



Globalinks²⁰¹⁴

an annual newsletter of Global Women's Project

10 Things to Know About Our New Members

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GWP Steering Committee:

- Kim Hill Smith, Minneapolis, MN
- Tina Rieman, El Cerrito, CA
- Pearl Miller, Warrensburg, MO
- Anke Pietsch, Lebanon, OH
- Emily Matteson, Modesto, CA
- Anna Lisa Gross, Minneapolis, MN

Pearl Miller

1. Lives in Warrensburg, MO.
2. She works with Partner Project "Life is Expensive" in Rwanda.
3. One of her GWP tasks is preparing our new Lenten Calendar. Look for it in Spring 2014!
4. Her favorite thing about GWP is connecting with women, sharing our joys and concerns, and discovering the ways our lives intersect. She sees working with the steering committee as a special privilege, as is learning about the women we partner with and the network of people who care about GWP.
5. She is grateful for the women and men and in her life who have nurtured her and helped her to understand that we are all created by a loving God. "We are part of one another."
6. One place she'd like to visit is Kosovo, where she has a friend

she'd love to visit in her home country.



7. When she's not working for GWP she loves living close to her family so she can spend time with them. She volunteers at a community Food Center, serves on the Task Force for Bicycling and Pedestrian Transportation, and enjoys worship and music planning at the Warrensburg Church of the Brethren.
8. Her favorite tea is Lemongrass brewed fresh from the lemongrass stalks in her herb garden.
9. Some of her luxuries include her car and her computer.
10. A favorite proverb of hers is "If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come." Carry that hope, that vision with you.

Anke Pietsch

1. Lives in Lebanon, OH.
2. She works with our Partner Project in South Sudan, a women's sewing cooperative.
3. One of her GWP tasks is responding to GWP email.
4. Her favorite thing about GWP is that it not only educates about the lives of women around the globe, but it connects back to our lifestyles at home and how we can all make a difference.
5. One thing she's grateful for is her family.
6. A place she'd love to visit is Zanzibar.
7. When she's not working for GWP

she spends time with her husband Steve and their two daughters, Mia (8) and Ella (6), as well as their 11 chickens,



- 2 cats, and a dog! Anke also teaches pottery and felting at the local YMCA and sells her artwork on Etsy. She is very creative!
8. Her favorite tea is Rooibos.
9. Some of her luxuries include having a car and being able to afford gas.
10. Words of wisdom: While enjoying your life, don't forget the impact you have on the lives of others and live accordingly.

Life Is Expensive - Rwanda

The goal of partner project "Ubuzima Burahenda" (Life is Expensive) is to help the women come out of poverty and become self-sufficient. The women's self-help initiative was organized in an area of Rwanda which was badly affected by the 1994 genocide. The majority of the people in the region are widows and orphans, many of whom are living with HIV/AIDS. Women in the association have been raising goats, and growing tomatoes, onions, cabbages, groundnuts, pineapples and tropical apples. The produce harvested beyond their own needs is sold at market, and the proceeds are used for medical care, education, and to further support community projects.

Esperance Nyirandayisenga, who leads Life is Expensive, recently sent an update: "Greetings from the women. We had a meeting last week and we are now able to plant mushrooms and maize. The ladies are doing well. We are planning in the future to have a school. We will need to buy sewing machines to make clothes, blankets, tablecloths, and so many other things. Pray for us so that God may provide."

Growing Grounds - Wabash, Indiana - USA

Kay Gaier and Carol Horn wrote the following update from Growing Grounds and send their blessings to GWP.

The word is getting around! In the last two months the number of women and families who attend our monthly meeting has more than tripled!! That is the good news. We have had fun working with moms, dads, and kids and they have been spreading the word. We get calls from folks who have heard that Growing Grounds is a safe and supportive place and they want to know more about it. We have begun to include the participants in the program in leadership roles, and our sessions have grown and

During our fall GWP Steering Committee meeting we had the chance to meet with Growing Grounds in Wabash, IN. It was very special to connect with members of a Partner Project and see the impact of GWP's annual scholarships first hand. It was also very eye-opening to see the struggles and financial burden women (and men) face when released from jail/prison.

