

Together, We are Stronger!



The Tie

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION



VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

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STOP TRAFFICKING!

Modern Day Slavery WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Moreen Sharp, NABWU President

Every minute someone is being trafficked (coerced) into forced labor. 12 million people are engaged in forced labor of all kinds worldwide. One million children are forced into prostitution every year.



What does God think about all of this?

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." (Prov. 31:8)

"Rescue the poor and helpless." (Ps. 82:3)

"You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so mere people can no longer terrify them." (Ps. 10:18)

Our mission statement as NABWU is encouraging women to live out kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable. One of the ways we do this is by encouraging, informing and motivating us as Baptist women, so that we can each make a difference in our own unique way.

How can we help with human trafficking issues?

1. Pray! Join 10 at 10 for Interstate 10 (TraffickStop.org)
2. Help financially. As NABWU, we network Baptist sisters who share God's light as they work against human trafficking. To help them financially, find them on our website.
3. Read: Compelled (e-book), Half the Sky, Half the Church and for teens Be the Change: Your Guide to Ending Slavery and Changing the World.
4. Write a letter to your government official or set up a petition to be signed at www.change.org.
5. Put up notices in the women's restrooms of your local truck stop (with permission) with the help hotline number (US) or RCMP number (Canada).
6. Buy Fair Trade items.

Through this Tie, our desire once again is to inform you of the needs of this world. But information is not enough. Our desire is also to offer solutions as we share God's love and heart!

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

**The Executive Board Meeting
Pendle Hill (PA)
March 19-22, 2014**



Bigger Than Ourselves... *The Connection*

Ruby Fulbright, VP Networking

The more I learn about the larger Baptist World, the more amazed I am at the resources, the relationships and the opportunities we have to make a difference in reaching a lost and hurting world for Christ. NABWU is part of a network that is much larger than North America. We belong to something 'bigger than ourselves'; we belong to the whole world.

Let me share a diagram that might help:

YOU

If you are a Baptist Woman, affiliated with one of our Member Bodies, living in North America, YOU are part of NABWU.



16 Member Bodies

Sixteen Member Bodies network together as an organization called NABWU. (They are listed on page 3.) We exist to promote unity in Christ, to strengthen the ministries of each other, to share gifts and resources and to minister to the spiritual, physical, emotional and economic needs of women.



NABWU

NABWU stands for North American Baptist Women's Union and our 16 member bodies are located in Canada and the United States. The Executive Board of NABWU is made up of six officers and the Executive Director and

President of each of these 16 Member Bodies. Our mission is to encourage women to live out Kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable.



Baptist World Alliance Women's Department

The Women's Department of the BWA is made up of seven continental unions, of which NABWU is one. Our NABWU President, Moreen Sharp, along with the president of the other six unions, serve as vice presidents of the BWA Women's Department. The mission of the Women's Department is to encourage and celebrate unity in Christ among Baptist women of the world and work towards peace, reconciliation, justice and development through prayer, witness and service.



Baptist World Alliance (BWA)/ Baptist World Aid (BWAid)

BWA, made up of six regional fellowships, is a global movement of Baptists sharing a common confession of faith in Jesus Christ, bonded together by God's love to support, encourage and strengthen one another while proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus

Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit before a lost and hurting world. Patsy Davis, Executive Director of the Women's Department of BWA, sits on the BWA Board.

BWAid was formed to provide aid following World War I. Over the years it has provided relief and development aid, training and networking. From its beginning BWAid relief has been for all who are in need, regardless of race or religion.

BWAid has been collecting information on needs around the world, sharing these concerns with its member bodies and others, trying to build a collaborative response to meet the needs.

Are you beginning to 'get my drift'? In the Gospel of John, chapter 17, Jesus prays for us – all of us – just before He ascends to the Father. Part of His prayer was that those of us who claim to be His followers would work together to bring a continuing presence of Jesus and displaying God's love to the world. We do that by sharing, encouraging, celebrating, providing relief, meeting needs spiritually, emotionally, physically and advocating for peace and justice for all, especially, the most vulnerable.

WOW! And, it all started with YOU and ME – because together we have been able to multiply our efforts as we have joined together with other Baptists (especially women), locally and globally, radiating the light of Christ into all corners of the world.

