#### **BAPTIST WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA**

Give online at bwna.today or mail checks to: PMB # 845 | 6333 E Mockingbird Ln 147 | Dallas, TX 75214 USA

Our 2025 theme is "Living the Good News" drawn from Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

**Resourcing:** Visit our website (<u>BWAWombwaen.org</u>) to find a variety of Day of Prayer resources – including testimonies, Bible studies, a participant prayer guide, prayers from women around the world, and a 30-day prayer calendar.

#### **ABOUT BWA WOMEN**

In 1950, the establishment of a Women's Committee was formally approved by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and heartily endorsed by the 10,000 women from 21 nations in attendance at the Baptist World Congress that year. Through God's faithfulness, the ministry has grown significantly over the years in both scope and depth.

Networking across seven Continental Unions that encompass more than 175 women's unions and organizations, BWA Women is now a worldwide community of women in over 150 countries impacting the world for Christ. With a vision to see women everywhere thriving and serving, BWA Women facilitates connections for global engagement and develops resources for global impact, including the mobilization of the annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. Together we are part of the Baptist World Alliance, a network of 53 million Baptists and 178,000 church Our logo is a reflection of the diversity of Baptist women across the globe, with each union recognized by one of seven colors. Each Continental Union is not a pillar standing alone, but

journalism students, we were taught to search for a "scoop," but the media today has become even more driven to be the first with "breaking news."

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The news flash is that this steady stream of negative content is damaging our mental health. Studies show that constant exposure can heighten anxiety, cause stress, and even activate the body's fight-or-flight response. If ever the world needed good news, it is now.

Thankfully, as followers of Christ, we have the best news of all. In Luke 4, we find the ultimate front-page news. The Jewish people were living under the oppression of the Roman government and pharisaical pressure from their own religious leaders, leaving the people desperate for a Savior to arrive on the scene. In this context, Jesus steps into the synagogue in Nazareth and is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Verse 20 says "the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him" as he read a passage that prophesied about the long-awaited Messiah:

rather a community unified around our shared love for Jesus Christ – represented by the white cord that unites us in our shared mission.

#### **CORE MINISTRY AREAS**

Together, we are a global sisterhood impacting the world for Christ through biblical community, leadership development, and advocacy shaped by our five core ministry areas.

## STRENGTHENING Worship, Fellowship, and Unity

Centered in Jesus Christ and rooted in deep spiritual life, we strengthen our worldwide family through ongoing gatherings; pastoral presence; mutual friendships; and the cultivation of worship, fellowship, and unity.

## **LEADING Mission and Evangelism**

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Compelled by the Great Commission, we lead with a passionate commitment to Gospel witness in every context and people group; foster multidirectional partnerships that connect individuals and churches; and encourage global mission and evangelism.

## RESPONDING through Aid, Relief, and Community Development

Challenged to generously love our neighbor, we respond to people in need; collaborate in times of crisis; network agencies; support sustainability and creation care; build capacity; empower local church engagement; and resource aid, relief, and community development.

### DEFENDING Religious Freedom, Human Rights, and Justice

Committed to a biblical understanding of the image of God in every person, we defend an ethic of life; support religious freedom for all; stand in solidarity with the marginalized; advocate at every level; train and network proactively; and mobilize for religious freedom, human rights, and justice.

## ADVANCING Theological Reflection and Transformational Leadership

Called to discipleship, we advance multicultural and multilingual training; empower next generation leaders; encourage meaningful dialogue and praxis; and engage in relevant theological reflection and transformational leadership.

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## LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

## A Bible Study from BWA Women Executive Director Merritt Johnston

While pursuing my university studies, I served as the editor of our campus newspaper. In that role, I led editorial meetings where story ideas were shared, current events discussed, and the weekly content determined. As

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## **GLOBAL MINISTRY PROJECTS**

## STRENGTHENING Worship, Fellowship, and Unity

**GLOBAL:** Through the annual Day of Prayer and other global and continental events, we unite women in worship, fellowship, and shared mission – a global sisterhood daily seeking to impact our homes, churches, communities, and the world for Christ.

#### LAOS: Networking Baptist Women Nationwide

> Facilitating a gathering for women from across the country to gather, pray, and learn how to Live the Good News in their context.

