

Global Women's Project c/o Karlene Tyler  
333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit I  
McPherson, KS 67460



## GLOBALINKS 2025



2024-25 Global Women's Project Steering Committee  
Sarah Ullom-Minnich, Cynthia Mason, Karlene Tyler, Maddie Dulabaum, Kim McDowell

## FAREWELL BARB!

For five years Barb Sayler has faithfully served on GWP's Steering Committee, and we sadly said farewell to her at our in-person meeting in November!

Barb majored in music at McPherson College. After graduation, Barb began her many-faceted life, including teaching music, serving in BVS, touring with the musical group JOYA, attending Bethany Seminary and earning her Master of Divinity degree. She then began working with On Earth Peace, met her now husband, Mark Lancaster, and they became parents to their daughter, Emma.

She pastored the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren in Ohio, and is now chaplain at a retirement community in the Dayton area. Barb always brought great perspectives to our Steering Committee with her vast array of life experiences. We will miss her updates each month as we carry on with the work of GWP. We wish her well as she begins the next chapter of her journey as an "empty nester". However, we know that she will continue to support women around the world and continue to hold GWP in her heart. We hope to hear from her occasionally.... THANK YOU, Barb!

## WELCOME TO SARAH AND CYNTHIA!

**Cynthia Mason** lives in Frederick, MD, with life partner, Mike Leiter, whom she met in BVS. Both of their adult children, Caitlyn and Evan Leiter-Mason, live in Maryland as well. Cynthia recently joined the pastoral team of Living Stream Church of the Brethren. She graduated from Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker seminary in Richmond, IN, and served as a Campus Minister at Penn State University and as Interfaith Chaplain at Hood College. She has volunteered in other denominational endeavors including On Earth Peace, Program for Women, and Womaen's Caucus. When time allows, Cynthia enjoys substitute teaching, folding and teaching others to fold Origami paper cranes, playing Scrabble and Words with Friends, riding bikes, sewing and mending, and thrifting for treasures.

**Sarah Ullom-Minnich** joined the GWP Steering Committee in February 2024. Originally from Kansas, Sarah now lives in New Haven CT where she works as a Planning Manager for the State of Connecticut. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer, she brings an enthusiasm for directly supporting community initiatives and is excited to build relationships with GWP partners. In her free time she plays ultimate frisbee and serves as an entertainment specialist for her two cats.

## GWP STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS

When we gathered in November, we participated in the luxury tax exercise, which stemmed from a speech given in 1978 by Ruthann Knechel Johansen titled "Giving Birth to a New World"—the same speech that led to the founding of GWP. The luxury tax asks participants to tally certain tangible and intangible comforts they have in their lives and homes, giving a small tax based on that number to GWP and investigating the concept of luxury as a group. Here are some of our reflections following this experience:

**Maddie Dulabaum** (she/her, Elgin, IL): When we got to a question asking us to tally up our years of education and add that number to our total, the whole room let out an audible groan. Many of us have graduate degrees.

It's easy to feel guilty when completing the luxury tax because we are trained early on to "live simply." But rather than condemning excessive or lavish living, I think this exercise simply points out what has potentially become mundane in our lives. Our norm is not a global norm. It's easy to forget our norm wasn't always commonplace here either: my grandma initially wasn't allowed to go to college because her dad didn't see the point in educating women.

But, I do. I want women to have education, easy access to healthcare, a safe and comfortable restroom in their home, and so much more. Reframing the luxury tax as a way of being mindful and sharing my resources to achieve that end is helpful because, instead of feeling guilty, I'm fueled to utilize my luxury tax to raise others up.



### **Sarah Ullom-Minnich** (she/her, New Haven, CT):

When we talked about the luxury tax, I thought about how ubiquitous luxury can erode basic necessities. I have easy access to a variety of clothing and food that is shipped to my city from all over the world. However, the ease and thrift with which these items are produced and shipped has made it difficult for local sellers of food and other products to compete in the same price range. Buying the simple, locally-produced item begins to feel like luxury. It made me want to be mindful of how the "luxuries" I partake in may crowd out important local systems that promote sustainability and resilience.

### **Kim McDowell** (she/her, Hyattsville, MD):

To spark discussion, the exercise asks personal questions. Among other things, we counted the number of toilets in our houses, weekly meals at restaurants, and years of education. They're all illuminating. But the question "How many hospitals can you get to in less than an hour?" struck me, probably because my husband and I have been bemoaning all our healthcare-related visits over the past year. My answer was fifteen but I think it really should have been far more.