Has God given you a passion to help the vulnerable in an area of need? If so, contact Ruby, our VP of Networking, Leadership Development and Mentoring, and she can connect you with someone for input.



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**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

How Many SLAVES Do YOU Own?

While surfing the internet in 2013, after serving with the Lott Carey Anti-Trafficking Initiative for many years, I stumbled upon Slaveryfootprint.org. This website afforded the opportunity to calculate the number of men, women and children in developing countries, manufacturing all the stuff I love. I entered my details (age, gender, bedrooms and bathrooms in my home as well as the gadgets I collect) and to my chagrin, **I OWNED SLAVES**. I discovered in spite of my best efforts, NOT to support modern day slavery, I still owned sixty-five (65) slaves. This number is relatively low, but it reveals the need to continually rethink our worldview, while curbing our consumption of just about everything.

Whether we want to admit it or not, each and every one of us indirectly perpetuates human trafficking. While we cannot return to making all our own clothes and growing all the food we eat, recognizing the human costs embedded in the production of the products we use should help to reframe the way we think. It is imperative to recognize just about every shirt, pair of sneakers, electronic item, canned good and the chocolate treats we love, carry the sweat of a modern-day slave. Some will try to argue this is the price of progress. They will say people locked in sweatshops working twenty (20) hours a day, are not being oppressed but are instead given an opportunity. They would like us to believe little boys picking cocoa beans long into the night, is their chance to pull themselves up by their bootstraps even though they have no boots. Many will argue this is a form of investing in a developing country rather than invading a disenfranchised culture to exploit the people.

The question of the day, how long will we continue to turn a blind eye? How long will we leave bloody footprints of exploitation around the globe, exploiting our brothers and sisters? I encourage everyone to look to the Lord, after calculating the number of slaves you own, and ask the obvious question, what does the Lord require of you?

Angelita Clifton

Lott Carey Convention Anti-Trafficking Initiative
Summit, N.J.
www.lottcarey.org

In only 60 seconds or less, **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in reducing poverty!
Sign the Anti-Corruption petition, which will be given to the G20
leaders in November, 2014.

<https://signup.exposed2013.com/p/nabwu>

This is the first ever global campaign by Christians on this issue!
The deadline for signing is **June 30, 2014**

THE SLAVE TRADE...WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF ME?

Tomi Grover, Sandra Johnson and Ellyn Waller

HOW DO I RECOGNIZE IT?

Human trafficking happens all around you. You can come into contact with a victim of modern day slavery every day and not even know it. I did! Andrea went to church with me and we sang in the choir together. She worked as a nanny for a lady

who sometimes came to our church. Looking back to that time I wonder how I could have been so blind to what was happening to this sweet young woman from the Philippines. It wasn't until after I began Triad Ladder of Hope that the blindfold came off and I realized Andrea was a victim of labor trafficking. Don't make the same mistake I made. One of the most important things you can do is educate yourself about modern day slavery. There are books, documentaries, organizations like ours who do community and professional training, and there is plenty of information on the internet. A lot of information can be found on great web sites with information on identifying victims of human trafficking. The US government's Rescue and Restore website has a free video and other materials you can order. You need to know what human trafficking is, how it happens and why it happens. On Triad Ladder of Hope's website, there is a note page on identifying victims. Education is the best tool for prevention. Talk to children, youth, and young adults about how easily they can be taken or lured away. Ministries to women on the streets and ladies who work in strip clubs are great ways to reach ladies. Street outreach and youth events can help identify and reach out to young girls and boys who are at risk or who are already victims of trafficking.

LOOK BEWETH THE SURFACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you see everyday.

Ask the right questions and look for clues. You are vital because you may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment, legal and interpretation services available to victims, but first they must be found.

If you think someone is a victim of trafficking, **call 1.888.3737.888**

For more information about human trafficking visit www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

Logos for the Department of Health and Human Services and the Rescue and Restore campaign are visible in the bottom right corner.