Loan given by Growing Grounds in September 2013 to formerly incarcerated woman for her expenses:

Community Corrections for electronic home device charges @\$70 a week x 2 = \$140
Ticket for expired license plates \$135
Bowen Center for required evaluation \$100
Urine test required through Community Corrections \$30 (even though this person has no alcohol or drug problems)
New driver's license \$18
Payment to her mother for ½ phone bill for 1 month \$60 (released folks on electronic home detention are required to have phones)
Money for hygiene items, money orders to pay above, etc. \$50
TOTAL LOAN \$533

three classes in the jail and the mentoring work seems constant and important. As always we are so very grateful for the support of GWP.

Women Empowerment - Nepal

Our contact in Nepal, Roshni Rai, gave us an exciting report on all the work that Women Empowerment (WE) has been doing to provide women education and job skills. In Nepal education is not free, and the WE scholarship fund was able to support 10

girls and donate books, stationery, and uniforms. WE also opened a



tailoring shop in the city with the help of funding from GWP & New Community Project, where women could learn how to use sewing machines and to stitch. Many women learned how to make school uniforms, which are in demand at the start of the school year. Training was also provided for women to learn the recipe for various snack items that are popular in the Nepali market. WE partnered with several grocery stores and organized events in the schools to sell these snack products.

the sharing deepened. The word is getting around the judicial system as well, and we have begun to get calls from women saying that the Judge referred them to Growing Grounds at their sentencing hearing. This is also good news. The more difficult result is with new friends comes a greater awareness of needs among these families. We continue to struggle with how our resources can have the best impact on the lives of those working to make permanent changes for themselves and their families. We continue to offer

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

GWP is pleased to partner with SITEAW for a tenth year as it seeks to enable girls to attend school and to provide interest free loans to support women in starting their own small businesses in Uganda.

Sister Stella, our faithful and tireless contact person for this Partner Project states, "Empowering the girls and women with education is our priority." With the help of GWP donations, 15 girls are being sponsored this year. Sister Stella notes, "We take them out of the abusive environments to keep them from being circumcised and married off at a very young age, but there's need also to support their foster parents in order to save them from being subjected to hard labor."

Sister Stella shares this story of one of the girls supported by SITEAW: *She got a job in one of the banks in Uganda. She has been saving money to go back to school. She would like to do Information Technology and Women Studies in order to lead the Center we are struggling to build in Uganda. These are her own words, "Sister Stella, you made me who I am. I want to help others, too, so that they may get out of the bondage of being circumcised, sold, trafficked and abused." This*



made me smile. I never thought I would live to see any fruits from our labor. Creating leadership is SITEAW's foremost goal, and when our girls understand it, what more should we ask for?

With regard to supporting women starting small businesses making baskets, bricks, crafts and art, Sister Stella reports that GWP funds have helped have helped to support 4 groups of 10-15 women. Unfortunately, she states, "These groups are struggling due to the high taxation imposed by the government in Uganda." She says, "This year SITEAW decided to forgive all the money (\$30) we had lent them to start their projects because they

did not make enough to support their children." Typically, the women pay back their loans after 6 months so that the money can be lent

to other women to start their own businesses.

Sister Stella writes, "On behalf of SITEAW, I would like to thank the Global Women of the Church of the Brethren. You extend your hands every year to lift up the girls and women in our program. We can't thank you enough."

Women's Sewing Cooperative - South Sudan

It was an important day in August for the 15 women gathered in Narus, South



Sudan, who completed a Tailoring/Dressmaking course of the Women's Sewing Cooperative. The training lasted from May 2012 until their final examinations in July 2013.

Everybody praised the program made possible by the cooperation of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and the Interchurch Committee (ICC). Women from different churches in the community received a grant from the Global Women's Project through the New Community Project to cover the expenses.

