

In Step with the Spirit



November 7, 2011 Leader's Guide

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The Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is composed of 7 Continental Unions representing 235 national Baptist women's organizations from 136 countries. The 2011 program has been prepared by the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union.



BWA Women's Department
405 N. Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22046 USA
Tel: +1 (703) 790-8980
Fax: +1 (703) 903-9544
Email: womenbwa@bwanet.org
Web: www.bwawd.org

Baptist Women's World Day Of Prayer

Through the Fruit of the Spirit KINDNESS

We continue this year *In Step with the Spirit* based on Galatians 5:25; "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." The focus this year is on the fruit of the Spirit, **Kindness**. On November 7, 2011 Baptist women from around the world will come together to study God's word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ.

The Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU) has prepared this year's program. Over the past few years the Caribbean Islands have been impacted by a series of natural disasters such as hurricanes and an earthquake in Haiti, which have left thousands orphaned, homeless, grief-stricken and traumatized. These disasters occur in vastly different places and among different populations, yet they share a common factor: during and afterwards, women and children suffer the most.

Women face disturbing and negative trends in a variety of ways:

- Women are far more likely to die than men. Children are also at greater risk.
- Women are at increased risk of violence. In the chaos and social breakdown that accompany natural disasters, women become uniquely vulnerable to sexual abuse, including rape and gang rape. Domestic violence also increases.
- Women do not receive necessary health care. Displaced women frequently lack access to specific female health needs and even undergarments and sanitary supplies.
- Women experience ongoing economic vulnerability. Women are especially likely to work in the agricultural industry or the informal economy, both of which tend to be heavily impacted by natural disasters.

(The above information comes from the United Nations Development Fund for Women – UNIFEM.)

In last year's Day of Prayer program we studied Ephesians 4:32 where we learned that kindness is an attribute of a woman who shows a good disposition towards others. She is not weak or lacking of convictions, but one who has a peaceful character. She is someone who is willing to put other's needs before her own. She shows love in small actions and small words of understanding.

Does this describe you? How can kindness make a difference? On this special day of prayer let us come together as Baptist women and study God's word, pray, give and learn from our Caribbean sisters how we can be filled with kindness through being "In Step with the Spirit," and make a world of difference.

Patsy Davis, Executive Director
BWA Women's Department

In Step with the Spirit – President’s Greeting



Raquel Contreras, President
BWA Women Department

My dear sisters:

It is a tremendous joy, but at the same time a humbling moment, for me to address you in a day as important as the World Day of Prayer. As a child I went with my mother to my home church where we took part in this special day. I always had the feeling that this was an occasion that transcended the regular women’s meeting at church and even my own country.

In a society like ours full of emergencies and urgent moments, prayer seems to be outside our regular conduct. Somehow we have accepted the idea that it is more important “to do” many things than pray. Prayer is only for those moments when we do not have anything else to do. This is why, among other reasons, the World Day of Prayer is so important. It has become a discipline for Baptist women around the world. Every first Monday in November we stop everything we do to pray for one another. It is in this moment with our hands open towards heaven that we say that without God there is nothing that we could do. Prayer is the way to the heart of God and also the heart of the world. In prayer we find the hope that we need to keep going in this world full of many needs and difficulties.

This year as we are “In Step with the Spirit through Kindness” let’s take a small step every day, like a baby,

to show kindness to everybody, one person at a time.

Kindness is one of the core principles of Christianity. Jesus commands us in John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” It is through love that we show kindness, and it is in this way that everybody will come to know Jesus. This year as we pray for each other around the world let’s remember to lift everybody in prayer, so we can show loving kindness to all, so the Kingdom of God will grow.

It is my personal prayer that this day will be a tremendous blessing to your community of faith, and at the same time the world will be blessed because of the faithfulness shown in the prayer of the Baptist women around the world.

*In Christ our Lord,
Raquel Contreras
President
BWA Women’s Department*

Views from the Caribbean . . .

