

Global Women's Project c/o Tina Rieman
508 E Miami St
North Manchester, IN 46962



Globallinks²⁰¹⁸

an annual newsletter of Global Women's Project

2017 GWP Steering Committee Selfie!



- ▶ **Reflections on 40 Years of GWP**
Small changes can make big differences
- ▶ **Updates on Partner Projects**
- ▶ **Challenge of the Month**
- ▶ **Mother's Day Project**



Carla Kilgore, Carol Leland, Anke Pietsch, Tina Rieman, and Sara White

TINA RIEMAN

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

40 Years of GWP — A Reflection

By Pearl Miller

In July of 1978, Church of the Brethren women gathered at Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana, to share our stories and our concerns as women to live and serve responsibly in the church and in the world. It was a time when as a nation we had just lived through the Vietnam War and the tensions of the civil rights movement, and now it seemed we were moving precariously closer to a nuclear holocaust. Out of that setting came a challenge and an opportunity. Ruthann Knechel Johansen, in a speech entitled Giving Birth to a New World, reminded us that “neither a great social program nor a sophisticated theology are prerequisites to live in harmony with life.” We were called to reflect on our own privileged access to resources, “tax” ourselves on our luxuries, and use that awareness and that “tax” to create new relationships and structures that nurture justice. From that inspiration Global Women’s Project was born.

It seems like things have not changed much in the 40 years since Global Women’s Project was established. Wars are still raging around the world, racial tensions remain high, and we are still threatened by a finger on the nuclear trigger.

But I believe that in these 40 years of Global Women’s Project, there have been significant changes, all the same. In our reflections on our own privilege, hopefully we have made changes within ourselves that have moved us to be more creative and proactive for the benefit of girls and women wherever they may be. Through small grants from Global Women’s Project, women around the world have been given assistance so that they can establish cooperative businesses, send their children to school,

move away from lives of domestic violence, incarceration, or economic uncertainty, and work toward more just societies based on human values, equality, and peace.

Marian Wright Edelman has said, “We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.” Those changes have made big differences for these women and their communities! We are women together, bound by our deep concern for the families and communities that we nurture and that nurture us.

Lenten Calendar

Do you already have a GWP calendar to help guide you in your Lenten reflections? These free calendars include scripture, facts about poverty, information about women around the world and the Global Women’s Projects partner projects. There are many 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 faith community.

We can mail a print copy to you or send you one page per day by email throughout the Lenten season.

Contact us soon at cobgwp@gmail.com so that your calendar arrives in time for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 2018.

Welcome Sara White!

We would like to welcome Sara White to the Global Women’s Project Steering Committee!

While I am writing this article, Sara is actually in China for a few weeks, traveling with a group from Carlton College in Minnesota, where she is in her last year studying “religion with a healthy dose of political science and statistics thrown in.” Her senior thesis is on Anabaptist Theology and Racial Justice.

Growing up in Huntingdon, PA, where her father teaches physics at Juniata College and her mother, among other things, works at the local farmers market, she attends the Stone Church of the Brethren. Her sister Joanna is also off to college for engineering.

Sara has lots of experience in the social justice field. She shares: “I spent half a year working for the Church of the Brethren Office of Public Witness in DC which really fueled my interest in social justice in the Church and beyond. At college I live in the ‘Well-



stone House of Organizing and Activism’ where we try to link different advocacy groups on campus to build capacity, and am also a facilitator for Students Engaging in Essential Dialogue which runs discussions for campus clubs on privilege and identity.”

During her free time, Sara loves to knit socks, plan backpacking trips with friends, and practice synchronized swimming. In third grade a friend introduced her to Ethiopian food (and eating it with her hands), and she would like to visit there to experience the country firsthand. Sara loves the outdoors and considers her higher quality outdoor gear a luxury.

Sara is really excited about working with the GWP, seeing the amazing project ideas proposed by women all around the world, and being part of making them a reality. She is grateful for the support of people throughout the Church of the Brethren for the work and mission of GWP. “Look what we do together!”

Called to Collaborate: One-time Grants in 2017

Thanks to the generous donations to Global Women's project this year, we have been able to fund a number of one-time grants to support projects with powerful propositions for women-led community action which just needed a bit of financial backing to get off the ground or to respond to changing needs of our project partners when natural disasters struck.

