



SHARE A CUP WITH JEAN...

Memories and Challenges—Triennial 2015

BY JEAN EWING

Memories of smiles, hugs, encouragement, gratitude, and hope fill my mind and heart as I reflect on the days spent in family reunion at the 2015 Triennial in Sacramento, California. Our new Executive Director Dan Hamil greeted everyone with this purpose statement, "We gather as God's people in God's presence to listen to God's voice, to learn from His word, and to love generously on each other." During the five days of special events, worship, dynamic speakers, encouraging reports from our missionaries abroad and around North America, and focus on God's Word, we walked away knowing that we are a "Sent" people and we are challenged to be one.

We are grateful for the opportunities we had as a Women's Ministry Leadership Team to be involved in the activities of this every third year gathering. Our booth was located by the entrance to the Sacramento Convention Center Ballroom—a perfect location for many to stop and chat about opportunities for women's ministries in our churches.

Over 150 women gathered at the Sheraton Grand Hotel for an inspiring luncheon. The program was centered on the theme "Life Interrupted." Through the inspiring testimony of Salwa Kasabian, founder and executive director of Folsom's Hope (a nonprofit program that helps Folsom, California's children by supporting their families through academic and community programs), we were challenged by the realization that God stops our self-planned journeys and redirects our paths to fulfill His purposes. A \$2,000 offering was given in support of this community ministry.

It was also a delight to introduce Rebeca Gonzalez of Rosarito, Mexico to the women who attended the luncheon. The Women's Ministry of the NAB is forming



a partnership with Gateway Teams and the work Rebeca and her husband Gonzalo are doing in planting Iglesia Biblica Misionera. This long-term affiliation will allow teams of women from the NAB to go to Rosarito and support the ministry on short-term mission trips with the help of Randy and Shelley Schmor and Gateway Teams / Global Partnerships.

Your Women's Ministry Leadership Team continues to plan and prepare opportunities for the women of the NAB Conference to fulfill God's challenge to live as "Sent" women to our neighborhoods, our communities, and our world. Our desire is that our women will begin to understand the challenge to live missionally and that the stories of our experiences will encourage each other.

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UNDER AFRICAN SKIES:

Trinity Western University Education Students Experience Schools in Cameroon

BY DR. ALLYSON JULE,
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

No lights. No running water. No space for a staffroom or library. No windows. Dirt floors. The blackboards are painted on cement walls. Three to four children share one pencil and/or one textbook and/or one desk. When the rains hit the thin tin roofs, classes stop, since it's too loud to hear anything. Instead, the children dance to the rhythm of the rain. There is no lunch break, because there's no lunch. In short, things are very different in schools in the North West province of Cameroon. What an opportunity for six Trinity Western University (TWU) education students to be part of local Cameroonian schools run by the Cameroonian Baptist Convention (alongside NAB missions) in Bamenda.

I have been to Cameroon before because my husband was an MK in Cameroon from age 2 to 17. My husband (Dr. Lemke #2) is the son of Bernie and Lilly Lemke, who served with NAB missions for many years. In fact, they joined us on this trip to mark the fiftieth anniversary of their arrival in Africa to do missionary service. Hearing their many missionary stories enriched the experience for all of us! We were all inspired by lives so well lived and used for God's service in such a way.

After a week at Rain Forest International School in Yaoundé, we traveled for seven hours to the North West province. We experienced very bumpy roads, a water shortage, and unreliable electricity and WiFi connections. NAB missions have been reaching the North West province for over sixty years. The TWU team of student teachers was ready, well prepared, and excited for what lay ahead of them in the local



primary schools. And what lay ahead of them? To begin, NAB missionary Elsie Lewandowski gave the team a terrific orientation to life in Bamenda and to what to expect at the schools. Elsie had made arrangements with the schools, and she was immensely helpful when it came to decompressing at the end of each day. Cal Hohn, the CBC/NAB/CMF Field Director, is located in Bamenda, and he helped arrange many of the travel details. Also, his assistant, Joy Yondoh, took us to various tourist places on the weekends and traveled with us from Yaoundé to Bamenda. We met many other missionaries at the guest house dining hall as well. We came to more deeply understand that missionaries' roles are complicated. Their tasks are never complete and they are required

In Africa, relationships matter more than money. Relationships are what the Cameroon teachers and students we met wanted.

to show unceasing hospitality and adaptability.

