



Globalinks²⁰¹⁷

an annual newsletter of Global Women's Project

Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP), Kochi, Kerala State, India



Participants of the large demonstration organized by CAP to advocate for justice for the victims of the abuses and violence in Kerala State, India.

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CAP's vision is of a "gender-just society based on human values, equality, development and peace." Their mission is "to create a society based on peace, justice, reconciliation and respect for life where models of domination and destruction are replaced by those of nurture and cooperation" with major objectives including addressing violence against women and providing equal opportunities for women. Among other things, CAP provides shelter for women who are in distress and are victims of domestic violence, abuse, and trafficking. CAP gives support to girls in six different schools to continue their education even

after menstruation begins by providing toilets, sanitary napkins, and incinerators (to convert used pads into ash).

This year, Cultural Academy for Peace celebrated its 30th anniversary. In July they led a workshop to address gender inequality and train men to prevent violence against women. The workshop was a great success and had more participants than expected. In August, CAP organized a half-day workshop in connection with Women Empowerment Day on "Empowerment and Justice for Survivors of Violence against Women and Children" which addressed various aspects of rehabilitation.

SITEAW, Uganda

Before she headed to Uganda this fall, we heard great news from Sister Stella, our contact for SITEAW, or Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women. Grants given to SITEAW go towards scholarships for girls' education and small interest-free loans for women to start small businesses in their communities. This year marks 13 years of partnership between GWP and SITEAW, and we are so grateful for this continued relationship. Sister Stella shared that four girls will be graduating from high school this year, allowing them to go on to Higher

School (they follow the British school system), which is a huge accomplishment and will mean a lot more work for them! There are also 33 women participating in groups to learn sewing and handcrafts, which Sister Stella will bring back to the U.S. to sell. They have also been able to increase the amount of their interest-free loans from \$30 to \$50, allowing women to continue learning how to plan, budget, and make smart financial decisions. We invite you to join us in celebrating with Sister Stella and the women of SITEAW!

Global Women's Project Turning Toward 40

Wilderness Reflection and Discernment

For 39 years, Global Women's Project has continued to support projects benefiting women and children around the world and in the United States. It has done this largely, though not exclusively, through the vision and mustard-seed faith and lifestyle commitments of Church of the Brethren women and men.

I was privileged to join the current GWP Steering Committee for breakfast at their October meeting in South Bend, Indiana, to learn about the current projects and direction of Global Women's Project. After acknowledging enduring gratitude for the enthusiasm and vision of the founding women, our amazement at the number of Steering Committee volunteer members who have carried this low-budget enterprise for 39 years, and appreciation for the significantly wide variety of contributors to GWP, we quickly became reflective and our conversation coalesced around three matters: (1) our profound angst over the continuous, devastating violence in Syria, Iraq, and other points in the Middle East and Africa and the human displacements spreading around the world; (2) our despair over sexual assault and enslavement of women and girls, kidnappings, proliferating hate crimes and speech, and widening fear of religious, racial, and gender difference; (3) the need for a review at year 40 of the Global Women's Project mission in light of current religious, national, and global realities. These times, as throughout history, require an exilic faith and vi-

It's Never Too Late To Give!

No matter what time of year, it's never too late to give to Global Women's Project. Use the enclosed envelope any month of the year. Thank you!

GWP Steering Committee in Virginia at our spring meeting in March 2016



PHOTO BY TINA RIEMAN

Carla Kilgore (Fort Wayne, IN), Pearl Miller (Warrensburg, MO - this was her last meeting), Carol Leland (Harrisonburg, VA), Anke Pietsch (Lebanon, OH), Emily Matteson (Irvine, CA), and Tina Rieman (North Manchester, IN)

Contact us at cobgwp@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about serving on the steering committee.

sion in today's church and world.

Since its founding in 1978, sixty women have served on the Global Women's Project Steering Committee selecting projects and keeping its vision for justice and compassion alive. Over these years, GWP has built bridges of solidarity by contributing approximately \$267,000 in seed monies gleaned from self-imposed luxury taxes to assist women economically and socially support their children and families in Costa Rica, Palestine, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Chile, Perú, Haití, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, India, Korea, Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Bosnia. What is equally noteworthy is that the contributors to the GWP projects represent widely differing theological and social

perspectives within and beyond the Church of the Brethren, suggesting the life-serving benefits of solidarity with those in greatest need.

Solidarity is sustained by individuals and groups who see the interconnection of all lives, and elect to live out the Golden Rule counsel to love one's neighbor as oneself or the principle of reciprocity (what is good for me, I also seek for you). When Jesus' counsel moves into our hearts and minds, then one chooses to embody that directive by imagining ways to love one's neighbor.

