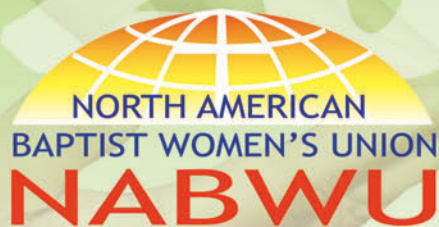


Together, We are Stronger!



The Tie

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1

Inside...

2

**NABWU Officers
2012-2017**
Our New Administrative Team!

4

Assembly in Review
October 2012

5

Executive Board Meeting
Techny Towers, IL

6

**2013 Prayer Grant
Recipients**
Thank you!

8

Let There Be Light!
57th Commission on the
Status of Women

Women Working Wisely!

- Moreen Sharp

It is no secret; working together is what wise women do. I believe we all dream that we can somehow work together to make things right—to make things the way they are supposed to be. God started out with a perfect world for us and He longs for the day when all will be made right again, when all will love Him with pure hearts, when all will love each other and when justice is done.

This world can be a very dark place. Everything is not right with the world. For every \$14 shirt we buy, the seamstress in Pakistan earned 12 cents for sewing it. In North America we throw out 45% of the groceries we buy while tonight one billion people in the world will go to bed hungry. Thirty-five percent of chocolate is made from beans harvested by slaves, mostly young boys. *Every minute* another person is being trafficked into the sex industry or other forms of forced labor. Human trafficking is one of the highest yielding organized crimes in the world netting \$9 billion in the U.S. alone.

"...working together is what wise women do."

When we cry over evil, pain and injustice, we are sensing the heart of God. "He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to Him." (Ps. 72:14) The more we love God, the more we are touched by what touches His heart. Although this world is far from the perfected state we all long for, that day will come in the end--the end which is the beginning of eternity, when all will be made right. Until that day, we have a calling as North American Baptist Women.

Sixteen member bodies make up NABWU. These sixteen member bodies represent well over 4 million women. My dream is that we will all have God's dream—Baptist women who love God and whose hearts beat with God's love. NABWU commits to ministering to the spiritual, physical, emotional and economic well-being of women. Out of that flows our mission statement, the cause we will continue to pursue for Jesus' sake. Our mission is to encourage women to live out kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable. Let's work together to carry out God's passion to our dark world. Women working wisely bring hope and help to a hurting world. Join us as we dream and work toward all that can be. Together we can make a difference because together, we are stronger!

OUR MISSION: To encourage women to live out Kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable.





2012-2017

introducing... OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

L-R: Angelita Clifton, Moreen Sharp, Ruby Fulbright, Lisa Lohnes, Stacey L. Benn, Darlene McGillberry

Moreen Sharp, NABWU President

Life is busy, isn't it? I work hard at balance in the midst of busyness. One of my favorite places is the cottage on the ocean where we vacation near Vancouver, BC. I find much refreshment there reading (novels and theology), walking through the forests, working on puzzles and relaxing by the water. Scenic photography and sketching people are creative outlets for me, and I love spending time with my daughters (Montreal and Denver) and their families (two little granddaughters) and relaxing with my husband, Paul. My husband and I have been in ministry for the last 35 years and are very much enjoying the challenges and joys associated with that. We have ministered in western Canada, India and in Japan. For the last 8 years we have been in transitional pastoral work, moving from place to place in western Canada, helping churches through their transition from one pastor to the next permanent pastor. I have also enjoyed ministry in the past as president of Women in Focus (Women's Department of the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada). I bring my ministry experience over the years to my role as president of NABWU and feel very blessed and fulfilled in this new role. I am excited about our future as an organization. There is still so much more that can be done as we strive to resource, encourage and network you, our Baptist women from all over North America!

Ruby Fulbright, Vice President for Networking, Leadership and Mentoring

I count myself very fortunate in that I was raised in a Christian home and grew up in very missions-minded churches under the umbrella of Woman's Missionary Union. I learned as a

preschooler that not only did God love me; but He loved the whole world. Even as a little girl I knew there were things I could do to share God's love with the world. I learned about God's world and the people in it; praying for missionaries and the people they witness to; tithing; and being involved in missions right where I lived. I've been part of the history and heritage of WMU for a long time. From a preschooler, to living in Zambia, Africa for 12 years, to my service through WMU North Carolina, my vision has grown exponentially. I've come to a stage in my life – retirement – realizing that my life as a Christian has been an incredible journey. My life involved in missions has been more than I dreamed possible when I was a little girl. I've gained more than I've given. I've learned more than I thought I could. I will always be in awe of the privileges and people that have been woven into my life. In this new role, as VP of Networking/Leadership/Mentoring for NABWU, I know I will continue to learn and grow; but, my desire and hope is that I can give back. I want to help empower women to understand their role in God's redemptive plan for the world. I want us, together, to discover ways to use our gifts and skills meeting the needs – physical, emotional, spiritual – of so many hurting women and children in our world.