## **USA**: Sustaining a Community Hub of Hope

> Supporting operations at a facil!g youity that hosts eight ethnic congregations and 12 nonprofits collectively serving 40,000+ people.

## **LEADING Mission and Evangelism**

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#### CHILE: Nurturing Little Disciples (Pequeños discipulos)

> Sharing holistic Gospel witness with children and families in vulnerable communities impacted by drug and alcohol addiction.

#### CUBA: Reaching Children with the Good News

> Providing resources and training to support summer Bible School programs that nurture faith and learning for children in mountain communities.

#### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Advancing the Eli Project

> Offering intentional mentorship, guidance, and spiritual support to young boys as they navigate critical stages of growth and development.

## RESPONDING through Aid, Relief, and Community Development

CAMBODIA: Cultivating a Brighter Future

> Empowering women in rural communities through training in organic farming and livestock practices.

## **LIBERIA**: Providing Compassionate Care for Girls

> Establishing a "Purple Room" at Ricks Institute – a safe, clean, and dignified space where 250 girls can access feminine hygiene products and essential care during their menstrual cycle.

#### **LEBANON**: Raising Up Women as Restorers of Peace

> Training women how to help children traumatized by war and violence find hope and healing.

## **MEXICO:** Breaking Free from Generational Cycles

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> Providing support for children with parents in prison, guiding them toward academic success and social thriving.

## **DEFENDING Religious Freedom, Human Rights, and Justice**

**GLOBAL:** Standing Against Domestic Violence

> Sourcing, creating, and distributing resources to help individuals, congregations, and communities to stand against domestic violence and bring about the change required for women, children, and families to thrive.

## ADVANCING Theological Reflection and Transformational Leadership

**POLAND:** Empowering Women for Thriving Ministry

> Fostering spiritual growth, leadership skills, and mentorship opportunities to strengthen women's ministry in the local church and prepare the next generation of leaders.

**GLOBAL**: Raising Up the Next Generation

> Facilitating an annual leadership development cohort for young women with representatives from each Continental Union.

These global projects are fueled by your generous support of the 2025 World Day of Prayer Offering. To learn more about these projects, visit <u>BWAWomen.org/dayofprayer</u>. Thank you for making this life-changing, kingdom-impacting ministry possible!

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## Together We Pray for Asia Baptist Women's Union (ABWU) 38 Ministries in 20 Countries

#### **Economic Crises**

The currency devaluations, speculative pressure, and heavy foreign borrowing among Asian countries is causing an economic crisis in Asia. In addition, global inflation is leading to poverty and hardship for many. Women and children are the most vulnerable and are often neglected. Pray for local churches to share holistic Gospel witness that brings hope through community care like ABWU's "Women Helping Women" Project.

#### Freedom of Region and Belief

Pray for sustainable freedom of religion and belief across Asia, including in Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Pray for open doors to share the Good News with people from all walks of life in all Asian countries and for protection in areas where Christians are persecuted for their faith.

#### **Good Governance**

Pray for the nations to be governed with honesty and integrity by God-fearing people. Pray for people to vote for leaders who will serve their country without corruption and for people of faith to be voices of hope and truth.

#### **Natural Disasters**

With earthquakes and tsunamis affecting Japan and Taiwan, landslides in India, and cyclones, typhoons, and flooding impacting the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, pray that the people of Asia will be protected from the effects of these natural disasters. Pray for opportunities to respond to practical needs, increase awareness about creation care, and collectively steward our environmental resources in God-honoring ways.

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#### **War and Conflicts**

<u>China and the Philippines:</u> Pray for Philippines-China relations due to territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea. Pray for de-escalation of tensions and for effective diplomatic dialogues that lead to peaceful resolutions.

<u>Bangladesh.</u> Pray for the interim government and the restoration of peace and stability across the country.

<u>Myanmar.</u> Due to the ongoing civil war between the military government and civil democratic groups, there are over 4 million displaced people across the country. They are in need of shelter, food, and medication. With the recent cuts in global humanitarian assistance, pray that all their needs will be met and that they would be able to return home soon to restore their lives and livelihoods.

<u>North and South Korea.</u> After seven decades of division resulting from the Korean war, pray for a path forward that decries violence in pursuit of peace and unity. *India and Pakistan.* Pray for Manipur state in India as racial conflicts and tensions are high. Following the conflict between India and Pakistan, please pray the two countries will pursue peace and make decisions that promote stability and cooperation.