Yet, how does one love her Syrian or Iraqi or Sudanese neighbors caught in endlessly ravaging war? Or victims and perpetrators of terrorist vengeance wreaked by Al Qaeda, ISIS, ISIS sympathizers, or other groups throughout the world? How do we love massive numbers of refugees fleeing devastations? How do we love nearby bullying neighbors who express venomous words, exposing fear of religious, racial, and gender Others? How do women and men with faith in the transforming power of Christ's love live towards birth and new life in the wilderness of destruction and death?

Such questions turned our breakfast conversations to thoughts of another Gathering of Global Women's Project friends. As GWP celebrates its forty years of existence in 2018, the current Steering Committee anticipated the great value in bringing together past Steering Committee members, contributors to GWP, and all birth-givers and midwives to reflect on and confess the brokenness of our common life and to discern the Spirit's leading in our wilderness and toward new communities of life.

—Ruthann K. Johansen

Life is Expensive, Rwanda

The challenges of squeezing a living out of a small plot of land in Rwanda are many, but the women of Life is Expensive have formed a supportive network that helps to provide sustenance, both physical and spiritual, to one another. The physical sustenance will come soon from corn and beans that were planted in October. Financial support comes from sewing dresses and bags that are sold for an income.

Spiritual support comes into play at times like this fall, when one woman from the cooperative was clipped by someone riding by on a bicycle and her leg was broken. Since she relies on physical work to provide food for her family, having a broken leg is a devastating occurrence for a woman. A community that can provide care and support is vital to the continuing survival of her family.

Esperance Nyirandayisenga is Global Women's Project's contact person at Life is Expensive, locally known in Rwanda as Ubuzima Burahenda. Despite the challenges faced by the women, she writes that they are all well. She shared that right now they have 2 women sharing each sewing machine, which slows down the work they can accomplish. With 6 more machines at \$150 each, the cooperative could increase their productivity to provide more income for the women who work there. In our own communities, many people have sewing machines that are used once or twice a year, while women who are making a living by sewing must share two women to a machine. What better illustration could we have of the need for sharing?

Note from a donor last spring:

"I gave my sewing machine away because I don't use it. The girl wanted to pay me, and I told her to donate to her favorite charity. She wanted me to do that, so I am giving it to GWP for women who need sewing machines. I leave it up to you."

We are grateful she passed her gift along. In light of these needs, her gift was perfect.

Welcome Carla Kilgore to the GWP Steering Committee!

In March Carla Kilgore joined our committee. We are very excited to have her and wanted to introduce her to you.

Carla lives with her husband Craig Smith in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is the proud parent of Jessica, Samantha, and Josh. She feels grateful for so many loving and caring people in her life, including her parents and grandparents.

She first got involved with GWP through our Mother's Day Project. "I really loved the idea of honoring my Mother by giving a contribution that would allow other mothers to be able to meet the needs of their children, too."

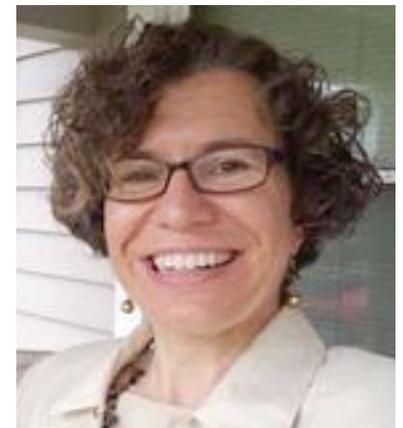
As a social worker Carla is always on the lookout for how to increase social justice. She currently works for Amani Family Services, serving refugee and immigrant families in Fort Wayne

who have become involved with the Department of Child Services. She is also on the board for Just Neighbors, which is the local branch of the Inter-faith Hospitality Network system of homeless shelters for families. At her church, Beacon Heights COB, she serves on Adult Education, trying to bring new opportunities for learning to her peers.

Carla enjoys reading novels, especially from Toni Morrison and Barbara Kingsolver. They might inspire her to someday travel to New Orleans, but she would want to avoid the Mardi Gras crowds! "I also love how I can plant seeds outside in the spring, and even though I am not a very attentive gardener, many of them will grow up and provide me with food in the late summer!" she shares.

When asked about her luxuries she points to her car. "Two years ago we invested in an electric car to help mitigate the negative impact on the environment, but I am aware that it makes it so easy for me to zip around the city, and that it still impacts the environment, and that it would not be affordable for lots of people."

Welcome, Carla, to the GWP Steering Committee! We are grateful that you accepted our invitation and we look forward to working with you!



