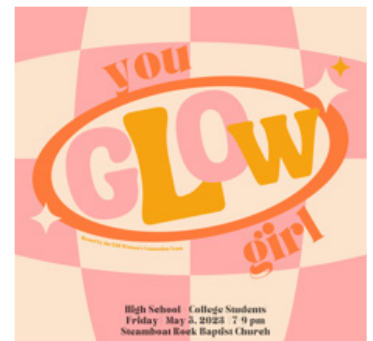
Our teen girls were blessed with a special Friday evening hosted by Jean Ewing, April Wahl, and Fabiola Campos. April really connected with our young women and encouraged them in their identity in Christ. On Saturday, Jean, April, and Fabiola held a luncheon that included table talk and messages.

It was truly a blessing to have them here. We learned about leadership by serving and also renewal of White Cross projects. Thank you to these women who gave of their time to inspire us!"



In our Friday evening, *You Glow Girl* time, April Wahl (Middle School Youth Director at Century Baptist in Bismarck, ND) led a time

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Around the Regions

Tea Time in the Atlantic Association



BY DANIELLE BANGO

President WMF Atlantic Association

The Atlantic Association Women's Missionary Fellowship came together for their third annual Spring

luncheon. This year's theme was an Afternoon TEA. The Association had begun the luncheon a few years ago as an opportunity to fellowship with one another and to spread the word for their Fall retreat.

At the fellowship there was fun, food, and beautiful fellowship. The scripture used this year was 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

We made an acronym out of TEA to stand for

T: Together Teach
E: Edify & Encourage
A: Apply

We spent time together focusing on how to apply specific "TEA" scriptures to our lives. It was encouraging and inspiring to see how our sisters in Christ would apply the Word to their lives so that we

can not only be sayers of the Word but also doers!

The date and themes of this year's Fall theme was released. The date is October 20-22 at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey. The theme: It's Time for New Boots! Romans 13:11-14. The Keynote speaker will be Kelly Master.



Connecting in Iowa

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of interaction with high school- and college-age women, challenging them to be who God wants them to be. Our desire as a team is to encourage the next generation of women leaders in their partnership with God to discover where He wants to use them most effectively.

Our Saturday luncheon was a thank you to NAB women who serve as leaders in the local Iowa churches. It was also a time of being reminded 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 share the desire to see that women in their churches are encouraged and offered opportunities to grow.

As women enjoyed a delightful lunch, they shared experiences, plans, and thoughts in response to a series of questions and topics about women in

ministry through our 'Table Talk' time.

A highlight of our time together was hearing more about NAB White Cross program. Several women had a renewed interest in providing vital medical supplies to Cameroon. April challenged us to be intentional about encouraging and supporting the younger women in our churches by making space for them in the

ministries in the church.

Thank you, Steamboat Rock Baptist, for opening your doors and your hearts to women who faithfully lead and serve in our NAB Iowa churches. Thank you, Fabiola and April, for joining me on this exciting journey of meeting and encouraging women who faithfully serve.

Recommended Bible Studies

Studies that have been completed and enjoyed by our Iowa women:

Pricilla Shirer

- Armor of God
- Discerning the Voice of God

Beth Moore

- Breaking Free
- Daniel
- Beloved Disciple
- Believing God

Kelly Minter

- Nehemiah
- Encountering God – Cultivating Habits of Faith Through the Spiritual Disciplines
- Encountering God – Teen Girls Study Book Cultivating Habits of Faith Through the Spiritual Disciplines

Ex-Saker Baptist College Students Honor Wilma Binder in Bismarck, North Dakota

Arguably the one name that is most synonymous with Saker Baptist College in Limbe Cameroon West Africa is Wilma Binder. Not only did she ‘work’ there as vice principal, biology and typing tutor for four decades, but she served the school and its students with her very heart and soul. Upon her retirement, Wilma continued to be very involved in and with its alumna and their activities.



Miss Wilma Binder poses with the Sakerettes who went to visit her in her hometown of Bismarck, North Dakota, on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Members of ExSSA (Ex-Students of Saker Association) from the US joined other Sakerettes in celebrating the legendary missionary Wilma Binder in Bismarck, ND, in April 2023. They participated in volunteer services that are close to Wilma’s heart. The women visited the White Cross facility (Century Baptist’s For the City) to see supplies heading

to Cameroon and Mbingo Baptist Hospital and to make layettes to include in the shipment. They spent time at Century Baptist rolling bandages and cutting much-needed squares, singing joyfully as they worked. The Sakerettes came from all over the US and celebrated the life and ministry of a very special lady in their lives—Wilma Binder.