Lisa Lohnes, Vice President for Day of Prayer, Prayer Grants, and Prayer Partners

I grew up in a picturesque little fishing village on an island in Nova Scotia on Canada's east coast. For me, one of the most beautiful sights when I return to visit is the lighthouse standing proudly on the tip of the island. Through the years, that lighthouse has navigated fishing boats in the two bays that surround the island.

It has safely guided them to shore by the light of its beacon and sound of its foghorn. Jesus Christ is the lighthouse of my life. Striving to be His faithful follower, I rely upon His light and sound to navigate and guide me. Throughout my journey, I am blessed to be a daughter, sister, aunt, niece, wife, mother, and friend. Whether I am driving my teenagers to their activities, preparing for a meeting, praying for someone in need, proof reading my husband's church report, serving breakfast to a hungry child at school, or relaxing by doing nothing, I seek to follow the light of Christ's path and heed to the call of His voice. Some days, the voyage is pretty smooth sailing. On those days, it can be easy to rely upon myself a little too much. Other days, the seas are dark and fearsome. Those days help me put things into perspective causing me to realize my inadequacies and my need to cry out for help. Yet, regardless of the conditions, I know that my Lighthouse is steadfast and trustworthy in all kinds of weather. It is for that reason, I take up the challenge to live a life in gratitude for Him.

Angelita Clifton, Vice President for Communications and Promotion

No woman is so weak she cannot help others, nor so strong she does not need the help of another ~ Author Unknown

What does the Lord require of me? To act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with God. I believe we are blessed to be a blessing. No matter our social location, we are all gifted with Holy Ghost power to make a difference in the world. All my life I have trusted the Lord, even when I could not track His movement. I am reminded the Spirit moves suddenly like a



PRESIDENT: Moreen Sharp
Victoria, British Columbia
(403) 632-5022 / president@nabwu.org

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
Ruby Fulbright
Networking, Leadership, Mentoring
Newton, North Carolina
(919) 395-2351 / networking@nabwu.org

Lisa Lohnes
Day of Prayer, Prayer Grants, Prayer Partners
Centreville, Nova Scotia
(902) 582-7364 / prayer@nabwu.org

Angelita Clifton
Communications and Promotion
Summit, New Jersey
(973) 897-2386 / communications@nabwu.org

SECRETARY: Stacey L. Benn
Parkville, Maryland
(443) 278-6023 / secretary@nabwu.org

TREASURER: Darlene McGilberry
Bordentown, New Jersey
(609) 306-8961 / treasurer@nabwu.org

**YOU are a part of
NABWU!**

**16
MEMBER BODIES...**

Atlantic Baptist Women
Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec
Women in Focus, Canadian Baptists of
Western Canada
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Converge Worldwide Women's Ministries
General Baptist Women's Ministries, Inc.
Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist
Convention
Senior Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to
National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.
Women's Auxiliary, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign
Missions Convention, Inc.
Woman's Auxiliary, National Missionary Baptist
Convention of America
Woman's Auxiliary to the National Baptist
Convention, USA, Inc.
Women's Department, Progressive National
Baptist Convention, Inc.
Women's Division, Russian-Ukrainian
Evangelical Baptist Union
Women's Ministries, Union of Latvian Baptists
in America
Women's Ministry, North American Baptist
Conference
Women's Board, Seventh Day Baptist General
Conference

mighty rushing wind, changing the trajectory of my travels. Over the years I have ministered to vulnerable women in Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya and South Africa. I have been blessed to find my being, becoming and belonging serving those who have been traumatized by life. My charge today is to move in synch with the Spirit. I am grateful the Lord affords my discernment of His will, His work and His way while traveling the tributaries of life. Prayerfully, in this new position, the Lord will enliven what I have to offer the NABWU network. Cultivating an internet forum joining heads, hearts and hands serving vulnerable women around the world, is my goal. Like Hannah, I pray we entrust our dreams to the Lord. Like Esther, I know we will be used by God. Like Ruth, I am sure the Creator will provide as we press toward the Mark of the High Calling!

