



# Globalinks<sup>2015</sup>

an annual newsletter of Global Women's Project

## Inside this issue:

- New Member, Carol Leland
- Partner Project Updates
- International Women's Day
- Lenten Calendar Feedback
- A Special Thank You
- A Mighty Girl Website
- Help for Nigeria
- Financial Update
- A Reflection on Materialism
- Calendar of Events
- How to Contact GWP



## GWP Steering Committee:

- Pearl Miller, Warrensburg, MO
- Carol Leland, Harrisonburg, VA
- Kim Hill Smith, Minneapolis, MN
- Emily Matteson, Modesto, CA
- Tina Rieman, El Cerrito, CA
- Anke Pietsch, Lebanon, OH

## Getting to Know Carol Leland, GWP Steering Committee's Newest Member

1. Family: Blessings of a son and daughter, brother, father, granddaughter, coupled with wonderful nieces and nephews, joined with brothers- and sisters-in-law, son-in-law and members of a blended family.

2. From: Carol returned in 2013 to Virginia, which she considers her home state, after 35 years of living in the happiness of the state of Iowa where she received strengthened and enhanced understanding of her faith and a call to understanding of the power of community.

3. Favorite thing about GWP: The commitment to women's issues - locally and across the globe.

4. Grateful for: The power of God's love for all humankind.

5. Travel destination: Carol would love to return to the beauty of Tikal, the ruins of an ancient city in Guatemala.

6. For work: Carol is currently a clinical supervisor/consultant for Youth and Shelter Services in Ames, Iowa, and a private mental health therapist for Compass Counseling Services in Staunton, Virginia.

7. Free time: Carol loves to travel, read, and explore the beauty of Virginia.

8. Luxuries: Her Subaru and coffee.

9. Other service: Carol is honored to be serving her second term on the Board of Trustees of McPherson college, a college dedicated to academics and the development of whole persons with a focus on service.

10. Favorite quote: "The God who existed before any religion counts on you to make the oneness of the human family known and celebrated."  
~Desmond Tutu

**Welcome to GWP, Carol!**



## Can you guess which GWP partner project is pictured below?

### The options:

- Growing Grounds (USA)
- Women's Sewing Cooperative (South Sudan)
- Life Is Expensive (Rwanda)
- Women Empowerment (Nepal)
- SITEAW (Uganda)

Answer on back page.



## Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women (SITEAW) - Uganda

For the past 11 years, GWP has partnered with SITEAW to enable girls to attend school in Uganda and to provide interest-free loans to women starting small businesses making baskets, bricks, crafts and art.

According to our contact person for SITEAW, Sister Stella Sabina, education gives girls and young women in Uganda the best chance to rise above the unjust systems of oppression to which many are held captive. With support from GWP grant money, Sister Stella reports SITEAW has been able to support 23 girls with fees to attend school this year.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, Sister Stella is visiting the girls sponsored by SITEAW in Uganda. She writes, "Please ask all the sisters to pray for us. Safety and health are at stake. Ebola was in Uganda two years ago, now it is in West Africa. We are going to take the risk...."

We are grateful for the work of Sister Stella and SITEAW and for their fierce commitment to bettering the lives of women and girls in Uganda.

## Women Empowerment - Nepal

Our partner project in Nepal, Women Empowerment (WE), is a community-based organization that works to



improve the socioeconomic status of women by providing education and skills training for women in areas such as Khandarjung and Kalabong. In the past, the grants provided by GWP have helped provide scholarships and supplies for girls to go to school, and have funded projects aimed at teaching women skills in beading, hair styling, and tailoring, among others. This year, GWP gave an increased grant to WE in order to completely fund an advanced tailoring course that would allow the women to grow their skill set even further. It is exciting to see this project expand as the women of WE work together to create more opportunities for women in Nepal.