Female Theologians of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN)

One of the greatest strengths of Global Women's Project is its ability to unite women across generations and around the world in pursuit of a common mission. That is exactly what happened this past summer at Annual Conference when former GWP steering committee members and Bethany seminary employees got together to propose a partnership with female theologians in Nigeria. As the first stage of initiative, Global Women's Project has provided scholarships to cover transportation and materials for at least 3 Nigerian women to attend classes at the new EYN technology center in Jos. Here they will take classes with Bethany students via video. Read more about the technology center: bethanyseminary.edu/educational-partnership-with-EYN and bethanyseminary.edu/first-nigerian-student-cohort-welcomed

Eglise Des Frères Haiti (CoB Haiti)

Eglise Des Frères Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) has a Social Service Ministry program that includes mobile medical clinics, midwifery training, agricultural production and community development. Recently, GWP grant money provided training and start-up money in seven different communities for women to participate in an income generating program. Those 144 women have now started their own businesses that enable them to support their families and communities. Some of their businesses are sewing sheets, making fried bread, and making liquid soap.



Trauma healing workshop in Chiapas

Instituto de Estudios e Investigación Intercultural

CHIAPAS, México — The Institute of Intercultural Studies and Research (INESIN) was founded by a number of local pastors in the mid-90s following upheaval in the area due to the arrival of Guatemalan refugees and the Zapatista uprising. They continue to develop programs which bring the community together, across cultural difference, to strengthen the Chiapas community. We have provided seed money for two of their recent initiatives: Roots in the Ruins - trauma response training (in the aftermath of the 8.6 magnitude earthquake in September) and menstrual health workshops and resources.

We are excited to announce that we can now receive donations online at: www.brethren.org/globalwomensproject. Through this site you can make a one-time or monthly-recurring donation.

40th Anniversary—Challenge of the Month

2018 will be Global Women's Project 40th year(!!!), and to celebrate, we will be offering a CHALLENGE of the Month. Each challenge will be something different. We know that those of you who already know the work of Global Women's Project love it, but we also know that there are more people out there who would want to be involved. We hope some of these challenges will be ideas you will share with others, whether it is through social media, personal conversations, email, church announcements, or other groups, we look forward to offering one way each month to educate ourselves, live simply, empower women, and or share resources. We know you are up to the CHALLENGE!

Here is the CHALLENGE of the month for January 2018:

Global Women's Project turns 40 in 2018! Start the new year off right by thinking of one woman who is at least 40 years old who inspires you and empowers you to be a force for good. Write a letter to her, make a phone call, do a Facebook post, or if she isn't someone you can reach, write in your journal about what it is about her that inspires you, and think about ways you can show your care for women.

Look for the CHALLENGE each month during 2018 in our monthly E-Links and on Facebook.

2017 Financial Report

Simply put, if it wasn't for faithful supporters like you, we wouldn't exist. Thank you for supplying the funds that we need to make a difference in the lives of women in the world.

Year-to-date we have dispersed \$18,000 in grant support.

Over the 40-year history of Global Women's Project, we have distributed approximately \$295,000 in grant allocations!

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 or mail your donation to GWP, c/o 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120. Thank you!

NEW! You can give online: www.brethren.org/globalwomensproject

Special Ways to Give

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.

2017 Memorial Gifts

The following people were honored through memorial gifts in 2017:

Louie and Phil Baldwin	Mildred Graham
Rieman	Rose Graham
Beatrice VanPherson	Vesta Graham
Coldren	Mattie Jackson
Eibhlin Ewald	Elaine and Richard Kahler
Veda M. Forbes	Jan Matteson
Mary Wine Fruth	Dorothy Shaeffer Miller
Frances Graham	Ellen Divine Miller
Helen Joy Graham	Minva Reid
Helen Graham Potts	Maxine Sowles

South Sudan Update

If you are following the news about South Sudan you know that the situation is very sad and scary.

Recently we received an update from Gladys Mananyu, our liaison for the Women's Sewing Cooperative in Narus:

My sincere thanks to you for remembering us all in our hardest moments in your prayers. Indeed the situation is not good but we have no control over it, it's only God. It is somehow fair for few of us who are still struggle to make ends meet with the deepening economic situation all over the country. I recently visited the project sites in Narus (women tailoring and the girls' education) a place that [was] moderately populate[d] is almost empty - hunger and the threat from the violent war situation drove a huge population into the neighboring countries. I found very few of the women who benefited from the project are still in Narus doing their own businesses of making dresses and others to support their families. Now due to the current conflict situation in our country it has also become difficult for me to make frequent visits because of insecurity and high cost of traveling. But with the help of our loving God I am re-engaging some women group programs in other locations which the women are desperately in need of such support, too. If that is acceptable to you all, I am ready to start the similar program with them.

At our recent GWP Steering Committee meeting we discussed the need for safety as well as a stable income for the women and fully support a change in location for the sewing cooperative.