Stacey L. Benn, Secretary

Each of us is a unique tapestry made by God. No two of us are exactly alike, but each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made. My life's aim is to offer my body as a living sacrifice, holistically rendering my heart, mind, and soul to Christ, and say, "Here am I, send me."

I praise God for every thread He chooses to form the pattern that is my life, trusting that He sees the better part. I was born in Hattiesburg, MS, but raised in Baltimore, MD, daughter of the late Dr. Arthur J. Benn (Pastor) and Dr. Mary L. Benn (Church Musician). Throughout the years, God has added many Titus 2 women to my tapestry to fulfill His plan of nurturing and mentoring me.

God makes no mistakes as He skillfully and lovingly weaves threads to strengthen me, threads to encourage me, threads to separate me, threads to correct me - all working for my good, and for His glory.

I learned of NABWU while attending National Baptist Convention Women's Auxiliary meetings with my Godmother, Barbara A. Booth, and eagerly accept to join with this new team of "Women Working Wisely."

I continue in service to Christ through ministering to children, young people, and women locally, statewide, and nationally. I trust in God who is *"Alpha and Omega, the Director of my life's stage play, the Artist of my designs, the Writer of my prose, the Choreographer of my dance, and if by chance He needs somebody, here I am..."*

Together, We are Stronger!



...in fellowship

01/2013
NAGS HEAD, NC
Visioning Meeting



04/2013
TECHNY, IL
Team Meeting

...at work

Darlene McGilberry, Treasurer

Poised on the cusp of now and not yet, I stand ready to answer God's call. At the beginning of my retirement, I often wondered how I would fill my time on my new journey. Remembering my promise to Sis. Evelyn Mason, the president of the Middlesex Central Baptist Association's Women's Auxiliary, I knew. After working on a few projects with Sis. Mason "behind the scenes," I explained to her that between working full time and being active in several ministries in my church, my plate was full and I did not want to commit myself to anything in which I could not be an active participant. To make a long story short, Sis. Mason "allowed" me some time to get used to my retirement before encouraging me again to join the Women's Auxiliary. Serving with that auxiliary has opened the way for fellowships and friendships that have been a blessing to my Christian development. Working within that Ministry I came to know Sis. Martha Turner-Riddick and discovered NABWU. It is wonderful working with women who know the worth and believe in the power of prayer. NABWU has been a blessing in my life and I look forward to using my skills in financial stewardship, honed during my thirty six-year career with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education as a manager for budget and administration, on my new journey with NABWU.

The Assembly in Review



Outgoing and Incoming
NABWU Officers



President Moreen Sharp
casts her vision

NABWU Assembly
Nashville, Tennessee
The Millennium Maxwell Hotel
October 3-6, 2012

- Rev. Tracey R. Grosse
Atlantic Baptist Women

We had an awesome time in worship, in the Word, and in fellowship. The presence of the Lord was strongly felt as we celebrated under the theme "Thread."

The Bible study leader, Raquel Contreras gave us three dynamic teachings, and Valerie Burton, our theme speaker, challenged us with her timely messages.

The workshops were great, especially the one on human trafficking. The perfect finish for the four day Assembly was the ministry of Flashpoints. They worshipped in dance to the song "Worthy Is the Lamb."

Our true beauty can never be captured on its own. Rather, it is who we are together. Each of us represents a thread. It is God who joins us and knits us into a beautiful piece of tapestry one that pleases Him. Each of us is a reflection of Jesus. We are each uniquely gifted. Each thread bears its own significance just like we see in Rahab, Mary, Elizabeth, the woman with the issue of blood, and Dorcas. God is transforming us into the very image of His Son. He is not finished with us yet. We are threads joined and knitted together in the love of God through Jesus Christ.



Ministry through Dance



Panel Discussion on
Human Trafficking



The NABWU Executive Board met in Chicago, IL from April 4-6, 2013



Your Board hard at work on your behalf!

SAVE THE DATE...

We encourage you to start making plans!

Baptist World Alliance Women's Leadership Conference

July 15-21, 2015

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA!

Baptist World Alliance Congress

July 22-26, 2015

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA!

THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF BAPTIST CHRISTIANS.