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## Growing Grounds - Wabash, IN, USA

Growing Grounds has continued to expand its services to the community of Wabash, Indiana. They provide many services: teaching classes in the jail on various topics, monthly meals and informational meetings, weekly NA (narcotics anonymous) meetings, no-interest loans, referrals from probation (who says Growing Grounds is the best referral they have for women), emergency shelter payments, securing needed household items and bikes, transit money, support with money management, and in general, "walking with" the women they serve.

In addition, they are part of a county-wide initiative around shelter and transitional housing, which is lacking in Wabash County. Their response to the need is a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Growing Grounds/Wabash Church of the Brethren to make available to homeless women (former inmates) a small two-bedroom apartment. The director of Wabash Habitat, Steve

Miller, is a Manchester University graduate and has a heart and a passion for the homeless. The initial commitment is for one year of transitional housing, and it is definitely offering an important service to women of Wabash.

## International Women's Day - Sunday, March 8, 2015

Are you looking for resources to use for worship services or other gatherings to honor women on International Women's Day? GWP has a number of beautiful writings and ideas for celebrating women on our website at [www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org). Just click on the tab for International Women's Day Resources. We are continually adding to our resources for this important day. Check them out!



## Women's Sewing Cooperative - South Sudan

We have not heard much recently from the Women's Sewing Cooperative in Naurus, South Sudan, but we are glad to know that since the crisis in December 2013 that part of the state remained safe. Gladys Mananyu from the South Sudan Council of Churches reported that "most of the fleeing people passed through Narus on their way to Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya." She asks us to continue to pray for the situation in South Sudan, especially the Peace Talks process in Addis. She is happy that the Women Tailoring Course Program is on, and the second group graduated in May 2014. Currently they have the third group which should finalize their training in November 2014. Some of the graduated members are having their own small businesses, though not all of them, mainly due to lack of personally-owned sewing machines.

Please keep our sisters and brothers in South Sudan in your prayers so that they can keep working on peace in their communities.

### Thank you, Nan!

GWP would like to thank former steering committee member Nan Erbaugh for all the years she dedicated her time and talents to writing the cards for our Mother's Day Project. Thank you for your continued support, Nan!

## Lenten Calendar

Last year we were excited to announce our beautiful new Lenten Devotional Calendar, designed with help from Etch Marketing and Design Studio, a student-run, non-profit marketing and graphic design firm affiliated with McPherson College. This free calendar provides stories, facts, scripture, photos, and activities to teach about our partner projects throughout the season of Lent. The goal of the calendar is to get us thinking about our own luxuries and privilege, while also recognizing our interconnectedness with women around the world.

Our calendar was so popular last year that we had to print it a second time! Wow!

## Life Is Expensive - Rwanda



GWP emphasizes the importance of having a personal connection with each partner project. Given the distances that separate us from the women of our

partner projects, we were delighted to speak by phone with Esperance Nyirandayisenga while she was visiting in the United States last summer.

Esperance, our contact with Life is Expensive in the Rubavu District of Rwanda, told us that some forty women gather weekly to share about their lives and their challenges. At the meeting each woman donates some money to a common pot, funding a microloan to a woman to establish a small business: weaving baskets, growing mushrooms, maize, or vegetables, or raising sheep and goats. The woman then pays the microloan forward, making it available to another woman. The group recently started a sewing school with five new sewing machines to make clothing, tablecloths, and quilts to sell. The women also support each other in times of need, and they offer classes on women's issues.

Because the women know the importance of education for their children, their next big goal is to build a school. The women in this community, Esperance says, have moved "from grief to hope."

Here are some reviews from those who used the calendar last year:

*"Thank you for this rich reminder of how wealthy I am in so many ways!"*

*"The Lenten calendar is so thoughtful and beautiful!"*

*"I love doing the action items each day - it's a great way for me to engage with women in my community and to challenge the way I respond to injustice."*

Interested in receiving the Lenten Calendar this year? Feel free to order multiple copies for yourself or your church. You can also opt to receive a page of the calendar by email each day throughout Lent.