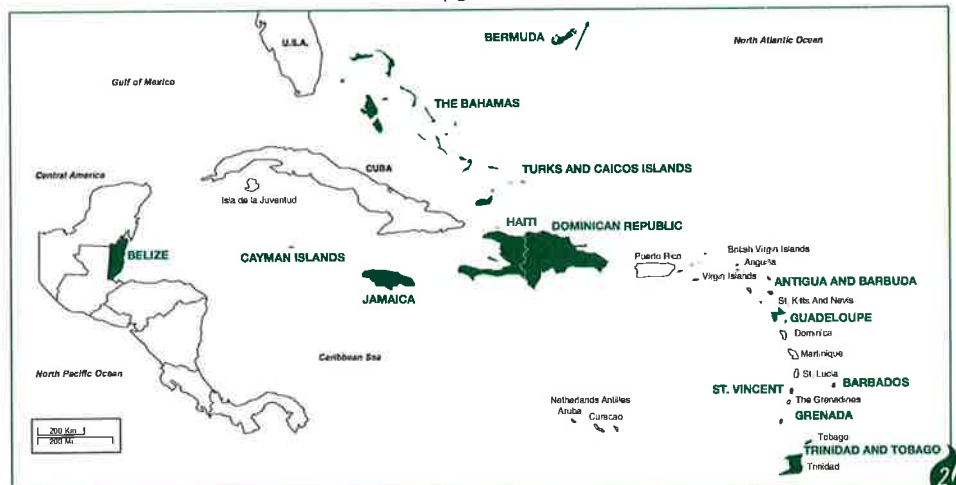
The Caribbean Baptist Women’s Union (CBWU) is the seventh Continental Union of the BWA Women’s Department. It had its genesis in January 2000 in Melbourne, Australia at the Leadership Conference. This continental union is composed of fourteen islands starting with Bermuda in the north to Trinidad and Tobago in the south. This union represents a diversity of races, ethnic backgrounds and cultures. The richness, beauty and vibrancy of our membership are reflected in the varied languages, development and topography. The tie that binds us together is our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the power of prayer. Our experience stemming from the days of slavery is a major touching point in our cultures.

The Caribbean Islands are called the West Indies because when Christopher Columbus landed here in 1492 he believed that he had reached the Indies (in Asia). The Caribbean region has an estimated population of over 38 million, with Cuba and Haiti being

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Yvonne Pitter
President, CBWU



Plan Your Day Of Prayer

- It is time to be *In Step with the Spirit* and plan the 2011 Day of Prayer program. Don't wait another day to pray, plan and organize.
- The leader's guide is specially prepared to be used by the Day of Prayer planning team.
- Open with prayer and music related to the focus *Fruit of the Spirit Kindness*.
- Have someone prepare the disturbing and negative trends of women found on page 1 as a radio news announcer. Each point could be a special bulletin.
- The president of the Women's Department, Raquel Contreras, is from Chile. Have one of your Latin American women pretend that she is Raquel and present the president's greeting.
- Have a map or make a map that shows the 14 different islands in the Caribbean. Write the names of each island on an outline of a foot or use the *In Step with the Spirit* logo foot. Have different women place the footprints on the corresponding island as the views about the Caribbean are shared. If there are women from the Caribbean in your group use them to share their views about the Caribbean.
- Ask different women to carry out the suggestions for the bible study and prayer guide. Make sure you do this ahead of time.
- Ask two women ahead of time to prepare the two testimonies and present them as if they were the person. Please do not read the information. If there are any women in the group who have lived through similar situations, have them to share their testimony about what happened.
- Explanation of the logo:



The Holy Spirit warming the hearts of Baptist women in order that they will be in step with Him. (Galatians 5:25)

- The Day of Prayer is for all Baptist women. Think of creative ways to include the women of your church, association, regional organization or other. Make special invitations in the shape of a foot. On a bulletin board place a world map, and on the map write Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. Cut out large footprints and put the date, time and place for the meeting.
- Check the Women's Department website, www.bwawd.org the end of May or first of June for additional information such as; DOP program in PDF format, brief history of the DOP, DOP project reports, theme song, and other information to enhance your program.