I live in the Washington DC metro area so there are lots of hospitals around me. My medical complaints took on a different light as we talked. Even relative to lots of people in the US, I have loads of access at my fingertips. Choice. Technology. Expertise. Medical research. This discussion has prompted me, partly in recognition of that privilege, to establish a regular gift to Doctors Without Borders this year—and to think twice about my laments over too many visits to healthcare offices and providers!

### **Karlene Tyler** (she/her, McPherson, KS):

I have done this exercise several times, and prepared myself to count electric outlets, showers, toilets, sinks, etc. And, I have become accustomed to internalizing the idea that, yes, I understand we in America have many luxuries that we take for granted.

However, when the leader asked us to tax ourselves for all the countries we had traveled to, I was dumbfounded! I had never thought about the fact that this was a luxury that most of the world cannot enjoy. I was always proud of the fact that I have traveled to thirty-three countries to date, and suddenly felt ashamed. I've always thought of this as part of my education, and really did not want to take the hit!

But, of course, education is a luxury, too. We Americans do not often think about everything that we have and take for granted is a LUXURY!! So, I would urge each of us to stop and think about what we take for granted, and know that we have many, many luxuries.

### **Cynthia Mason** (she/her, Frederick, MD):

Reflecting on the exercise made me a bit queasy. Maybe because the words "luxury" and "tax" set off my alarm bells. Luxury is a word lavishly dripping with a harsh judgment baked into our thrifty Anabaptist genes.

I strongly believe in accountability as a touchstone of Pietism, that our faith and practice are to be consistent. However, defining what is and is not a luxury can get sticky, reminiscent of our traumatic practice of shunning and other harms associated with judgmental Christianity. More inspiring for me is the pivotal impulse that created GWP as a way to share graciously of our comparative wealth.

While it may seem at odds within a culture that celebrates materialism, an intriguing spiritual movement focused on minimalism is emerging. A key teaching is to get away from the collection and management of material things to make room for what really matters and find more freedom to share our resources. Or as the gospel reminds us—notice where your treasures are and that is where your heart will be also. I give thanks that for almost fifty years GWP has helped us consider where our treasures may be found.

## **GWP FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

We have usually shown a chart of our income and expenditures for the year. Unfortunately, due to technical issues encountered at Elgin, we have not been able to complete our year-end finance report.

However, as of the end of November, income has increased about \$1,000. THANK YOU!

Approximate expenses should be a little less than last year; grants are the same at \$13,000, administrative costs should be around \$1,000, programming costs appear to be about \$2,700, and Steering Committee travel should come in at about \$1,400. Please remember this is all approximate, but we believe this should put us in a great position to start 2025! The Steering Committee so appreciates your support and we hope to see you at Annual Conference in July.



GLOBAL WOMENS PROJECT ADVENT CALENDAR



## LANGUAGE LESSON

**Women Together** – Growing Grounds, English

**Mujeres Juntos** – Women's Health Initiative, Spanish

**Ukunziola** – Narus Sewing Collective, Nimule

**Wanawake Pamoja** – SITEAW, Swahili

സ്ത്രീകൾ ഒരുമിച്ച് – CAP, Malayalam

## 2025 PARTNER UPDATES

### WOMEN'S INTEGRATED HEALTH

CHIAPAS, MEXICO – Women and children share sacred conversation about their menstruation and maternal health in Chiapas Integrated Health (CIH) workshops. CIH serves anyone in need in their area, and the needs have only increased with COVID-19, climate change, increasing violence, and poverty. Mexicans have access to universal health coverage but reliable, quality health care is hard to come by—especially in remote, rural areas of Chiapas.

We received reports from CIH leader Elena Gomez Martinez that a total of twenty-six education sessions were offered, focusing on women's health, indigenous medicines, as well as how to build a brick oven. Unfortunately, Elena reports that she is currently battling breast cancer. Our prayers for healing are with Elena as she faces this time of illness and uncertainty.



## ADVENT WRAP-UP

We rejoice for all who unwrapped the luxuries in their own lives while working through the Advent calendar. This is our sixth Advent calendar, and we have appreciated the response from the community through the years. Your gratitude for the luxuries in your lives has become generosity. Your donations to GWP will be used to support projects around the world that benefit women and girls.