Triennial 2024 • St Paul, Minnesota • July 11–14, 2024

At the center of Christianity, peace is not a philosophy or a practice, it is a person – the God-man Jesus Christ: “For he himself is our peace” (Ephesians 2:14a NIV). It is this peace in which everything was created and humanity was called to live. It is this peace, grounded in the person and nature of Jesus, that Christ followers are to reflect into the chaos of the world around them as the imago Dei. Christ’s church, being the presence

of God’s Kingdom on earth, is charged with making and reflecting his peace in the world. Because his Spirit inhabits his people, we as the body of Christ are to take up Christ’s mission to restore peace with God, as well as with others, with ourselves, and with creation. This is reflected in the person and nature of Christ in three ways:

- Christ’s power to restore peace between an individual and God.
- Christ’s desire to establish peace within the community of believers.
- Christ’s call for the Church to extend his peace to the world as we engage

individuals outside the family of faith and engage with creation that groans in anticipation of redemption.

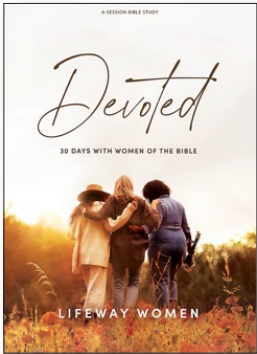
Christ commissions his church to be his presence of peace in a world of discord. Triennial 2024 will be all about living into the peace we have in Christ and exploring how we represent Christ’s peace.

Women’s Connection will have a luncheon on Friday, July 12, 2024. Watch for more information.

SUMMER STUDIES FOR WOMEN

Devoted

Lifeway Women

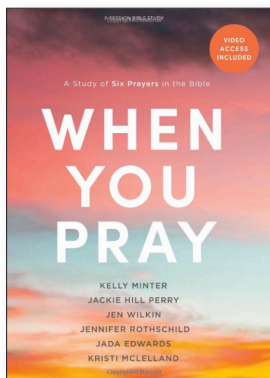


Sisters, daughters, friends. Queens, missionaries, mothers. From Eve in Genesis 3 to Eunice in 2 Timothy 1, the Bible mentions countless women who bear witness to the faithfulness and love of God. While each woman is unique, they all have one thing in common—a life interwoven with God’s story of redemption.

In Devoted: 30 Days with Women of the Bible, a 6-session Bible study from Lifeway Women, you’ll study more than thirty women in Scripture whose lives have inspired generations of women in their faith and devotion to God. Their stories are a reminder that you, too, are made in the image of God, and you have an important part to play in God’s story.

When You Pray

Kelly Minter, Jackie Hill Perry, Jen Wilkin, Jennifer Rothschild, Jada Edward and Kristi McLelland



Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray?

Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God?

Do you reach the end of the day only to realize you haven’t prayed at all?

You’re not alone!

Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it’s a struggle. Throughout God’s Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

In this 7-session study, join with 6 beloved Bible teachers who will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You’ll learn that God welcomes your praise and your lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You’ll see examples of how to pray when you’re alone and when you’re gathered with others. Above all, you’ll notice there’s no one way to pray. As you draw near to God through prayer, you’ll find your faith strengthened and your heart united to Christ.

Featured Website

www.livingbydesign.org



Serving Christian Women with:

~ **Free Online Bible Studies:** creating free educational tools that are delivered digitally, providing a practical solution for Christians who desire to study their Bible but don’t have the time or resources to engage in other programs.

~ **Uplifting Weekly Blog Posts:** the goal is to build a bridge between Christians and the Bible. The blogs are packed with heart-focused content, practical solutions for real-life and Bible-based training.

~ **SOULfood Saturday E-mails:** this easy-to-digest email is filled with fresh biblical insight and spiritual truths. They are focused on topics that matter and layered with rich truths to help you thrive in the midst of your everyday life.

~ **Inspiring Social Media Posts:** through the uplifting social media content, we help women grow in their knowledge and understanding of God’s Word, while equipping them to evangelize to their friends and family by sharing our free resources online.

3 Free Summer Digital Bible Studies:

livingbydesign.org/summer-bible-study

~ Reclaim the Sabbath
~ Pray Like David
~ It Is Well



Sarah Koontz
Founder & Bible Study Author

CONNECT WITH US



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