#### **Living the Good News**

We praise God for the success of the first ABWU-Uptick Leadership cohort that equipped 60 next generation leaders from 12 countries to serve and lead effectively as "Jesus-Shaped Leaders" in their communities. We give thanks for the Uptick facilitators and for each cohort graduate that invested time and resources to be part of this transformative training.

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## Together We Pray for Baptist Women of North America (BWNA) 15 Ministries in 2 Countries

#### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence continues to be a plague on families in North America. Pray for all those caught in the harmful, tragic cycle of trauma that living with violence and other forms of abuse brings. Ask God to intervene in the lives of the perpetrators to bring them to true repentance.

#### **Divisions in our Countries**

Both the United States and Canada are experiencing a time of upheaval and disruption within their respective governments. Pray for God to grant wisdom to each governmental leader at the local and national level. Pray for all governments to work for the public good and to support freedom of worship. Pray for all citizens to seek ways to contribute positively to their communities.

#### **Mentoring the Next Generation**

Many churches and organizations struggle to engage their youth. BWNA has developed a program called SALT to mentor young women in missional entrepreneurship. Pray for the women who will commit to this program, for the change that it will foster in their communities, and for the growth that each young woman who participates will experience.

#### **Families in Financial Stress**

Inflation is high and wages have not kept up. We pray that those suffering job loss, housing loss, high medical costs, and fragile financial situations find solutions and support as they face this

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difficult challenge. Pray for opportunities to be God's hands and feet as join together to work toward real solutions to these and other financially-based crises.

#### **Caring for Immigrants and Refugees**

Leviticus 19:33-34 says, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." Pray for God to help us live out this instruction and to be instruments of Christ's compassion in the lives of those in need. Pray for God to give us the creativity, boldness, and wisdom to be part of the solution.

## **Living the Good News**

We give praise for the many new relationships that have formed among the women of BWNA. We thank God for the mentoring and encouragement that we experience from each other and for the ways we are growing stronger in our faith through the "iron sharpening iron" of this sisterhood.

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## Together We Pray for Baptist Women of the Pacific (BWP) 8 Ministries in 7 Countries

#### Impact of Natural Disasters in Vanuatu

a. Pray for the people of Vanuatu as they heal and recover from the devastating effects of the recent earthquake. Pray especially for the children who are suffering trauma as a result of this disaster.

#### Parliament Leaders in Papua

Pray for three of our Papuan women who serve as Provincial Members of Parliament. Ask the Lord to strengthen them as they seek to serve in a way that brings glory and honor to the Lord.

#### Reconciliation in New Zealand

Pray for New Zealand Baptist Women as they continue to heal and move through the reconciliation process after the New Zealand Baptist Union humbly recognized the pain and sorrow caused to women in their movement by misogynistic and prejudiced behavior.

#### **Domestic Abuse**

We continue to pray against the devastation of domestic abuse wrought against women in the Pacific. We pray for restored and respectful families. We pray especially for our Tongan Baptist sisters as they seek to reach out to victims in their community, offering the hope of Jesus and practical assistance.

#### **Continental Leaders**

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Pray for the new Baptist Women of the Pacific Executive Committee as they begin their season of service. Pray that they would follow the Lord's leading and be obedient to the Holy Spirit as they serve the women of the Pacific over the next four years.

## **Living the Good News**

We give praise to Jesus for the implementation of literacy programs for the Baptist women of Papua New Guinea – an initiative made possible through a Day of Prayer grant. Praise God that these students are able to read their Bibles for the first time.

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# Together We Pray for Baptist Women's Union of Africa (BWUA) Connecting Women Across 37 Countries

#### **Spiritual Growth and Revival**

Pray for genuine revival and transformation in Baptist churches. Ask God to break cycles of poverty, alcoholism, and apathy so His people may serve Him wholeheartedly. Pray for faithful stewardship and generous hearts for God's work.

## **Church Leadership, Unity, and Growth**

Pray for strong, wise leaders at every level – local, national, regional, and international. Ask God to bring unity where divisions hinder growth and blessing. Pray for both spiritual and economic growth in the church, for women to be empowered in missions and evangelism, and for God's provision to expand mission initiatives so more people may come to Christ.