## LENTEN CALENDAR

GWP's Lenten desk calendar has become a seasonal staple for many looking for a meaningful, educational spiritual practice. In 2022, we debuted an updated Lenten Calendar that is available digitally and in print. The Lenten calendar features images from our partner projects, educational reflections and challenges from Anna Lisa Gross. You can utilize a virtual version of our Lenten calendar this Lenten season by signing up on our website. If you would like a physical copy, please email us at [cobgwp@gmail.com](mailto:cobgwp@gmail.com) and we'll mail you a copy or a few! We hope you'll join us on a meaningful Lenten journey.



## NARUS SEWING COOPERATIVE

NARUS, SOUTH SUDAN – The Narus Sewing Cooperative provides support to their “champion girls” (survivors of forced marriage). The ongoing project allows the “champion girls” to enroll in tailoring and dressmaking courses and adult learning lessons. An additional project supports the Women Farmers group, who have established fifty acres of farmland to plant maize and beans together. This produce provides food for their families, and the surplus is sold to pay school fees and to improve their livelihood.

In 2023-24, they had to rent the ox-plough for their planting. However, they are seeking funding to purchase their own oxen and plow, as well as a grinding mill. The grinding mill will improve their nutritional diet to provide flour instead of only boiled grains. Our South Sudan liaison, “Mama” Mananyu Gladys, reports that “our country is badly hit by the economic crisis and collapse! Life has become so tough and very expensive for any common person to make a living. Despite all the challenges faced, these young women are determined to get trained to make a change in their future life, as such they are not giving up!”



## GROWING GROUNDS

WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA, UNITED STATES – Growing Grounds is an outreach through the Wabash Church of the Brethren in Wabash, IN, providing a new start for individuals and families “whose choices have become limited by the impact of life circumstances or past incarceration.” The project works to improve their quality of life, as well as work and educational options.

Endeavors carried out through Growing Grounds in 2024:

- Renovations have been completed on the Housing Option Short Term (HOST) house and apartment building which are now bustling with families of women and children.
- Emergency shelter has been secured at a local hotel which offers transportation, clothing, food, as well as furniture, beds, household supplies, and intensive case development to people in need striving to meet their goals for housing, jobs, improved physical and mental health, and a better life for all family members.
- Growing Grounds pays rent and car payments, and offers support to keep families in difficult situations from being homeless.





## CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

KERALA, INDIA – Cultural Academy for Peace is growing in support of women and girls, listening to those whose voices are too quiet and empowering them to speak clearly. As Arundhati Roy once said, “There’s really no such thing as the voiceless...only the deliberately silenced and the preferably unheard.” At CAP, these voices are lifted up, encouraged, and valued!

Holiday greetings from founder Beena Sebastian highlight three primary areas of work this year:

**Advocacy and Outreach:** CAP promotes gender justice and equality through public sessions providing education around legal systems, access to resources, and gatherings that empower. This fall, legal awareness sessions took place in six colleges, as well as in various communities and women’s groups in the Ernakulum district.

**Rehabilitation and Rescue:** Efforts have been consistent in supporting survivors of violence and discrimination against women in a safe setting in which they can move toward reintegration into daily life. Through career training, art and other therapy, and education, potential can blossom. Shanthibhavan offers shelter, community life, outings and preparation for work.

**Community Peace Village:** This project continues clearing land, building walls, and developing programs in a residential setting focused on learning ways to live justly and peacefully with neighbors. The Peace Village is establishing a presence recognized by many through workshops, intentional relationships, and outreach.



## SHIFTING IDEAS THROUGH EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN (SITEAW)

UGANDA – GWP's Karlene Tyler had the privilege of meeting Sister Stella in September during a visit to Indianapolis after four years of communicating exclusively by email.

Sister Stella then sent this update for our newsletter. She reports that construction of the Basket Race Field is coming along, having finished the foundation and the bathrooms. This will allow them to hold the Basket Race in 2025 at the new field instead of renting space. Not only does the construction furnish much needed jobs for women and men in the area, but will provide sustainability for the future of the center. There is no facility like this in the area, and the hope is to rent space and provide jobs for women so they can send their children to the center.

SITEAW girls send greetings and most of them are at our new center for the holidays.

Here, the staff can furnish them with programs like reading and writing, crafts, art, self defense, music, dance, and understanding human rights.