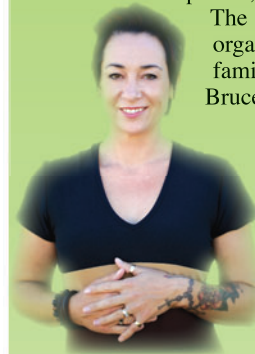
The International Convention Center where the Women's Leadership Conference and BWA Congress will be held.



NOT YOUR USUAL BAPTIST PASTOR

- **Julie Belding**, President, Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific

Amanda Pilbrow is a Baptist pastor in Auckland, New Zealand. The mother of three teenagers, she shepherds the Young Adults' congregation at Windsor Park Baptist Church. She's also an artist, well known for her work in acrylics and plaster, and a regular speaker at The Parenting Place (a national organization which resources families) of which her husband Bruce is the CEO.



It's easy to warm to Amanda, although the tattoo she wears on her left arm can startle those whose mental picture of a Baptist pastor may be somewhat more traditional.

She is direct about the issues facing young adults in the church today.

"To be honest I think they see right through the religious 'whoa' around them," Amanda says. "...The smoke and mirrors, the blue lights and smoke on stage, the subtle manipulation... and they either shake their heads in dismay and vow to change it or sadly walk away altogether."

What's it like to be a female pastor in a profession that has far more men than women?

"I think we face the same challenges but from different perspectives," she says. "There is no denying that working around so much testosterone can be a little intimidating (and I don't say that lightly. I'm not easily intimidated!) But I believe we all bring skills and talents and shortcomings to the table regardless of gender."

An aspect of her pastoral role that Amanda particularly enjoys is the one-on-one time she gets to spend with her young adults.

"The fact that they trust me enough to be open and allow me to challenge them," she says, "blows me away every time."

The hardest part? "Keeping my mouth shut when I need to! Also remembering that although I'm being paid to 'know' God, it by no means guarantees that I do. The responsibility to keep it real can be exhausting at times... I must recognize when I need to press into God, when I need to run back to him, and when I need to be used as his mouthpiece."

Amanda Pilbrow, whose admitted vices include chocolate, red wine and jellybabies, loves to preach on grace, on belonging, and on freedom plain and simple.

The Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific is our prayer partner until 2015!

WWW.NABWU.ORG | 5

*Thank you
for making a difference by
your prayers and gifts!*

Half of every dollar given in North America to the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer offering supports NABWU and selected projects in North America. You'll find more information on who received grants in 2012 at www.nabwu.org.

The other half of your Day of Prayer offering dollar supports the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance and international projects listed in the Day of Prayer program.

WHERE DO YOU SEND YOUR OFFERINGS?

Send your check payable to the North American Baptist Women's Union to P.O. Box 282, Bordentown, NJ 08505-0282, USA or as directed by your NABWU member body in Canada, clearly marked "Day of Prayer".

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A GRANT?

Do you know of a Baptist women's project that could use a NABWU Day of Prayer Offering grant in 2014? See the application guidelines and information posted at www.nabwu.org, or contact Lisa Lohnes at prayer@nabwu.org. The deadline for application is November 30, 2013

WHAT IS THE DAY OF PRAYER?

The BWA Women's Department 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 adaptable 2013 Day of Prayer program, prepared this year by the European Baptist Women's Union for worldwide use, continues the 2010-2015 theme, In Step with the Spirit, with an emphasis this year on Love. The program is available from the BWA WD office or website (below) 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 132 countries and 229 national Baptist women's organizations.



BWA WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT
405 North Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22046 USA
womenbwa@bwawd.org
703-790-8980
www.bwawd.org

Executive Director: Patsy Davis
President: Raquel Contreras

BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: *Awareness Advocacy Action*



Home With A Heart

"Thank you SO much for your support in this ministry at the Pregnancy Resource Center of Saint John (NB). We are very grateful."



Melody Griffin
Director

The Next Door

"Many thanks to ... NABWU again for your support... We appreciate you very much!"



ASHLEY
HYLBERT

**TND
Executive
Team**

**Your project has been selected to
receive a grant from
the NABWU 2013 Day of Prayer offerings.**

Congratulations!

PRAYER GRANT RECIPIENTS!