Communication is very difficult in South Sudan and in the bordering refugee camps, but as soon as we hear more details of new groups being started, we will let you know.

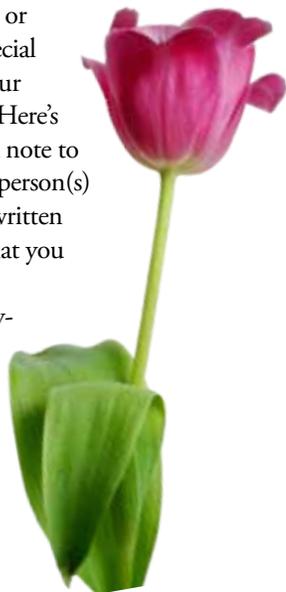
Mama Gladys wishes to convey her "sincere greetings and love to the family of Global Women's Project Committee for the support that changed hopelessness into surviving human persons."

Life is Expensive

RWANDA — When contact is not able to occur, how do we help? The Life is Expensive Project in Rwanda has been a place where women have worked together to raise crops for their own use, and to sell for the benefit of their families, but unfortunately, we haven't been able to hear from them this year. This highlights the challenges of infrastructure that women sometimes have to deal with as they seek to support their families. Please pray for the women of Rwanda. Though we don't know specifically what is happening for them, we do know that these are times of transition and upheaval in their country, and we pray for safety and well-being for every person there.

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 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 Tina Rieman, 508 Miami St, North Manchester, IN 46962 (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. For any donation received by May 6, 2018, a card will be guaranteed to go out before Mother's Day. Tina looks forward to helping you surprise your loved ones this year!

Growing Grounds

INDIANA, USA — Growing Grounds works with women to help in the difficult transition from incarceration to the community and an independent, healthy life with their families.

It has always been specially heartbreaking to see the struggle of the children that are connected to the women that Growing Grounds works with, Carol Horn reports. While their mothers are incarcerated, children stay with family or friends or end up in the foster care system. Many are being let down over and over again. Growing Grounds is happy to report that they are now connected with Camp Mack, which is hosting a special camp for kids of the incarcerated in the summer. Another positive development is the cooperation between Growing Grounds and "Access" in downtown Wabash, an afterschool and nutrition site for children and youth.

The apartment that Growing Grounds offers to women as transitional housing is still a blessing and a struggle alike. It gives a place to live for women who are leaving incarceration (who might otherwise be homeless), but it is still a challenge to meet all the different needs while also enforcing house rules and requirements.

We close with the words from Carol Horn, Growing Grounds Co-Director: "Our work, challenges, and bright moments continue here daily with the work of Growing Grounds. We are so up close to the struggles of abuse and addiction. It is heartbreaking. Yet, we optimistically persevere, as they do, and eventually, there is sometimes positive progress."

Cultural Academy for Peace

KERALA, India — Violence against women and children is very high right now in India's southern state of Kerala. Sadly, the perpetrator is often a family member. The increase in violence points CAP toward the lack of awareness among the public. Therefore, CAP has been actively raising awareness among their community. During a six-month period, they conducted five training sessions and eight awareness classes to address the issue of increased violence. These classes targeted students, teachers, and railway police, among others.

Five former residents - young women - of the Shanti Bhavan shelter completed nurse's training and are now living independently as nursing assistants. Another young woman completed her Ayurveda Nursing course and is employed in another part of the country. All of them keep in touch with CAP and share their joys and challenges.

The Nirbhaya Home needs to look for a new building/compound. They are raising money for that new shelter, which will also be a facility for counseling, meditation, retreat, recreation, gardening, etc.

CAP continues to face their challenges with good faith and effort, and we are grateful to be connected to them.



An empowerment workshop held in the summer of 2017

CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women (SITEAW)

UGANDA — Sister Stella could only share briefly due to internet challenges, but she is currently working with girls in Uganda, and she shares great appreciation for all the assistance Global Women's Project has provided. She asked that we convey their best regards and Season's Greetings!

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:

- **ALL YEAR** – Look for the Challenge of the Month in our monthly Global eLinks email to celebrate our 40th anniversary!
- **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 Wednesday, February 14th 2018.
- **MARCH** – Celebrate International Women's Day with your faith community this year on Thursday, March 8th, 2018. 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 13, 2018.
- **JULY** – Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 4-8th 2018. We always enjoy connecting with you.
- **ANYTIME/BIRTHDAYS/HOLIDAYS** – to celebrate a special day or the everyday go to globalwomensproject.wordpress.com and click on "gifts" to see how you can donate to GWP.



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Subscribe to our monthly email newsletter, **Global e-Links**, below.
Visit our webpage:
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!)