In Step with the Spirit through Prayer

1. Remove the prayer guide from the center of the leadership guide and make enough copies for all the attendees.
2. Prayer Walk Around the World – prepare 8 areas representing the 7 Continental Unions and the BWA Women's Department (BWA WD) and BWA. Have either 8 churches or 8 women to prepare each area with information and pictures about the Continental Union, BWA WD and BWA. One woman would be assigned to each of the 8 areas in order to lead in the prayer time. Divide the larger group into 8 small groups and assign them to one of the areas. This would be the beginning point for the prayer walk. They would stay in an area to pray, using the prayer guide, for 10 minutes and then move on to the next area. The leader of the program will be the person to indicate when it is time to move on to the next area. The prayer walk is completed when the small group returns to its beginning point.

Highlight the Offering

The offerings on this day support the continental and worldwide ministries of the BWA Women's Department. Indeed, the Department depends on this one-day offering as its main source of income.

Have a special offering plate, basket or box centrally located at the front on a table. Arrange the table with flowers and pictures of women from around the world. In keeping with the theme, "In Step with the Spirit," have the women walk to the front and deposit their offering in the designated place. As the women walk forward soft music can be playing.

Encourage the women to give double the amount given last year. Be sure those attending know that the offering they give will join together with Baptist women's offerings from the 7 continental unions in order to impact our world for Christ.

the largest islands of over 5 million each in population. Our sister island Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. Over 300,000 persons died. The Caribbean responded with quick dispatch. The rest of the world responded in commendable ways. As Baptist women come together for the 2011 Day of Prayer let us stay *In Step with the Spirit*. Let us use the fruit of the Spirit, kindness, to reach out to persons in need such as our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are still suffering. Many of them are still living in temporary shelters and lack much needed medical supplies, food and potable water.

The act of praying, whether alone or with others, can lead to renewal of hope, healing and strengthening. Indeed women praying around the world can become part of our extended family of faith. The Spirit of Christ is a great teacher and encourager, and so let us use the power of prayer to come against the persistent worldwide problem of poverty, economic recession and disparities, violence, domestic abuse – especially child abuse, new and emerging diseases, natural disasters worldwide, and unemployment. In these situations the power of prayer cannot be over stated.

As Christian women we should desire that our entire life be *In Step with the Spirit*. Let us be slaves to righteousness. We are led by the Spirit for the glory of God and by His grace. The gift of *kindness* is the gift of serving with compassion. Most Christians can offer kindness, those who are gifted offer the kindness of God to others, therefore volunteering for those ministries that reach out to people who are in a crisis situation or who don't have a place to call home. The gift of kindness is to offer the love of God to others. Let us offer this love to those who have suffered greatly from natural disasters such as Haiti.

We can make a world of difference as we are *In Step with the Spirit*.

Yvonne Pitter – President, CBWU

1. *The Lovely Things of the Spirit*

Just as in previous verses of this chapter Paul set out the evil things which are characteristics of the flesh, so now he sets out the lovely things which are the fruit of the spirit; Kindness being the fifth fruit.



2. *Kindness Defined*

Kindness is “virtue equipped at every point” (William Barkley – Letter to the Gal & Eph pp56).

Some other definitions are as follows:

- The steadfast love that maintains relationships through gracious aid in times of need.
- Goodness of heart, serviceable, good, gracious and pleasant.
- Love for mankind, hospitality, acts of kindness, readiness to help, human friendship, benevolence, taking thought of others.
- Goodness in action, sweetness of disposition, gentleness in dealing with others, affability.
- The ability to act for the welfare of those taxing your patience.

As you can see from some of these different definitions, this is a very beautiful, self-giving quality to have transmitted into your soul and personality by the Holy Spirit. Not only should you be able to touch others with this Godly quality, but you will also be able to touch yourself – because you will feel so much better about yourself if you can learn how to treat others with much more kindness and respect in your daily dealings and affairs with them.