## MOTHER'S DAY CARDS



## MOTHER'S DAY GRATITUDE PROJECT

This May, Global Women's Project 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 card to that person letting them know that you gave a gift in their name. Instead of buying your loved ones material gifts, you'll be showing them love through a gift that directly benefits our partner projects. 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 email a reminder to mail your contribution to: Karlene Tyler, 333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit 1, McPherson, KS 67460 (write checks to GWP). For any donation received by May 1, 2025, a card will be guaranteed to go out before Mother's Day. We look forward to helping you surprise your loved ones this year!

## OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GWP!

Last year we asked that you "up our game," and YOU DID! We took in nearly \$1,000 more than last year, and were able to fund our six projects at the same level we did in 2023. We received donations of \$14,169.02. We will be deciding if we can fund some additional projects on a one-time basis this spring. We look forward to hearing from you again throughout the year. Our Mother's Day Gratitude program is a great opportunity to honor the special women in your lives as well as memorialize those who have passed. From the updates on our projects you can see how your donations are used. And so, the Steering Committee wants to express our heartfelt thanks to all who continue to support this life changing work of Global Women's Project!

## SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE

### To memorialize a loved one:

Please write the check to GWP and use the enclosed envelope, including a note saying whom you're memorializing. We will list the names of all people memorialized throughout the year on our website, [www.GlobalWomensProject.org](http://www.GlobalWomensProject.org), 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, including a note saying whom 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](mailto:cobgwp@gmail.com) with the name and address of the honoree.

## 2024 MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following people were honored through memorial gifts to GWP in 2024:

Joan Bohrer  
Carol C. Dubble  
Kathryn Erisman  
Mary Fruth  
Mildred Grove  
Mattie Jackson  
Sharry Kinney  
Deb Lahman  
Dorothy Fry Mason  
Peggy D. Mason  
Minva Reid  
Louie & Phil Baldwin Rieman  
Virginia Roberson  
Eulalia Sanger

## BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

Did you know that you can sign up to make ongoing, monthly donations that continue until you decide to cancel or change your gift amount? This ongoing support gives us a steady foundation in supporting our partner projects. You simply choose the amount that best fits your budget and sign up using your preferred payment method. To sign up, click on the DONATE button on our website and choose a Recurring Monthly Gift.

## 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 made out to "Global Women's Project" to GWP, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120. Thank you!

You can also give online at: [www.brethren.org/globalwomensproject](http://www.brethren.org/globalwomensproject)



## 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** – Sign up to have our Lenten Calendar sent daily to your email to guide your spiritual journey this year. Email us at [cobgwp@gmail.com](mailto:cobgwp@gmail.com) to be added to the daily Lenten Calendar email list. Lent begins Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

**MARCH** – Celebrate International Women's Day with your faith community this year on Saturday, March 8, 2025. Consider dedicating your worship service on Sunday, March 9, 2025, to women worldwide. Check out the amazing collection of worship resources and reflections on our website written by women across the country. Congregations are welcomed to consider donating a portion of their offering to Global Women's Project to support women's empowerment projects around the globe.

**APRIL/MAY** – Begin thinking about the women you would like to honor on Mother's Day through our annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Donate in honor of someone by May 1, 2025, 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, 2025.

**JUNE/JULY** – Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC, July 2-6, 2025. We always enjoy connecting with you!

**NOVEMBER** – Consider including GWP in your annual Giving Tuesday donations.

**DECEMBER** – Join us for a time of Advent reflection by checking out our annual Advent Calendar filled with scripture, prayer prompts, activities and taxes, along with a color-by-day Christmas image.

**ANYTIME/BIRTHDAYS/HOLIDAYS** – To celebrate a special day or any day, go to [www.GlobalWomensProject.org](http://www.GlobalWomensProject.org) and click on "GIFTS" to see how you can donate to GWP.



## GET CONNECTED!

Follow us on **Facebook**:

[www.facebook.com/globalwomensproject](http://www.facebook.com/globalwomensproject)

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

Visit our webpage:

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

Email us at: [cobgwp@gmail.com](mailto:cobgwp@gmail.com)

## SEND US YOUR CONTACT INFO ... AND WE'LL SEND GWP TO YOU!

Clip and send to GWP

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 new Lenten calendar by mail. (How many? \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Contact me about honoring a special woman through GWP.
- ☐ Contact me about hosting a GWP steering committee meeting.
- ☐ Contact me about 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 Karlene Tyler**  
333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit 1  
McPherson, KS 67460

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

[www.GlobalWomensProject.org](http://www.GlobalWomensProject.org)  
Email us at: [cobgwp@gmail.com](mailto:cobgwp@gmail.com)