A long list of church and county representatives as well as families members

were in attendance, while the women proudly presented their work and received certificates.

Under the leadership and encouragement of Mama Gladys Mananyu, the women in the community had identified the need for sewing machines and training to enhance their skills. Instead of the common practice of brewing the local beer, the graduates now can become self-reliant dressmakers and earn a steady income.

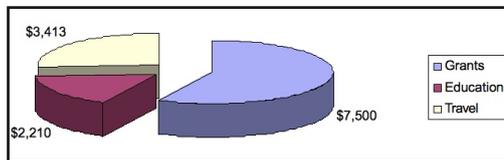
But not only sewing skills were acquired. In addition, the group of women continued to sow seeds of peace, understanding and cooperation between the diverse ethnic groups. One more step towards peace within neighborhoods in this new country.

With the first training complete, the community is already planning for future projects which include loans for sewing machines, more courses in tailoring and food catering, home care, and hygiene.

2013 Financial Update

Funding for GWP is 100% donation based. Thanks to you, our faithful donors, we will have the funds to support our Partner Projects for 2014, create a new Lenten Devotional Calendar, have a booth at the 2014 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, maintain our website, send out educational materials upon request for various gatherings (women's events, District Conferences, fundraising activities, etc.), and enable our Steering Committee to meet to carry out the work of GWP. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you!

Below is a summary of our finances from January 1, 2013, through November 30, 2013:



\$13,536.41 Balance on January 1, 2013
\$14,765.56 Donations as of November 30, 2013
\$28,301.97 Funds for GWP Work in 2013
\$15,179.33 Balance as of November 30, 2013

Expenses:

\$7,500.00 Grants to Support 5 Partner Projects
\$2,210.04 Educational Expenses
\$3,412.60 Travel Expenses

Thank you for your support! We hope this newsletter helps give you an idea of the powerful impact of your generous donations.

Invitation to Share GWP

GWP is a relationship-based organization! We're delighted that you're reading this newsletter, but we know nothing beats face-to-face interaction! Could you be a bridge between GWP and caring individuals throughout the Church of the Brethren and beyond? We have a small promotional kit with pictures, info, sign up sheets, etc, that we can send to you for your next district conference, women's gathering or holiday fair! We look forward to hearing from you! Send an email to info@globalwomensproject.org to inquire about this.

GWP 35th Anniversary Memories

At the 2013 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference held in Charlotte, NC, GWP celebrated its 35th anniversary. As part of that celebration, people were given an opportunity to share some of their memories of GWP. We thought you might enjoy reading some of these reflections.

I am one of the women fortunate enough to have heard the moving presentation by Ruthann Knechel Johansen at the Church of the Brethren Women's Conference at Manchester College that birthed the Global Women's Project in 1978. What a blessing it has been to also have had the opportunity to help support this outreach work for the benefit of our global sisters ever since. ~Fran Nyce

I vividly remember my phone call from Louie Rieman saying she was rolling off the GWP Steering Committee and wondered if I would consider coming onto the team. It was one of the best decisions I ever made! Traveling to Sudan and getting a GWP project adopted was

awesome. Getting to return and reconnect with the women in the sewing project has been a real blessing. It has also been a huge blessing to form such wonderful relationships with GWP sisters here in the US! What a passionate bunch! ~Nan Erbaugh



I celebrate the amazing women in the denomination who work tirelessly and the amazing women around the world who work tirelessly. ~Carrie Eikler

I remember the honor of being asked to serve on the GWP committee. My favorite memory was meeting in Indiana at Louie and Phil Rieman's home. Louie had been telling us about Sister Stella Sabina and her project. There were no words to describe the pure love, joy, and compassion when Sister Stella walked into the room. It was the best meeting I have ever participated in in 40 years in the church. The day was topped with a dancing prayer in the living room with Sister Stella's leadership with a goat skin fur on our back sides. None of us could shake it like Sister Stella! ~Leslie Seese

New Lenten Calendar!