PART A: **Old Testament Women Showing Kindness in Times of Disaster**

God used Ruth and Boaz to feed Naomi – Ruth 2:19-23

Women in the Old Testament were powerful witness to God's self-sacrificing love by their kindness.

Ruth and Orpah the Moabites, Naomi's daughters-in-law, had shown kindness not only to their deceased husbands but to their mother-in-law in her time of crisis when famine, a natural disaster in the land of Judah forced her to seek refuge and help in the land of Moab.

Their commitment represented true faithfulness involving more than just loyalty and love. It was a loving, loyal, steadfast kindness that maintained the relationship by going beyond what was required and expected.

We must strive to show such faithfulness and kindness to others in our own personal relationships and beyond.

Questions

1. Did Boaz’s kindness exceed the demands of the law? Do you often do only what is expected or do you go the second mile to help someone in need?
2. How do these common, every day persons challenge us today to match their extraordinary kindness, especially in times of natural disaster such as the 2010 earthquake and flooding in Haiti?



PART B:

New Testament Outstanding Woman Known for Her Kind Deed – Dorcas

Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas spent her life in acts of kindness and charity. She was full of the love of God and was given to good works.

When we study the life of Jesus in the New Testament we are convinced that He was the epitome of kindness. He was without question, the ultimate role model for all of us, of someone who was fully walking and operating in all 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Passages

Galatians 5:22-26

Matthew 7:17-20

Ruth 2:19-23

Proverbs 31:26

2 Corinthians 6:6

Acts 9:36-43

Living the Lesson

1. List on a card three acts of kindness you can extend to a family who lost all their belongings in a recent disaster in your community.
2. In two sentences tell the person sitting next to you what real kindness is all about.

Reward for Being Kind

If you do this you will live for many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.
– Proverbs 3:2-4

Suggestions Presenting the Bible Study



1. Introduction : Write the different definitions of kindness on footprints.
Have 6 women read the definitions and then place them in the front of the room to show Baptist women *In Step with the Spirit* through Kindness.
2. In advance, ask a woman to come prepared to present a monologue (dramatic presentation) of Ruth based on Ruth 2:19-23. She should come dressed as Ruth and act out the story.
3. After the presentation the leader could ask the questions that are found in the program.
4. Have a local Baptist woman share a testimony about showing kindness in times of a disaster.
5. In advance, ask a woman to come prepared to present a monologue (dramatic presentation) of Dorcas based on Acts 9:36-43. She should come dressed as Dorcas and act out the story.
6. Have a local Baptist woman share a testimony about acts of kindness and charity.
7. The leader could choose different women to read the additional Bible passages depending on the time allotted for the program. They should be given the information ahead of time in order to be prepared.
8. Have enough index cards for everyone present. The leader would ask the first question of the “Living the Lesson,” and then give time for everyone to answer the question. The leader would then proceed to the second “Living the Lesson.”

Testimonies

Hurricane Gilbert Ravaged Jamaica

Verona Ricketts, Vice President – JBWF



In September 1988, Hurricane Gilbert struck Jamaica. This powerful system ravaged the entire island and left behind a state of devastation. There was loss of life, loss of home and property, and much suffering all around.

Porus Primary School in Manchester, where I served as

Principal was one of the public buildings identified to be used to provide shelter for some of those who became homeless and destitute.

Of course, the accommodation was nothing to compare with the comforts of a home. However, the very young, the very old, middle-aged and youths sought shelter at this institution. No electricity, very limited water supply, scarcity of food, and lack of clothing were some of the challenges encountered.

Working closely with the shelter manager, a wonderful family affair was soon to be established at this shelter. Serving our brothers and sisters was delightful. All facilities at the school that could be used to provide comfort for those in the shelter were made available. This place became a home away from home.

Throughout the period there was a wonderful demonstration of love, caring, sharing, understanding, cooperation, unity, harmony, humility, patience and friendship. In a practical way, persons came to understand more clearly, ways in which God provides for His people – especially in times of difficulty. Even when things seemed hopeless, each day dawned with a new glimmer of hope.