Victims can be internationals or North American citizens. They are either going to be in labor trafficking or sex trafficking; on a rare occasion they can be both. Although slavery is well hidden, it is also right out in the open. We have to look, listen and observe what is

going on around us, next door, at a restaurant where you eat, where you shop, beggars in front of a store or on the street, a young person knocking on your door selling magazines, etc. International victims will almost always have no identification papers, generally do not speak our language, do not know anything about the community or city where they are living, will appear frightened, will not look you in the eye, someone speaks for them, and will appear frightened. Victims are moved regularly so they do not become accustomed to where they are and cannot make friends. If you see an older man walking with a young girl, keeping her close to his side, she appears frightened, and he speaks for her, etc., those are indicators that this may be trafficking. If you ever suspect that someone is a victim do NOT approach him or her as the trafficker could be near. Get as much information as you can and call the US national human trafficking hot line or RCMP. Triad Ladder also has business cards with questions and the hotline number that you can slip in the hand of someone who may be a victim or you can leave it with a tip at a restaurant, tape it on the inside of bathroom doors.

Service providers need to be a human trafficking victim's advocate. Trafficking victims need someone

who will walk them through the healing and legal process, who will stand by them, love them and protect them. Confidentiality is a major issue as the trafficker will do their best to get them back. News media is always looking for this type of story. I caution you, do not let this happen. It will re-traumatize the victim. I would suggest that service providers take the course "Hands That Heal for Sex Trafficking Victims." It is faith-based and great training material for service providers, pastors and others working with rescued victims of slavery. Every time the victim has to tell what happened to them they are re-traumatized, living through the situation all over again. In working with victims of trafficking, we have to be sensitive to the trauma they have endured and the healing that needs to take place. Sex trafficking victims will need trauma counseling for the rest of their lives.

We recognize human trafficking by opening our hearts to the vulnerable and hurting all around us. A willingness to be sensitive to God's instruction to care for those in need and a love for all people will help us see what is right before our eyes. There is nothing more rewarding than standing in an airport with a survivor and watching as she hugs her children for the first time in five years. Each of us can be a part of ending slavery in our communities; everyone can do something to make a difference.

Sandra Johnson, President
Triad Ladder of Hope
High Point, N.C.
Sandra@triadladderofhope.org



HOTLINE:
USA / 1.888.373.888
In Canada, use the RCMP phone number.

We encourage
you to start making plans!

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

2015 BAPTIST WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

"Arise, Shine!"



July 18-21, 2015

FOURWAYS JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA!

Indaba Hotel & Conference Centre

Baptist World Alliance Congress

July 22-26, 2015

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA!

THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF BAPTIST CHRISTIANS.

- MISSIONS TRIP OPPORTUNITY -

There is Pre-Leadership Conference Missions trip opportunity leaving the US on July 15th. Please contact Carol Causey at CCausey@wmu.org for more information and keep an eye on the NABWU website for other possible trips as well!

*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 2013 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 2015? See the application guidelines and information posted at www.nabwu.org, or contact Lisa Lohnes at prayer@nabwu.org. The deadline for application is December 1, 2014.

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 2014 Day of Prayer program, prepared this year by the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America for worldwide use, continues the 2010-2015 theme, *In Step with the Spirit*, with an emphasis this year on Faithfulness. 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 137 countries and 239 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:



14 PRAYER GRANT RECIPIENTS!

Bridge for Hope \$2000

CWJC Wilmington, NC CBF & SBC
Life skills, career development and Bible study for impoverished women and their children.

Buying Sex is Not A Sport \$2500

Pan Am Games 2015
Canadian Baptist Women of Ont. & Que.
To raise awareness of human trafficking/ prostitution before, during, and after the Pan Am Games hosted in Ontario, Canada.

Earn While You Learn \$1500

Tri-County Pregnancy Centre
Yarmouth, NS - Atlantic Baptist Women
Parenting & Life Skills training for young mothers who are in low socio-economic circumstances.

Healthy Living on a Fixed Budget \$1000

Coverdale Centre, Saint John, NB
Atlantic Baptist Women
A Homeless Shelter / Halfway House for women that will provide life skills for healthy eating.

Here We Grow \$2000

St. Johns Bapt. Church, NJ - NBC, USA, Inc.
Job training/placement program for disadvantaged women, men, and youth.

Human Trafficking Victim Safe House \$3000

Triad Ladder of Hope (NC) - SBC
Provision for first safe house in the area of victims of human sex and labour trafficking.

Intelligent Love Phase 2 \$2000

REED, Vancouver, BC - Women in Focus
Equipping churches to address the root causes of Sex Trafficking & prevent exploitation of women and girls.