## A Mighty Girl, by Anke Pietsch

As a mother of seven- and nine-year-old girls, I am always looking for inspirational stories, nice gift ideas, good advice, and fun projects to share with them and to help them become courageous, caring, and adventurous women, not afraid to take on and change the world.

I want to tell you about one of my favorite websites: "A Mighty Girl" ([www.amightygirl.org](http://www.amightygirl.org) and on facebook).

Stories from girls and women all over the world and throughout history are shared to inspire mighty girls of today to fulfill their dreams.

If you are looking for books with strong females leads, toys that inspire creative thinking outside the box, famous and not-so-famous quotes, or just stories to share, it's the place for you.

Read up on Malala, Astrid Lindgren, or Georgia O'Keeffe.

"A Mighty Girl" features book and movie recommendation lists, such as "The Ultimate Guide to the Independent Princess," "Top Mighty Girl Books and Films on Women's History," and "Top Books on Bullying Prevention for Mighty Girls." They also post daily stories and facts about women's history and girls of today. Check it out!

## Support for CCEPI in Nigeria

News from Nigeria highlights the precarious situation for people in the far northeastern corner of the country, where Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) is headquartered. There have been daily accounts of violence perpetrated by extremists as residents literally flee for their lives, leaving homes, farms, and their only means of support and sustenance behind.

Dr. Rebecca Dali leads a nonprofit organization founded in 2011, CCEPI (Center for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives), that "gives specific attention to the immediate needs of vulnerable women and children, complemented by efforts to strengthen the ability of families to live healthy and productive lives, and to reduce conflict and foster peace within and among communities in Nigeria."

CCEPI's work reaches people regardless of their religious and cultural backgrounds. At the 2014 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Dali reported on the ongoing work of CCEPI and the critical work they are doing in providing resources for trauma healing and care for urgent basic needs amidst the crisis. GWP recently contributed a gift of \$1000 to CCEPI for their local empowerment work.

## 2014 Financial Overview

Thank you for your faithful financial support for the work of GWP! We are 100% donation based, so we rely solely on the generosity of people like you to carry out our work.

We are happy to report that we were able to send additional funds beyond our \$1,500 grants to three of our five partner projects this year as well as give a one time donation to the Center for Caring, Empowerment and Peace Initiatives in Nigeria. Our heartfelt gratitude to each of you!

Below is a summary of our finances from 1-1-14 through 10-31-14:

\$21,170.83 Balance on 1-1-14

\$14,955.23 Donations

\$17,527.50 Expenses for the work of GWP

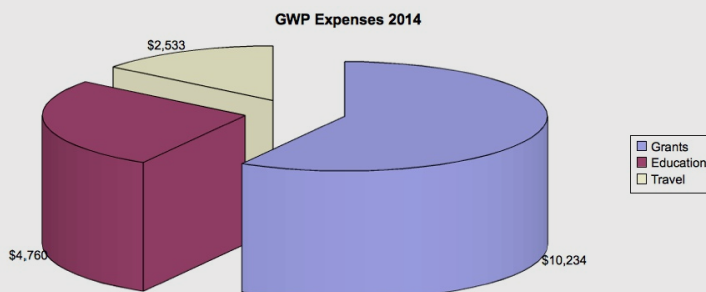
\$18,598.56 Balance as of 10-31-14

A breakdown of our expenses:

\$10,234.00 Grants to Projects

\$4,760.29 Educational Resources

\$2,533.21 Travel



## Reflections about Materialism and a Simple Life, by Carol Leland

Question: What is materialism?

Answer: Materialism is defined as “the preoccupation with material things rather than intellectual or spiritual things.”

Am I materialistic?

We're all materialists, to one extent or another. We all use and enjoy material goods in our daily lives, and most of us simply couldn't get by without them.

Materialism as an obstacle?