This natural disaster provided me with an opportunity to offer assistance that demanded my time, talent, and treasure to my brothers and sisters who were in dire need.

Let us continue to seek ways in which we can be 'In Step with the Spirit' by demonstrating the fruits of the spirit through Kindness, as we live our lives daily.

After the shelter was closed and I looked back at the experiences shared, I was able to say – "God will turn what seems to harm us into everlasting joy"



God Grants Extraordinary Courage

Kihomi Ngwemi, Coordinator of the Women's Association – Haiti



Dieulitha in the hospital accompanied by Kihomi.

Kihomi Ngwemi is a missionary in Haiti. After the devastating earthquake in Haiti she was visiting the earthquake victims that had been relocated in hospitals in the northern part of Haiti. She shares the following testimony of sister Dieulitha.

Dieulitha is a lady from Carrefour Dent, in Miragoane area, in the southern part of Haiti. The day of the earthquake in Haiti, this lady nurse-teacher went to Miragoane city to buy some goodies to resell in order to make ends meet. After she finished buying, she was on her way to go find a tap tap (a pickup truck used for public transport) to return to her village. Before she made two steps the earth moved violently and she was down almost dead. The depot collapsed killing many people right there. She was picked up and piled up with the rest of the dead people.

A young boy went to see, out of curiosity, and found that one of the dead was actually the lady teacher, Dieulitha, from his village. God gave that boy an extraordinary courage and force to pick up the almost dead lady and take her to the hospital. She was in the hospital in Miragoane for two days, and after that she was taken to Les Cayes hospital where they were not able to help her. Two weeks later she was taken to a Dominican Republic hospital where Korean and American doctors operated. She was in a coma twice. She was transferred to Milot after months in the Dominican hospital. Milot is near the capital city of Cap-Haitien. In the Milot hospital she met somebody she knew years ago. That old friend advised her not to stay in

Triumph in Times of Difficulty

the hospital in Milot because they had too many patients. The Haitian Baptist Convention hospital in Quartier Morin offered much better care than anywhere else.

Dieulita has a broken spine. She was laid up for almost eight months and developed bed sores on her back. She now can sit up with the help of someone. The doctors wanted to amputate both legs but she would not let them do so. She still believes that God will restore her legs to their full use like the sick person at the swimming pool who was healed after thirty-eight years (John 5:1-9).

Dieulita is paralyzed from the waist down but in a cheerful mood. She is married and has three children who are 2, 6 and 8 years old.

You cannot be here and visit these patients, but your prayers mean more to the victims in midst of the crisis of their life. The earthquake has destroyed the country and many church buildings, but not their faith. Please continue to pray for our Haitian brothers and sisters especially for Dieulitha – that her health will be restored.



Dieulitha leaving the hospital with her husband, accompanied by Kihomi.

2011 Day of Prayer Projects

Haiti Earthquake Relief – Micro-Business Loan

*Haitian Baptist Convention Women's
Association*

Description of Project:

The earthquake of January 2010 has left many Haitian women and families in an even poorer state than they were before. This project will train 30 women to operate a micro-business and then use the profit to support their families. The capital will be refunded in four months to the Haitian Baptist Women's Association in order to train more women. A number of seminars will be implemented to equip the women.

Training in Agricultural Skills

Jamaica Baptist Women's Federation

Description of Project:

Training in agricultural skills will include:

- 1) Farming (backyard gardening) with a focus on "cash crops"
- 2) Animal husbandry; rearing of goats, pigs and chickens to include a revolving scheme.

The purpose of the project is to help poorer families be self-supporting.

Continental Union Special Project Fund

BWA Women's Department Executive Board

Description of Project:

This fund may be used to assist any Continental Union in a special project or event on the Continental Union level.





Send Offering Receipts to the Appropriate Continental Union

North American Baptist Women's Union
P.O. Box 234
Alden, KS 67512-0234
(For Canada, send offerings as directed by your convention.)