The TWU students set off each morning for one of two local Cameroonian schools to learn much from the Cameroonian teachers and students. It was a unique venture for the Cameroonian teachers and students who awaited their arrival. The TWU students learned a lot from the Cameroonian classrooms—and almost straight away. For one, teaching can happen with no resources at all. It's much harder to do, but a tuned in teacher can connect with students in a multitude of ways, including the telling of stories, learning through songs,

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Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

NOVEMBER 2, 2015



The Baptist World Alliance Women's Department (BWAWD) calls Baptist women around the world to gather in their churches and communities on (or near) the first Monday of November each year to pray for one another, give an offering, and engage in Bible study and reflections.

Your Day of Prayer can be a full day, a weekend, or a couple of hours. The offerings on this day support the continental and worldwide ministries of the BWAWD. Indeed, the department and the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) depend on this one-day offering as their main source of income. The adaptable 2015 Day of Prayer program,

prepared this year by the BWAWD Administrative Committee for worldwide use, introduces a new five-year theme, Arise, Shine. The program is available from the BWAWD office or website, www.bwawd.org, along with supplementary resources.

NABWU is one of seven continental unions that make up the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance. Together, we represent women in 138 countries and 238 national Baptist women's organizations.

OFFERINGS MAY BE SENT TO:
North American Baptist
Women's Union
BWA Women's Department

USA
NABWU, PO Box 282
Bordentown, NJ
08505-0282 USA

CANADA
Ontario and Quebec and any
Canadian women of the North
American Baptist Conference
and WMU of Canada can send
their donations to receive a
tax-deductible receipt:

Canadian Baptist Women of
Ontario and Quebec
100-304 The East Mall

Under African Skies...

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memorization of key facts, and using the blackboard in creative ways. Radically different teaching methods, an under-resourced system, and the level of poverty that affects access to teacher development and teaching supplies were a challenge to the TWU students to start, but each found a way to embrace such a rare opportunity and find beauty in methods of teaching and learning only found in the developing world. So much can be learned with an open heart and mind.

I was insistent from the very beginning that we see the African experience as an opportunity to walk alongside our Cameroonian brothers and sisters, to learn from them, and to widen our understandings of the human experience, rather than seeing this as an opportunity to be more grateful for the luxuries we have at home. In Africa, relationships matter more than money. Relationships are what the Cameroon teachers and students we met wanted. They want a connection with people in the West. They wanted to know the world cares about them and knows they are there and that



their experiences matter. The TWU students all mentioned this as a revelation they had in some way: people count most. The connections with the school children in their Cameroonian classrooms were the biggest highlight. The joy of children is a wonderful universal experience.

TWU School of Education's next Travel Study is 2017. We'll be going with another group of students, and we'll be continuing the relationship with NAB/CBC schools. We are grateful for the way NAB supports the healthcare and educational needs in Cameroon. Being there and living there make all the difference. It is true that there are no lights, no running water, no toilets, no

staffroom or library in many of Cameroon's local village schools. But these things mattered very little in the end. What mattered was the relationships built, even briefly, that gave promise to all of us (the Cameroonians we met, the NAB missionaries on the field, the TWU students, and me, my husband, and my in-laws) that people need people to matter and to feel part of a wide, shared world. What a wonderful experience the TWU students had, not to see poverty and feel better about their own circumstances, but to see people and to feel more connected to God's earth and to the ways He wants us to care for each other. Nothing beats going!

WM CHRISTMAS PROJECT 2015 *Chicks-4-Orphans*



Every Orphan's Hope is a compassionate evangelistic ministry that provides food, clothing, education, healthcare, and the Good News of Jesus Christ to families of orphans and widows who have lost everything as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Zambia, Africa. Tony Dunaway, former chief operating officer and vice president of ministry support of the North American Baptist Conference, joined the staff of Every Orphan's Hope in 2014 and in 2015 a partnership with the NAB was formed.

EOH builds homes where orphans and widows build new lives together. One widow becomes a "mama" to eight orphans and raises them in Christ in a family and community where they are known and loved.

One of the opportunities to support this ministry is Chicks-4-Orphans. The focus of

this ministry is creating a sustainable small business where orphans and widows can gain skills and create new opportunities for themselves and their families. Just \$4 buys a day-old chick, the feed, bedding, vaccinations, and other essential items to raise the chick to its proper weight so it can be sold for a profit in the market.

Chicks-4-Orphans will be the focus of our 2015 Women's Ministry Christmas Project. More information will be sent to your Women's Ministry this September and this information will be posted on the NAB website. The project will run from October 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016.