## **Political Stability and Economic Growth**

Pray for political stability in the region and intercede for peace and security during general elections and church leadership elections. Pray for economic stability and an end to unemployment, especially among women and youth. Pray for financial freedom so that women can participate more fully in prayer gatherings, church ministry, as well as regional and BWUA conferences.

#### **Challenges Facing the Church**

Pray for wisdom in navigating new government regulations, especially in Rwanda and Burundi, where many churches have been closed due to the new standards. Pray for the Church to reach out consistently to the needy, especially women facing poverty and low literacy levels. Pray for

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initiatives that address Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) within churches and society. Pray for the financial resources to facilitate vocational training programs and literacy initiatives that empower women and communities.

#### **Safety and Security**

Pray for the countries that are at war and intercede for peace and protection for those facing persecution and hardship. We pray for the rescue and safety of all people suffering due to terrorism and political conflicts.

#### **Living the Good News**

We give thanks for fruitful regional gatherings across the continent this year as Baptist Women's Union of South Africa convened in Malawi, Baptist Women's Union of East Africa assembled in Uganda, and Baptist Women's Union of Central Africa united for worship and fellowship in Cameroon.

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# Together We Pray for Baptist Women's Union of Latin America (UFBAL)

#### 24 Ministries in 20 Countries

#### **Reaching the Next Generation**

Pray for the children and adolescents of Latin America and the world. Pray that the truth of the Gospel may reach their lives and that God's love may give them hope and life. Pray that many lives may be restored and transformed so that those who are reached may take the message to others.

#### Women on Mission

Pray for Latin American Baptist women to be agents of transformation in their communities, bringing God's love to every woman who needs Christ in their lives. May God use them in the most vulnerable and needy communities to meet needs and fulfill the Great Commission.

### **Continental Leadership**

Pray for the new Continental Union leaders. Pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit, guided by God's Word, and strengthened through the collaboration of women in their churches so the ministry may grow and be a source of great blessing.

#### Missionary in the Field

Pray for our missionary Grace, the first missionary supported by UFBAL, as she serves in Asia. Pray for God's provision for her sustenance, health, and well-being. Ask God to open doors for her to share the Good News and impact many lives.

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The news flash is that this steady stream of negative content is damaging our mental health. Studies show that constant exposure can heighten anxiety, cause stress, and even activate the body's fight-or-flight response. If ever the world needed good news, it is now.

Thankfully, as followers of Christ, we have the best news of all. In Luke 4, we find the ultimate front-page news. The Jewish people were living under the oppression of the Roman government and pharisaical pressure from their own religious leaders, leaving the people desperate for a Savior to arrive on the scene. In this context, Jesus steps into the synagogue in Nazareth and is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Verse 20 says "the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him" as he read a passage that prophesied about the long-awaited Messiah:

#### **God's Provision**

Pray for God's provision in every country across the continent. Ask the Lord to supply the resources needed for social and evangelistic projects so that many people's needs are met and lives are transformed by the Gospel.

## **Living the Good News**

Teenage suicide is a great tragedy in Latin America. UFBAL has demonstrated a great commitment to this issue by creating the "Hope and Life" Initiative. Latin American Baptist women are tackling this issue with the powerful strength of the Holy Spirit and are confident that they can change this reality.

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## Together We Pray for Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU) 18 Ministries in 17 Countries

## **Youth and Young Adults**

Pray for teenagers and young adults across the Caribbean islands and countries who are facing difficult circumstances at home, struggling with their identity, and battling peer pressure. Pray for positive male and female role models to give guidance and support for this critical season of life.

#### Women's Welfare

Pray for women trying to cope with tragic situations such as missing family members and economic hardships. Pray for women's health issues, including the rising cases of breast cancer among younger women.

#### **Answering the Call**

Pray for Christians who have drifted away to return to God and renew their commitment to sharing the Good News. Pray for those actively serving in God's kingdom to remain rooted in Christ and faithful in multiplying his flock.

#### **Governments**

Pray for government leadership to ensure peace leading up to, during, and following general elections. Pray for fairness in the distribution of resources, access to quality services and healthcare, and just laws that ease the burdens of the working class and the poor.