Asian Baptist Women's Union

Account Name: ASIAN BAPTIST WOMENS UNION INC.
Account Number: 159-2-15903048-7
Account Type: Savings, USD Bank
Name: METROBANK (Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company)
Bank Address: ADB Branch, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City Metro Manila, Philippines
Zip Code: 1550
Bank Phone: (632) 632-4141
SWIFT BIC: MBTCPHMM

Caribbean Baptist Women's Union

Dr. Clover Jarrett, Treasurer
CBWU
6 Mercury Blvd. Mercury Gardens
P.O. Box 777
Spanish Town
St. Catherine, Jamaica

European Baptist Women's Union

Account Number: 272728
Bank Name: Spar-und Kreditbank Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden eG
BIC: GENODE51BH2
Postgach 1262
61282 Bad Homburg
Tel: 06172/9806-0

Baptist Women's Union of Africa

Email BWUA Treasurer Mrs. Peju Fajobi at: pejufaj@yahoo.co.uk for information on how and where to wire your offering or email: womenbwa@bwanet.org for the information.

Baptist Women's Union of Latin America (UFBAL)

Email UFBAL Treasurer Ofelia Rendon de Tapuy at: luz_ofely@yahoo.es for information on how and where to wire to wire your offering or email: womenbwa@bwanet.org for the information.

Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific

Judith Searle
P.O. Box 189R
Redlynch QLD 4870
Australia
Ph: 61 7 4033 0586
VOIP: 61 7 4015 2789
Fax: 61 7 3102 8548
Email: judith@searleconsulting.net

International Officers 2010-2015

President: Raquel R. Contreras
Email: raquel.ced@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:
Donna Groover
Email: dgroover@verizon.net

Executive Director: Patsy Davis
Email: patsy@bwanet.org

Vice Presidents:

Africa: Motunrayo Adegbilero
Email: livingmiracle2002@yahoo.com

Asia: Sook Jae Lee
Email: kbwmu@chol.com

Caribbean: Yvonne Pitter
Email: jypitter@hotmail.com

Europe: Livija Lame
Email: livija.lame@lbs.lv

Latin America:
Marlene Baltazar da Nobrega Gomes
Email: marlenebaltazar@uol.com.br

North America: Linda Weber
Email: president@nabwu.org

South West Pacific: Julie Belding
Email: julie@belding.co.nz

BWA Women's Department Ministry Resources

For detailed information on how to order the following books email womenbwa@bwanet.org; Fax: +1-703-903-9544 or call +1-703-790-8980 Ext. 149.

Coming Together – A History of the Women's Department, BWA

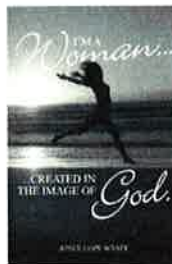
by Esther Barnes



The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all the women of the world. For over a century, this conviction has brought women from many countries together across barriers of geography, culture, language, and war. They have prayed for each other, supported each other, delighted in each other, and learned from each other. They have addressed issues that concern women around the world, and offered dignity to those who do not know they are made in the image of God. Together, they radiate the light of Christ into the dark corners of women's experience. Order now to read all the exciting stories.

I'm a Woman...Created in the Image of God

by Joyce Cope Wyatt



This book is for women in all stages of life. Based on the firm foundation of being created in God's image, it decries the myth of women's inferiority and incapacity to excel in the multiple tasks and roles of modern life. Originally published in Spanish, this book enables women to use the Bible, as well as aids from social science and psychology to learn the importance of relationships as developed in four major themes: Relationship with God; the opposite sex; family; and the world. Aids for study and reflection are included both for private and group use. Order now for special women you know.

Free from Violence in the Family

by Amparo de Medina



Domestic Violence effects families everywhere, and is a silent killer. Give families the courage they need to speak up. Order Dr. Amparo de Medina's excellent and instructive book and see for yourself the facts shared and solutions suggested. Share the book with leaders in your church, community, region, national and continental unions.