Five years ago, GWP produced a Lenten daily devotional calendar. Filled with facts and stories from around the world, scripture reflections, taxes and activities, this Lenten calendar brought the world's suffering and hope to your homes. This was quite an undertaking and a true labor of love for GWP.

The Lenten calendar is a wonderful bridge of our two-fold mission: raising awareness about luxuries and privilege, and supporting women's initiatives around the world. Reading through the calendar you learn the challenging contexts of our partner projects, and gain greater appreciation for the work they're doing in their communities.

This year we've been laboring again. We are delighted to share our brand-new Lenten calendar

with you for 2014! It contains new stories, facts, photos, project partners, and activities for you and your family! Whether you still have the last calendar or you've never even heard of this, we'd love to send you our new Lenten calendar!

GWP has been preparing the calendar with design assistance from Etch Marketing and Design Studio, a student-run, non-profit marketing and graphic design firm affiliated with McPherson College, McPherson, KS.

The calendar is free, as the fundraising is built-in through daily contributions. Feel free to order multiple copies for your church or women's group. We can also send you a page per day by email.

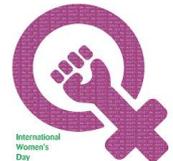


original Lenten calendar

New International Women's Day Resources Available!

GWP is excited to have several new resources available for use in planning for worship services and other gatherings to reflect on International Women's Day on March 8th. Authors of our new resources include Ruthann Knechel Johansen, Brenda Petry, Mary Kay Ogden and more! We are encouraging congregations to plan services

focused on women and issues related to women in March in honor of International Women's Day. To check out our resources, go to www.globalwomensproject.org and click on the tab for International Women's Day Resources.



Would you like to join GWP?

The Global Women's Project has been a labor of love on behalf of many women and men over the last 35 years - thank you to all who have served on the committee, given donations, and supported GWP in other ways!

The steering committee is all volunteer. We aim to have 6 members at a time, each serving 3-6 years. Right now we have members from every decade from 20s to 60s!

Would you like to serve on the steering committee? We meet twice a year in person, traveling around the country to connect with different churches and communities each meeting. We also have monthly conference calls and do ongoing work by email.

We cherish the work we do together and the ways we come to know one another through this work. We may have a spot for you! Let us know if you're interested! Talk with any individual on the steering committee or email info@globalwomensproject.org.

Would you like to host GWP?

As a former GWP Steering Committee member, I am aware of the challenge of finding an inexpensive, comfortable setting for the semi-annual meetings. Because my husband Bob and I have the luxury of a large home and plentiful garden, we were able to host the fall meeting of the Steering Committee. What a joy to share meals with Tina, Anna Lisa, Kim, Emily, Anke and Pearl, as well as to listen to their lively discussions and observe them hard at work. I suggest that others consider hosting a meeting as a way to support GWP and learn more about their work. If your home is too small, perhaps you and a



friend could share the hosting. Or your church could host the meals and meetings, with committee members sleeping in homes of church families.

*~ Rachel Gross,
North Manchester, IN*

Calendar of Events

Throughout the year, there are many ways to support the work of GWP. Mark your calendars to participate in the following ways! *We invite you to post this where you can see it throughout the year.*

January /February - Pull out last year's calendar or order a free new GWP Lenten Calendar and use it as a daily spiritual tool to guide you through the season. Email us at 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 March 5, 2014.

March - Consider using our International Women's Day Resources. You can find them on our website. International Women's Day is March 8. The Sunday closest to that date is March 9, 2014.

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 11, 2014.

July - Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, July 2-6, 2014. We always enjoy connecting with you!

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



Get Connected!

Follow us on **Facebook**

Subscribe to Global e-Links, our monthly newsletter

Visit our webpage:

www.globalwomensproject.org

Email us at

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), which is why we're doing it differently this year.*



Clip and send to GWP.

Clip and post the calendar!



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

This is a *change* of address.

- 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.
- Contact me about memorializing a special woman through GWP.
- Contact me about other ways I can connect with GWP.
- Enclosed is my donation to continue the work of GWP!

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

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