Carla Kilgore

Lenten Calendar

Do you have a GWP Lenten calendar to help guide you in your Lenten reflections? These free calendars include scripture, facts about poverty, and information about women around the world and Global Women's Project partner projects. There are opportunities to join in women's journeys with your time and money in response to the readings.

Order a free calendar for yourself, or for friends, family and your congregation. We can mail print copies to you, or send you one page per day by email throughout the Lenten season. Contact us soon at cbgwp@gmail.com so that your calendar order arrives in time for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

2016 Finance Report

We are so grateful for your continuing support of Global Women's Project—we are 100% donation funded.

Thank you for viewing the work of GWP as vital for women globally and domestically.

Global Women's Project invites all women to live in solidarity with women around the world seeking to empower women and girls in their own communities in living a life of dignity and respect.

For those of you who like numbers, here is information on our finances through the end of November 2016.

2010	\$9,917.09
2011	\$12,502.72
2012	\$15,624.38
2013	\$20,757.06
2014	\$20,089.99
2015	\$18,514.68
2016	\$12,207.41 (as of Nov. 1, 2016)

Thank you for your generosity of prayers and monetary gifts for 2016!

To memorialize a loved one:

Please write the check to GWP and use the enclosed envelope. Please include a note saying who you're memorializing. We will list the names of all people memorialized throughout the year on our website, www.globalwomensproject.wordpress.com, and in our annual newsletter. (We do not list the names of the donors or the amounts of the donations – just the names of the people who are honored through a memorial gift.)

To honor someone special in your life:

Please write the check to GWP and use the enclosed envelope. Please include a note saying who you're honoring. If you want a note sent to the honoree on behalf of GWP acknowledging your donation, we ask that you also send an email to cobgwp@gmail.com with the name and address of the honoree.

2016 Memorial Gifts

The following people were honored through memorial gifts in 2016:

Carolyn Teach Denlinger
Eibhlin Ewald
Elsie Harley
Howard N. Uhrig
Martha Yamasaki

Mother's Day Project

This May, GWP invites you to honor or memorialize your mother, or another special mentor in your life, by participating in our annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Here's how it works: you send a donation and a note to GWP with the name and address of the person(s) you want to honor, and we send a handwritten card to that person letting them know that you gave a gift in their name that will benefit women around the world. Instead of buying your loved ones more material gifts, you'll be showing them you care through a gift that directly benefits our partner projects in the U.S., India, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, and Haiti. We are so grateful to all those who have participated in this project in the past, making it our most successful fundraiser during the year. Interested in participating this year? In April we'll e-mail a reminder to mail your contribution to Emily Matteson, at 6456 Adobe Circle Road South, Irvine, CA 92617 (write checks to GWP), so that she can write a card to your family and friends, notifying them of the gift in time for Mother's Day. Cards received by May 8th, 2016, will be guaranteed to go out before Mother's Day. Looking forward to helping you surprise your loved ones again this year!

Growing Grounds, Wabash, Indiana, USA

Growing Grounds in Wabash Indiana remains a viable, responsive project for women making the transition from incarceration to the community. The need is great.

Here are some highlights of what Growing Grounds was able to accomplish this year:

- Apartment living options for women who were homeless upon release from jail
- Assistance with professional development and internships
- Donated furniture and household goods, invaluable for women "beginning again"
- Working with county officials to develop alternatives to incarceration

It is sad how undereducated we are regarding the plight of women in our country facing incarceration and the challenges upon release. GWP is honored to support this outreach project.

If you would like to understand more regarding the prison system in the U.S., here are some resources recommended by Growing Grounds:

- *A Pound of Flesh, Monetary Sanctions as Punishment for the Poor* by Alexes Harris
- *Unbroken Brain, A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction* by Maia Szalavitz

Thank You to the staff and volunteers of Growing Grounds for your tremendous commitment and support of a marginalized group of women.

Special Donation “We Called You”, Uganda

In the summer the New Community Project, with whom we are working in South Sudan, got a call for help. Some 70,000 women and children are fleeing from the southern part of the country into the refugee camps at the border and in Uganda. The dangerous trip on foot is up to 100 miles long, their men are missing, daughters are being raped and sons forced into the armies. While the refugees are safe, the situation in the camps is dire because of the lack of clean water, food, and shelter.

“We have seen you and your partner when you visited us and we know the work of your group—people talk about it and appreciate it. So we called you to help us in this situation. Even though our country is moving backward we want to get skills that can empower us to self-reliance and sustainable living—tailoring, hairdressing and group microloans.”
— Women at Pagrinya refugee camp at Ugandan border to South Sudan. (www.newcommunityproject.org)

As we have been involved with women’s sewing projects in South Sudan and have seen the positive impact they have on the families, the Steering Committee decided unanimously

at our fall meeting that GWP would cover the cost of sewing machines (15 x \$100 each) and trainers (\$900 for 6 months of classes) with a total of \$2,400.