We hope that you will become a chick-4-orphans as you find out more about this ministry opportunity. www.everyorphan.org

A GOOD READ



BY JAN KOGER

Our 2015 NAB Triennial is in the books. What a warm and refreshing experience! Other than the Women's Ministry Ladies' Luncheon (which was, hands-down, my favorite two hours of the Triennial), Mark Buchanan and Reggie McNeal were my highlights as well. Below are some writings by these two men. Although I haven't read them, I anticipate spending time with some of these books in the near future, and maybe you will, too.

MARK BUCHANAN

- Things Unseen: Living in Light of Forever
- The Holy Wild: Trusting in the Character of God
- Hidden in Plain Sight: The Secret of More
- The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath
- Spiritual Rhythm: Being with Jesus Every Season of Your Soul
- Your God Is Too Safe: Rediscovering the Wonder of a God You Can't Control
- The Four Best Places to Live: Discovering Worship, Prayer, Expectancy, and Love

REGGIE MCNEAL

- A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders
- Practicing Greatness: 7 Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders
- Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church
- The Present Future: 6 Tough Questions for the Church (a DVD collection is also available)
- Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church
- Get Off Your Donkey!: Help Somebody and Help Yourself
- Get a Life!: It Is All About You

Thank you for indulging my love of books over the past couple of years, and "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) Amen!

Here are a few more books mentioned during the 2015 Triennial:

- Multiplying Light and Truth through Community Health Evangelism, Stan Rowland
- Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives, Wayne Muller
- Bread and Wine: A Love Letter to Life around the Table, with Recipes, Shauna Niequist

As this is the last time to share my love of books with you, I'd like to include some other titles that might be of interest.

- Wild Goose Chase: Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God, Mark Batterson
- Princess on the Porch, Trudy K. Cox (includes yummy recipes!)
- Heaven: My Father's House, Ann Graham Lotz
- God is Able, Priscilla Shirer

Finally, LifeWay is offering a simulcast of Beth Moore's Audacious on Saturday, September 15, 2015.

It costs \$20 to show in your home. Why not go missional and have your neighbors in for an exciting learning experience? Find all the info here: www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/Living-Proof-Live-Simulcast?type=events&intcmp=lpl-simulcast-erdr-314



Grand Idea Master, the Genius Vision Caster

BY AMBER DOWD



I really admire Rebeca's head. This past July we had the joy of representing the women of NAB at

the Triennial Conference in Sacramento, CA. This powerful and memorable gathering featured inspiring speakers and encouraged the unity of NAB churches from across North America. We were grateful to be a part of it!

The theme for the conference was "Sent," with John 20:21 used as the scriptural impetus: "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." One of the speakers, Mark Buchanan, reminded us that Jesus has entrusted to us the work that God had entrusted to Him. On one hand this is an impossible demand, for we can never actually do the work of God on our own. On the other hand it is an unleashing because we are entering into the fulfillment of a glorious promise. God is with us, He is our empowerment for mission, and apart from Him we can do nothing.

I was reminded that in mission, that is, in being sent, our first action is abiding. By dwelling in God's presence we

learn to notice God's activity all around us. Through God's engagement of our souls, our lives in turn overflow so that we can engage others in His ways. God becomes our Grand Idea Master, the Genius Vision Caster for the places to which we are sent. His genius nature inspires us into loving our neighbors and the world beyond in ways we could have never imagined on our own.

We had fun exploring and exemplifying this theme at the Women's Luncheon. We heard stories of God's activity within schools in Folsom, California and among women in Rosarito, Mexico. God is using regular women like us who, due to their tender and responsive hearts, have brought very real blessing and transformation to their communities. We celebrated together these stories of God's goodness in action and took time to examine our hearts and ask God, "what about me?" As God has sent Jesus to my corner of the world, how has He sent me there as well?

As we move beyond the conference it is my hope that we can continue asking questions and seeking God's movement within us and beyond us for His glory. May the messages of the conference be brought to life in our daily ministry as well as the NAB church body as a whole!

Thank You Jan and Karen



Jan Koger and Karen Bieber-Guillory

What a delight it has been to work with these two beautiful women. Jan and Karen will be leaving the Women's Ministry Leadership Team as of September 1, 2015.

It has been a pleasure joining them in ministry. Their love for God and other women, beautiful insights, and contagious laughter have endeared them to the other members of the team.

Both ladies represented our denomination women in the southern regions. Karen (Louisiana) has served for almost six years and Jan (Texas) almost three years.

Thank you Jan and Karen for the many ways you have touched the lives of the women around you and the women of the NAB Conference.

Jean Ewing, Heather Senges, and Amber Dowd
WMLT

"I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all (both) of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..."

Philippians 1:3-5a