**Your project has been selected to
receive a grant from
the NABWU 2014 Day of Prayer
offerings.**

Congratulations!

**2015 Leadership Academy
for Girls \$2000**

American Baptist Women's Ministries
5-day event for girls (grades 6-12) with spiritual
growth and leadership skills development.

**Life Skills Training Individual
Empowerment Program \$2000**

CWJC Morristown, TN - WMU
Social/job skills training for women and emotional
development program for children.

Mary Magdalene Ministry \$1500

Gateway Baptist Church, BC
Women in Focus
Christmas hampers and other needs for women
in sex trade and their children.

Oasis Ministry \$2000

Savannah Baptist Center, GA - SBC
Locker storage, laundry, and shower facilities for
homeless women with plans for job training.

**Sanctuary By the
Sea Retreat \$1500**

All Hands In, (MA)
American Baptist Women
A 3-day retreat for women survivors of sexual
exploitation and human trafficking.

Thornhill Caregivers \$2000

Thornhill Baptist Church (ON)
Canadian Baptist Women of Ont. & Que.
Support for live-in caregivers who are temporary
workers or potential permanent residents in
Canada.

Women's Prison Ministries \$2000

WMU (NC)
Annual 3-day prison retreat for incarcerated
women with follow-up mentors.



Be a Story Changer!

*How Your Day of Prayer Offering
Will Transform Lives*

Lisa Lohnes, VP Prayer

For over 60 years, Baptist women across the world have set aside a special time each year to gather together to support one another in prayer and in ministry. Through their prayers and financial giving, Baptist women have become story changers in the lives of vulnerable women and children. As they have prayed, the love of God has compelled them to reach out and share His love with the hurting and marginalized in practical ways. Dignity has been restored and identity in Christ has been discovered. Day of Prayer offerings help support such ministries.

Here are some of the lives whose stories have been changed through the help of Day of Prayer offerings:

1. *Karole, who gave up her children because of her addiction, received help and discovered the power of prayer. Her relationship with her children was fully restored.*
2. *Adella, an isolated immigrant who knew no one and no English, received the spiritual support and confidence she needed through a support group.*
3. *Sonia is enjoying spending more time with her 4 boys after taking a 12 week program for single mothers on homemaking.*
4. *Emma learned about forgiveness and how to have fun at a summer camp for girls with incarcerated parents.*

Our God is the God of the vulnerable, the disadvantaged, the lost and the hurting. Nothing and no one is beyond His reach. All are His beloved. You, too, can be a story changer for Him. Your Day of Prayer offering will make a difference!

What Should I Do?

Tomi Glover, Founder

Traffick Stop

Responding to human trafficking must begin with prayer. Prayer is the work; ministry is the reward. Goals of prayer should be for those involved and our personal response.

Persons engaged in human trafficking, as a perpetrator, victim, or consumers need our intercession. Secondly, prayer should reveal our responsibility to respond and how we can change our contributing behaviors.

God knows us best. He has given us experiences, which allow us to effectively respond. We cannot simply expect someone else to tell us what to do but we must truly seek God's purposes through us.

As we seek the Lord's direction, we must listen for His divine direction. He will help us to find a place of service fitting our skills and passions. For example, after God spoke at the burning bush, Moses assembled the Elders. They went to the desert for three days of prayer and fasting. Their desert experience provided an opportunity to listen for God's instructions about appealing to Pharaoh. (Exodus 3)

God had prepared Moses his whole life for this assignment. Our uniqueness will not be wasted either. Additionally, we must be ready to learn from others. We will need to know what the specific issues in trafficking are and how we can respond appropriately.

Our response should include developing a holistic strategy including partnerships with those who do prevention, intervention, education, and real solution-focused aftercare or restoration. Trafficking is a complex problem and it will take a robust multi-faceted response.

If God has given you a passion to help with the issues of trafficking, Tomi Grover, an educator in human trafficking, is willing and happy to give you personal input. Tomi is the founder of TraffickStop and has much experience in this area. You can telephone her at 214-418-8318 or email her at tomi@tomigrover.com.



What Shouldn't I Do?