Camp Angel Tree for Girls \$4000

Woman's Missionary Union (NC)
*Camp Mundo Vista for girls 9-14 with an
incarcerated parent*

Home With A Heart \$2000

Atlantic Baptist Women
*Single moms' 12-week parenting and skills
program*

James 2:15

Warm Winter Welcome \$2000

Woman's Missionary Union (IL)
Warm winter clothing for refugees

Karen Baptist Women's Leadership Training \$2000

American Baptist Women
Leadership training for women leaders

Matthew House Refuge Ministry Crisis Fund - Fort Erie \$4000

Canadian Baptist Women of
Ontario & Quebec
*Medical and other crisis expenses
for refugees*

The Next Door \$4000

Woman's Missionary Union (TN)
*Transitional program for women
re-entering society*

Operation New Life Canada Matthew House - Ottawa \$4000

Canadian Baptist Women of
Ontario & Quebec
*Shelter, assistance, and job training
for refugees*

York County CWJC \$4000

Woman's Missionary Union (SC)
*7 Steps Toward Self-Sufficiency program
for women*

Karen Baptist Women's Leadership Training

"Thank you..."



York County Christian Women's Job Corp.

"Wonderful!! We are so excited
and praise the Lord for His blessings!"

Debbie Wieland
Executive Director



THE TIE is published annually by the North American Baptist Women's Union, a network of 16 organizations in the US and Canada affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department. Copies are mailed free of charge to individuals and groups on the NABWU and BAWWD mailing lists. Bulk copies are sent to national and/or regional offices of NABWU member bodies and distributed through their organizations.

Please help us keep our mailing list up to date. Send updates, additions, and requests for copies to communications@nabwu.org. Please include the name of your member body. For changes and corrections, state your old and new name and/or address.

Find a wealth of resources for outreach and women's ministries, news, information about NABWU and the Day of Prayer, useful web links and coming events at www.nabwu.org.

Follow us on Twitter! - [@NABWU](https://twitter.com/NABWU)

North American Baptist Women's Union

P.O. Box 282

Bordentown, NJ 08505-0282, USA

Share The Tie with women in your church.



Several women represented NABWU at the 57th Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 4th through the 15th. Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls was the theme this year. In 2000, the United Nations Summit set eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015. To increase awareness, advocacy and action the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department assigned one of these goals to each continental union. NABWU was given Goal number five: improve maternal health.

Lisa Lohnes, our VP of Prayer, shares a little of her experience, drawing a composite of what she heard as she attended the Commission:

Imagine you are a woman living on a small island in the Democratic Republic of Congo. You are forty-two weeks pregnant and it is mid-afternoon when your labour pains begin. You feel that your other children must come first and so you finish working in the field, get them something to eat and put them to bed before leaving and walking two miles to the health clinic. By the time you arrive, darkness has fallen and you are greeted by a mid-wife holding a candle to light your path into the clinic. She tries to make you as comfortable as possible but the contractions are almost continuous. The labour is hard and complications ensue. The baby is born breeched with the cord wrapped around his neck. And you are bleeding profusely. The mid-wife tries her best to see in the dark as she divides her attention between your needs and those of the newborn. When she finally feels she has the baby breathing, she focuses solely on you. She tells you that you need many stitches



and gropes around the clinic to find a clean needle. The pain is so unbearable as she struggles to see what she is doing in the dimly lit area, that you pass out. When you awake the next morning, the mid-wife tells you that your baby has died. You are in no condition to walk back home so you make the choice to sleep under a tree nearby the clinic for a few days. When you do arrive home, you find your children have been neglected and are starting to show signs of malnutrition. Your husband is not around because he has decided to find another wife to look after him.

Let there be light are life giving words for many others like her who come to the clinic at night and are unable to receive adequate care because there is no power source. Many die because they simply are not healthy enough to make it until the morning light to receive proper treatment. Vaccines and blood supplies cannot be safely stored without energy. But there is hope! NGO's have introduced solar energy to remote areas and to larger areas that solely rely upon gas powered generators when the public



power supply is down. Solar panels have been installed in some medical clinics so that power can be stored for use at night. In the fight against maternal mortality in the developing world, a rugged, portable "Solar Suitcase" is providing reliable electricity to clinics in seventeen countries where healthcare workers previously struggled to provide emergency obstetric care by the light of candles, flashlights and mobile phones. The Solar Suitcase powers medical LED lights, headlamps, mobile phones, computers and medical devices. Solar power facilitates timely and appropriate emergency care, reducing maternal and infant mortality and improving the quality of care. Having light at medical clinics at night also increases the morale of health care workers and allows them to do valuable research at night. This filters down and shifts the morale of the community. Light literally and figuratively increases health, increases security and fosters community prosperity. Women are empowered when they have a reliable power source.