

# STRATEGIC GIVING 2021

## A year of generosity

*WHY DO WE ASK YOU TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF BAPTIST WOMEN?*

*Because you make a difference! We have a very tight budget and every gift you make has a big impact.*

*Because giving is an important spiritual formation practice. Giving honours God as the source and rightful owner of all we have; and it is an act of faith, trusting Him to continue to supply all we need. Giving sets us free—each step breaks a little of the hold money has over us . . . so we can control it (becoming good stewards) instead of it controlling us.*

*Because you have more influence than you realize. Many churches don't know we rely entirely on donations. Many would be happy to include us in their budget, if only someone asked.*

*Because you also create a foundation for generations. If you include us in your Will, it will bear ongoing fruit for the Kingdom while offsetting tax on your estate.*



**EACH YEAR** we consult with Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) about dedicated projects that Baptist Women can support. We hope that as you read about these great initiatives you will feel a call from God to support them, and perhaps even raise funds from others. We can't do it without you.

Here are the 2021 projects for Strategic Giving along with the amounts we hope to give.

**India anti-trafficking project:  
CBWOQ will contribute \$5,000**

This new project in Kolkata will minister to 50 young survivors of trafficking. Aged only 18-30 years, they need training in order to become self-reliant and escape the cycle of sexual exploitation. This project will link with registered shelter homes for young survivors that provide counselling and therapy as well as training in key life skills. Leaders plan to then organize participants into mutual self-help groups.

They describe their program as a 3-E strategy of *empowerment* (restore them to power over their own lives) *entrusting* (their faith and lost trust in humanity and in themselves) and *entitlement* (living what they deserve like any other free being).

Jesus said He was sent to "set the oppressed free" (Luke 4:18). This is our chance to have a small part in the same ministry. People are not completely free until they have a new life.

**Soura Widows:  
CBWOQ has committed to fund this entire project for \$13,000**

Many of our early Baptist Women missionaries spent their lives loving the Soura people. A generation later, widows in India are no longer burned on their husband's funeral pyres, but they are ostracized and impoverished. Often their children have to drop out of school. This project provides business training workshops and then a small starter loan so that participants can start a variety of micro businesses. Some sell cashew nuts, tamarind, turmeric, bananas or pineapples. Some run a local grass broom business and others raise goats or chickens. This provides a small

income to cover necessities, while reinforcing much-needed dignity. It is a real testimony to the holistic *shalom* (peaceful well-being) of God.

This is a great way to fulfill the call of James 1:27 to "look after widows and orphans in their distress."

**Mising Tribe:  
CBWOQ has committed to completely fund this project (\$20,000)**

This holistic project is a loving way to introduce Christ to a poor, largely unreached tribe in Assam, India. It provides a full suite of activities—everything from educating children to providing vocational training for the unemployed. Participants can choose computer or mechanic training, or they can learn tailoring, weaving or knitting. This provides income for participants and a valuable source of locally made products for the community. The local church facilitates everything, creating long term relationships.

Even during COVID, seven youth started computer training, four girls were enrolled in the tailoring classes, and 15 women received weaving materials and created products to sell as soon as markets reopened. By November the tutoring centre was open again and all the classes were functioning.

Christ feels the pain of those who suffer, but that also means He feels their relief. "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40-45). Giving to the poor is our opportunity to minister to Christ Himself.

**Rwanda Literacy:  
(CBWOQ budget \$5,000)**

In Africa, girls often cannot attend school for lack of fees or uniform, or because the family needs them for domestic work such as fetching water. They are resilient and grow up to be loving mothers, who work extremely hard to support their families. However, illiteracy means they are easily cheated because they cannot read documents they are asked to sign; their dignity is undermined repeatedly and even their Christian growth is limited.

This project teaches hundreds of women to read.

## CONNECT TO OTHERS

It also joins them together in self-help groups. Parenting classes are offered. This is fully embedded in local churches to spread the gospel in holistic ways.

For a few months in 2020, dealing with COVID was the priority. However, by July all classes were functioning again, as participants were so anxious to move ahead in life.

### National Field Staff

In the last few years, CBM has pursued a deliberate strategy of incorporating staff from host countries. Because they already know the language, culture, and have long term relationships, national field staff can be highly effective very quickly. The one downside is that their sending churches have very few resources to support them and they do not have contacts with Canadian churches. CBWOQ has offered to stand in the gap and adopt several as our own.

### Pr. Lillian Yang, Thailand: (CBWOQ budget is \$5,000)

Pr. Lillian has a wide-ranging ministry, teaching at a Bible school as well as travelling to local villages to train pastors. She also helps plant churches. You can see a video from Lillian on our FaceBook group. (Go to your FaceBook account, search Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario & Quebec, and click “send friend request.” We will be thrilled to admit you.)

### Pr. Xiadon Gang: (CBWOQ Budget \$2,000)

A great many Chinese students live and study in Germany because tuition is free. They are exposed to new ways of thinking and are often searching for meaning. This provides a unique opportunity for the gospel to be shared and to spread. Pr. Gang is a native Mandarin speaker who has also learned to speak German. She meets with students, organizes activities and shepherds them toward faith, sending some back to China as ministers in their own spheres of influence.

By praying and supporting these Kingdom workers, we share in their ministry. ■

## DO REMEMBER OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR MINISTRY

**General Funds:** We need your support to cover our expenses so we can continue to create events and resources.

**Dorothy Neal New Initiatives Fund:** We set aside this money to cover grants for great new projects in Ontario and Quebec to benefit vulnerable women and children.

**Uptick:** This fabulous leadership program develops young leaders for the Kingdom and rejuvenates Baptist Women. A number of the training components are quite costly, so we really rely on your support. ■

## A HISTORY MOMENT

“A Circle organized in 1886, like many others, was said to meet monthly ‘to pray not only for local work but also that they might catch a vision of the need of the great wide world.’ Missionaries are needed now, many of them. Money is needed now, much of it. We must be able to seize opportunities still open to us. The urgency . . . was never before as great; we have only to look around us to realize this. We shall pray that the Holy Spirit will multiply . . . witness.”

Alfreda Hall writes in the concluding chapter *Moving Christward*, from her book *Wheels Begin To Turn | The story of helping to move nations Christward*, 100 Years of Missionary Involvement By Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec 1876 – 1976

Alfreda was the esteemed editor of *The Link & Visitor* from 1955 – 1969. ■