After researching the issue of human trafficking in 2005, my eyes were knocked wide open! I could no longer be ignorant of the enemy's actions, destroying people with the horrific crime against humanity, known as human trafficking. Compelled by the words of Psalm 94:16, I prayerfully began seeking opportunities to "rise up". After viewing the documentary, Very Young Girls, members of the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church of Philadelphia were compelled to join the fight and "do something" about the issue. Preparing those who care, to become competent to serve is extremely important. Learning what not to do is equally as important as learning what to do. Through prayer we learned to become sensitive to the ways in which we advocate for this target group. We increased our awareness of the issues affecting those we serve. You should never go into any situation blind; refine your outreach efforts to navigate the community better. Victimization by traffickers creates distrust. Never make decisions for those who need help; trust is a big issue. Those we serve will be easily shamed and or alienated; hone your communication skills. Cultural differences affect interactions; administer competent care and do no harm. Understand some may not be receptive to help because they fear for their families.

When providing the hotline number, do it discretely.

Many organizations print hotline information on personal care items, like combs, lip balm, toothbrushes, soap and lotion labels. Discretion is always of the utmost importance. The Lord Jesus is calling His Church...Will you rise up?

I am more than willing to share information.

Ellyn Jo Waller, Ed.D.
She's My Sister Ministry
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19150
215-276-7200 x1031
firstlady@enontab.org



DIGNITY: A GOD GIVEN RIGHT!

Women want dignity that comes with freedom. The work of the Kingdom by the Spirit is lifting the veil that perpetuates the lie that we have no freedom: no freedom to live out who we are, no freedom to dream, no freedom to know the dignity of our femininity, no freedom to express creature-hood in the image of God, no freedom to leave the prisons created for us by others who power over us. No freedom for justice and mercy. What women want is what each person wants, the dignity to be free. And that is the work of NABWU.

WWW.NABWU.ORG 9

58th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women NEW YORK

Baptist World Alliance is a United Nations' recognized NGO. Because of that, BWA Women's Department has 20 passes available each year for those chosen to attend the Commission on the Status of Women which is held each March at the UN in New York.

Three NABWU women attended this year. What a privilege to join with women from all over the world as we not only heard about the difficult women's issues such as domestic violence, poverty, sexual objectification, and more, but we also heard amazing stories of women, women like you and me, who were addressing these problems head on and making a difference!



If you are interested in attending next year, please contact NABWU President, Moreen Sharp at president@nabwu.org

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS:

2 Samuel 13:1-20

Tamar's Story

Angelita Clifton, VP Communications

How does Tamar's Story speak to the issues of modern day slavery? I'm glad you asked! While this passage speaks to the succession of Kings, the wages of sin become visible, listening to Tamar's voice. Her story reveals that the royal family's reaction was wrong. We can deduce how they responded to Tamar's victimization then, is similar to how society responds to victims of human trafficking today. We discover failing to address the concerns of trafficking victims and their victimizers, increases exploitation.

Lets begin by examining Tamar's status. She is a young woman; scholars argue approximately fifteen, who is smart, aware of the politics of her day, not afraid to speak her mind, a skilled negotiator and a royal princess. She is an advocate for herself and her half-brother. She attempts to both convict and convince Amnon, not to commit such a disgraceful act. Her cry for help is for them both.

We learn Amnon with his lusty desires, disguised briefly as love, violated his half-sister's trust and physically abused her body. His selfishness led him to dominate his sister and manipulate other family members, while pleasing himself. His actions created a ripple effect, changing everything for everyone.

We learn Jonadab's deceitfulness, disguised as aid for his cousin, fuels the issue. He played an active role in the plot, motivated by his selfish intentions. He devised a plan to meet one family member's needs at the expense of another.

We learn Absalom, who loved his sister, demanded Tamar's silence refusing to address the issue until it was advantageous for him.

We learn the most about King David. He loved his firstborn son, so much he did not address the harm perpetuated against his daughter. David had the power and the authority, but did nothing. He was outraged, but chose not to respond. He valued one family member more than the other.

This case study identifies some important issues for us today. Do we see ourselves in any of these roles? Can we help, but like King David choose to deny any assistance? Are we like Amnon? Do our wants get in the way of doing what's right? Do we listen to the voices of the modern day Jonadab, believing victims of human trafficking are merely a means to an end? Have we been deluded, yet again? Do we believe as long as our needs are addressed, we need not be concerned with what happens to other family members? Do we behave like our brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters of God, simply do not matter?