Materialism becomes an obstacle when I start allowing things (or the desire for things) to control me, to keep me focused on things outside myself rather than on things that would be truly beneficial, such as my spiritual development, my relationships, my learning, my peace of mind. And most importantly, at the exclusion of my brothers and sisters of the world who experience rejection because of color or gender and do not ever ponder the word materialism because their only focus is surviving.

I have no solution to our world of materialism. I do have hope that we can see and know the world has suffering, and I have hope that we can offer more - whatever you define “more” to be.

I'll close with a few quotes about simplicity. Shalom to ALL.

Quotes and reflections from Simple Life article ([www.simplicitycollective.com](http://www.simplicitycollective.com)).

People were asked: What does the Simple Life Mean to You?

“The need for simplicity within me stems from the passion to be part of an alternative world. A world where there is equality, fairness, honesty, and integrity. Equality cannot be achieved if those who have, continue to want more and more. A need based living by me (as opposed to a want based living) will provide room for several others who do not have access to the basics in life. I have never experienced hunger in my life. I cannot bear to think of the plight of many others who actually die of hunger.

“Simplicity/less consumption by the 'haves' means less load on the environment, less natural disasters, meaningful development in those areas that it is really required. Better living standards for all not just a selected few.”

~Mahesh Kandasamy

“I seek a simpler life because I am concerned about certain world issues, such as climate change & wealth distribution. I feel that if I simplify my life it will have a beneficial effect in reducing my environmental and social impact. Again this is not about deprivation. One has to be happy with the social and environmental changes they are making in their lives, otherwise you're unlikely to stick with these changes.

“The steps I have taken... to live the simplicity principle include taking time to really get to know myself, what my needs are, what I can and cannot live without. I have also actively sought information that will assist with my journey to a more simple life.”

~J.O.

Quotes and reflections from Spirit of Simplicity Vol. 2 ([www.simpleliving.startlogic.com](http://www.simpleliving.startlogic.com))

“A society whose principles are acquisition, profit, and property produces a social character oriented around having, and once the dominant pattern is established, nobody wants to be an outsider, or indeed an outcast; in order to avoid this risk everybody adapts to the majority, who have in common only their mutual antagonism.” ~ Erich Fromm

“One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Luke 12:13-34.

“What do I own that is not necessary for the activities I find most meaningful? What would I do with my free time if I only had to spend half as much time working?” ~TREK

“You can never get enough of what you don't really need to make you happy.” ~ Eric Hoffer

## Calendar of Events:

As the year goes on, there are many different ways to support the work of GWP. *We invite you to post this calendar where you can see it throughout the year!*

**January/February** - Pull out your Lenten Calendar from last year or order a free GWP Lenten Calendar to guide your spiritual journey this year. Email us at [info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org) and we'll 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 on February 18, 2015.

**March** - Invite your faith community to celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8th! Did you know that GWP has a collection of worship resources written by women on our website? Check them out ([www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org)) and get inspired!

**April/May** - Begin thinking of the women you would like to honor on Mother's Day through our 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 10, 2015.

**Anytime/birthdays/holidays** - To celebrate a special day or the everyday, find beautiful cards with photos from our partner projects at [www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org) and click on "gifts."



### Get Connected!

Follow us on **Facebook**.

**Subscribe to Global e-Links**, our monthly email newsletter.

**Visit our webpage:**

[www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org)

**Email us at**

[info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org)

Make checks out to Global Women's Project and mail them in the enclosed envelope to Tina Rieman. *GWP is still connected to the Church of the Brethren, but address corrections need to come to a member of the steering committee directly (instead of the CoB offices), so please use the form below and the enclosed envelope.*



*Clip and send to GWP.*

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

*Clip and post the calendar!*



## Send your contact info to us

**...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!
- ☐ 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 memorializing a special woman through GWP.
- ☐ 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

816 Liberty St Apt 1

El Cerrito CA 94530

[www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org)

[info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org)



ANSWER: The photo on the front page of the women with goats is from Life Is Expensive in Rwanda. *Photo from Esperance.*