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#### **Violence and Crime**

Pray for swift action against violence and crime. Pray for an end to drug trafficking and drug use that is harming children, families, and communities – leading to broken values, mental health struggles, and destructive behaviors.

#### **Living the Good News**

Praise God for the commitment, dedication, and strength of the women's groups and ministries throughout the Caribbean region who support their local churches, CBWU, and Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

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# Together We Pray for European Baptist Women United (EBWU) Connecting Women in 52 Countries Across Europe and the Middle East

#### **Women Making a Difference**

Pray for God to strengthen women in leadership roles, helping them to overcome any obstacles or opposition they may encounter and to lead with boldness and courage – fully aware that God journalism students, we were taught to search for a "scoop," but the media today has become even more driven to be the first with "breaking news."

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is with them. Pray for the Lord to instill in women a deeper hunger and thirst for his Word and a commitment to be salt and light in the world.

#### **Women in Need**

Pray for women seeking fellowship and encouragement and for those wounded by past hurts. May they find a safe space where they feel welcomed and loved through the ministry of EBWU. May God grant the women of EBWU wisdom and grace to uplift and support one another in the discipleship journey.

#### **Ministering to the Hurting**

Pray that ministers will rise up in our churches to effectively serve those who have suffered, been injured, or experienced loss. Pray for a touch from the Lord for these wounded hearts that guides them to healing and freedom.

#### A Generational Return to the Faith

Pray for those in the younger generation who were raised in Christian homes but have departed from our churches. May they return to Christ and dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to him.

#### **Seeking Peace**

Pray for the nations across Europe and the Middle East that are experiencing the daily impact of war and violence. Pray for sustainable peace to come to pass.

#### **Living the Good News**

Praise God for the Spirit's presence among our ministry. Our heartfelt gratitude to the Lord for the European Baptist Family, united in diversity – a sacred blessing of varied nations bound by the blood of Christ. May this unity endure as a testament of God's grace and love.

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## Together We Pray for Baptist World Alliance Women (BWAW) Connecting Women in Over 150 Countries

#### **Building a Community of World Changers**

We believe the world changes when women pray! Pray that Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer will be a growing global movement that deepens connections across cultures, unites women in Spirit-led intercession that transcends language, and advances God's mission to transform lives worldwide.

#### **Advocating at the United Nations**

Pray that God would give clarity, courage, and discernment to our delegation participating in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2026. Ask God to guide our advocacy for justice, equity, and dignity and to open doors for meaningful influence on global policies that protect and empower women and families.

#### **Standing Against Domestic Violence**

One in three women worldwide have faced physical or sexual violence, often in their own homes. Pray that God will use our global Stand Against Domestic Violence initiative to bring education, healing, and lasting transformation – moving us closer to the eradication of this injustice in our lifetime. Pray for God to broaden the reach of our online resource hub (StandAgainstDV.net) to equip individuals, congregations, and communities worldwide to take a bold and courageous stand against domestic violence.

#### **Strengthening Servant Leaders Worldwide**

Pray for the women who are participating in BWAW leadership development programs, ministry training initiatives, and global action councils – including the more than 700 leaders who attended the Baptist Women's Summit in July. Ask God to equip them with skills, vision, and resilience to lead effectively in their churches, communities, and nations.

#### **Networking Global Voices for Greater Impact**

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Pray for wisdom, grace, and the Spirit's anointing upon Executive Director Merritt Johnston and the globally diverse team of volunteers serving women worldwide. Lift up newly installed 2025-2027 BWA Women Officers – President Karlene Edwards-Warrick (Trinidad and Tobago) and First Vice President Ruba Rihani Abbassi (Jordan) – as well as the seven Continental Union Presidents: Vernette Myint Myint San (ABWU), Patty Lane (BWNA), Tracy Valentine (BWP), Jane Mwangi (BWUA), Karlene Edwards-Warrick (CBWU), Siham Daoud (EBWU), and Verónica Leon Caro (UFBAL).

#### **Living the Good News**

Join us in celebrating 75 years of kingdom impact through the ministry of Baptist World Alliance Women and the global witness of Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. This year, we give thanks for the opportunity to support more than a dozen ministry projects – the highest number of annual projects in our history! May this work continue to flourish and impact the lives of girls, women, families, and communities for generations to come.

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