Tamar's story gives voice to all victims of exploitation while helping us to understand the roles that victimizers play. Tamar sounds the alert, disturbing our beliefs to deliver us from exploitive behaviors. She is our reminder that we have a responsibility to be aware of our surroundings advocating for the voiceless. She speaks to how our inactivity, individually and collectively, perpetuates injustice by reinforcing the invisible chains of modern day slavery.

Finally, this biblical case study reveals why violating the sacred trust of God causes everyone to suffer. Tamar's story identifies how human failure leads to the demise of the entire family. Much like the victims of modern day slavery, Tamar was lured and ensnared by the societal structures of the day, for the purpose of exploitation. Her story is like many victims of human trafficking who are trying to take care of their families and improve the quality of their lives but end up being exploited. With this new awareness, I will ask one final question, what does the Lord require of you?

CHAT & CHEW

The Networking Luncheon

Lucretia Mobbs

Next Door Ministries, Nashville, TN



What do laughter, hugs, fascinating stories, and good food have in common? They are all part of a NABWU Networking Luncheon. A group of NABWU women from Middle Tennessee gathered in Nashville at the invitation of Ruby Fulbright, Vice President of Networking, Leadership and Mentoring. Our group also included NABWU officers Moreen Sharp, Darlene McGilberry, Ruby Fulbright, Angelita Clifton, and Lisa Lohnes. We gathered, on that cold November day, in the lovely private dining room of a downtown Nashville restaurant. Being women, we immediately began to network and learn about one another's ministries. Some of us worked with women leaving incarceration. Others worked with women in prison. Some worked with widows. Christian Women and Christian Men's Job Corps was represented. It was fascinating to discover, as we shared about our ministries, that each of us had a need that another could meet. There was laughter, excitement,

and praises to the Lord for His drawing us together through NABWU. Lisa Lohnes prayed a blessing over each one to close our time together. It was a beautiful gift from the leadership of NABWU. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know my Middle Tennessee NABWU sisters better and for the opportunity to pray for their personal needs. I left encouraged, excited, and energized to continue the work God called me to do. When a NABWU Networking opportunity comes your way, take it and be blessed my sisters, be blessed.

Networking Women

NABWU believes that together we are stronger. One of the benefits of collaborating together with our 16 member bodies, is connecting women who are working in similar ministries. The women featured are all working in anti-human trafficking initiatives. These women share God's heart and spread His love as they work in their challenging field. They could use our prayer support. If you would like to help any of these ministries financially, please contact them directly.



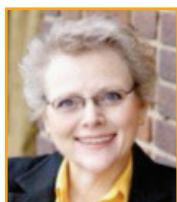
Angelita Clifton
Summit, NJ
WISE
Lott Carey Convention



Lakeeyna Cooper
Raleigh, NC
WISE
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Woman's Missionary Union has never shied away from hard issues. When no one else in the church was talking about racial reconciliation, how to minister to AIDS patients, helping people transition back to society from prison and the issue of poverty, the women of WMU were not only talking about those issues, but they were leading the way in loving and serving the hurting.

It was no surprise in 2010 when WMU introduced a new focus on Human Exploitation, calling women to action to end modern-day slavery. Georgia WMU embraced this challenge and set out to learn how human trafficking was affecting our state. What we discovered in those first months of research was shocking. Atlanta, our capital city, was one of fourteen cities identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a major hub for the commercial, sexual,

FEARLESS...

exploitation of children (CSEC). On a typical night in Georgia over 100 girls are sexually exploited, with the average age being 14 years old. As we became aware we knew we had to move to action.

Georgia WMU began to network with ministries, government and law enforcement to help eradicate CSEC. We joined those who were already hard at work helping victims and working for better legislation to assist them. We were asked to accept a special assignment. Human trafficking activity was taking place in Georgia hotels. Some hotel managers were aware, but many were not. The need was for hotel managers to be educated on how to recognize

and report CSEC. Georgia WMU launched The Child Safe Zone Project, equipping women to talk with hotel managers in their own communities about the issue. We continue to work toward the goal of visiting every hotel in Georgia. The women of Georgia stand fearless to face this issue in our state and to do whatever it takes to protect our children.

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