The money raised for the programs in the refugee camps will help the families gain skills, independence, better living conditions, and, last but not least, HOPE.

Women's Sewing Cooperative, Narus, South Sudan

Sadly the political situation is very unstable and dangerous in South Sudan these days. We have not had any contact with the women of the Sewing Cooperative in Narus. We are praying for their families’ and friends’ safety and for a peaceful resolution of the country’s struggles.

New Project in Haiti

The average yearly income in Haiti is \$817 compared to just over \$53k in the United States. Right now, the Haitians are in dire need of basic resources, such as food, water, first aid & hygiene kits, and medications.

Global Women’s Project Steering Committee, at our Fall meeting in South Bend Indiana, responded to a project need in Haiti through the Church of the Brethren. The following highlighted excerpt from Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of Global Mission and Service provides the project’s goals:

The Eglise Des Frères Haiti (CoB Haiti) has a Social Service Ministry program that includes mobile medical clinics, midwifery training, agricultural production and community development. The community development component has focused on water-sourcing, sanitation and community health.

Now, the project has expanded to focus on the needs of women, particularly single-parent households. Recently, we added the services of a fourth community development leader, Mirlande Antoine. We have not yet had the resources to add her to the staff full-time, but are eager to

increase her 2.5 days per week to full time status. She is providing creative leadership through pilot projects with women’s groups in generating family income through the production and sale of enriched peanut butter and other homegrown nutritional products. She is teaching women to add value to the items they grow and sell. Cooperative marketing patterns are also being developed, so women do not have to leave their families and sit on the road to sell their products. Women are also being trained to raise rabbits and are given a breeding pair with a hutch.

We would like to raise her to full time with funds from the Global Women’s Project and be able to assist with small grants for women to initiate new projects. The project is centered in Marin, near the largest slum in Haiti, City Soleil,

on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Given the recent hurricane devastation in Haiti, this project is timely. Given the results of initial trials, we believe it will have a strong impact on families.

Global Women’s project is excited for this new partnership opportunity in Haiti.

QUICK FACTS:

- Hurricane Matthew made landfall in Haiti on Tuesday, October 4th as a category four hurricane.
- An estimated 350,000 people have been affected, with 15,623 displaced people living in shelters.
- The main road that connects the capital, Port-au-Prince, with Haiti’s devastated southern peninsula, broke apart when a bridge collapsed Tuesday, severely hampering relief efforts.

Calendar of events

There are many ways you can support GWP throughout the year. Check out some of these opportunities to engage with our work:

- **JANUARY/FEBRUARY** - pull out your Lenten Calendar or order a free GWP Lenten Calendar to guide your spiritual journey this year. Email us at cobgwp@gmail.com and we will send you a calendar (or multiples for your faith community/group), or ask to be added to the daily Lenten Calendar email list. Lent begins March 1st, 2017.
- **MARCH** - Celebrate International Women's Day with your faith community this year on Wednesday, March 8th, 2017. Check out the amazing collection of worship resources and reflections on our website written by women across the country.
- **APRIL/MAY** - Begin thinking about the women you would like to honor on Mother's Day through our annual Mother's Day Project. Donate in honor of someone and we will send that person a lovely card, letting them know you have honored them with a gift to GWP. Mother's Day is May 14, 2017.
- **JUNE/JULY** - Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 28 - July 2, 2017. We always enjoy connecting with you.

Anytime/birthdays/holidays - to celebrate a special day or the everyday go to www.globalwomensproject.wordpress.com and click on "gifts" to see how you can donate to GWP.



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globalwomensproject.wordpress.com

Email us at: **cobgwp@gmail.com**

Send us your contact info ... and we'll send GWP to you!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

This is a change of address.

Enclosed is my donation to continue the work of GWP!

Clip and send to GWP.



- Add me to the monthly Global e-Links list.
- Add me to the annual paper Globalinks mailing list.
- Send me the Lenten calendar one day at a time by email. Send me a Lenten calendar by mail. (How many? _____)
- Contact me about honoring a special woman through GWP.
- Contact me about potentially hosting a GWP steering committee meeting.
- Contact me about potentially serving on the steering committee.
- Contact me about other ways I can connect with GWP.
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Return this form and your donation to GWP's partner projects in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your generosity!

Please make checks out to Global Women's Project.

Mail donations and address info to:

**GWP c/o Tina Rieman
508 E Miami St
North Manchester IN 46962**

Print more newsletters from our website and fill out a second form for your church or women's group!

Visit our website: globalwomensproject.wordpress.com (NEW!)
Email us at: cobgwp@gmail.com (NEW!)