

Together, We are Stronger!

NORTH AMERICAN
BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION
NABWU

The Tie

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION



VOLUME 58 NUMBER 1

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SEE,
God is
Doing a New
Thing...

Moreen Sharp, NABWU President

"...we need to entrust the new leader to God and let them run with it, working within their giftedness..."

In October of 2012, I was elected as president of NABWU. The five year term has flown by! As a team of officers, we are seriously contemplating how we can make a good handoff to a new administration in October of this year. In this issue of *The Tie*, we would like to share our thoughts as individuals going through the process in the hopes that it will help you in the transitions you have to make in life, whether you are the one taking on a new role, or you are the one giving it up.

As I work through the upcoming transition I think of all that has been accomplished, but I also think about how much more I had hoped we would achieve during our tenure. There will come a time when I will step back and believe that God has given me all the time and energy I needed to accomplish all that He has desired to do in and through my leadership in this role. I thoroughly believe that there is a time to let go. Good things come through new leadership. The beauty of transition is that new blood brings new energy, new ideas and new vision.

What transition looks like for any of us will look different depending on the role being transferred over and the personalities involved. But I do know that I want to follow my past NABWU president's example. Linda Weber was there for me. Any answer or advice I needed as I moved into this role and long after, was met with an eagerness to support, encourage and give input. But she always said, "But you have to decide what you think is best." It was supportive but freeing and a beautiful example for me of what succession handled well looks like.

Are you struggling with giving up a role you have had for a long time? Wondering will the next person do it well enough? Will they be committed enough? I think in each situation we need to entrust the new leader to God and let them run with it, working within their giftedness, their "NEW DREAMS" and new perspectives. I am committed to doing that for the next NABWU president who will be elected. Please pray for our Nominating Committee as they continue to find the women of God's choosing to lead NABWU for the next five years.

OUR MISSION: To encourage women to live out Kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable.



Nurturing THE NEXT

Generation

Ruby Fulbright

NABWU Vice-President of Networking, Leadership, Mentoring



As I write my last article for The Tie, I am reflecting on the almost five years that I have been in this position – the challenging times and the life-giving times. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside a very committed and capable

group of women. I am better because of the experiences and opportunities I have had. I am humbled by God’s faithfulness to me and to NABWU as we, together, sought to make a difference in a hurting world. God gives us experiences and opportunities, not only for ourselves, but to share with those who will come behind us. So, what are some ‘words of wisdom’ that I would offer?

There is joy in the journey! Sure, there are some things about leadership that are overwhelming, discouraging, frustrating and, there is work to be done. But, it is relationships that are most important! People want to feel a personal connection to you. They want to know that you know and understand their ‘problems’ and challenges. They want to know that you know your ‘stuff’; that you **do believe** in what you are talking about. If you disregard the **personal connection**, you will miss the joy, wonder, strength, and the wisdom that comes from connecting with those you lead. **Remember that you are leaving a legacy.** To be a leader is to enjoy the special privileges of complexity, ambiguity, and diversity. To be a leader means having the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in

the lives of those you lead.

- Investing in the next generation
- Nurturing the potential you see in others
- Being an example that future leaders will want to follow

There are some things, more important than others. In *Leadership Legacies: Lessons for Christian Women Leaders*, Alma Hunt writes: “*The Secret of the Christian Leader is her relationship with Jesus Christ. A Christian woman in leadership will often be nearly overwhelmed. But in Christ she will know to ‘cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.’ No matter how many other things have to be done, a leader needs time each day to rest in the Lord, to be in prayer, to renew relationship with the highest power, and to ‘grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.’*” I have found that prayer first and last – and, many moments in between have equipped me with the strength, courage and confidence to be in leadership. Time to renew myself physically, emotionally, and spiritually has helped me to do as Paul told Timothy (1 Timothy 5:20) ‘to guard what has been entrusted to your care.’ **True Christian Leadership is a condition of the heart.** When your heart is ‘in tune’ with God; when your heart ‘is in’ what you are leading; when you’ve spent time asking for God’s leadership and guidance. . . you will gain the ability to be **vulnerable**; you’ll gain an extra portion of **confidence** – you will be prepared and **empowered**.

Be assured that those leaders, in the North American Baptist Women’s Union, who have gone before you are cheering you on, praying for you and watching to see what God will do through you.



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**YOU are a part of
NABWU!**



- Atlantic Baptist Women
- American Baptist Women's Ministries
- Baptist Women in Ministry
- Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec
- Converge Worldwide Women's Ministries
- General Baptist Women's Ministries, Inc.
- Senior Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to
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Convention, USA, Inc.
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Baptist Convention, Inc.
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Evangelical Baptist Union
- Women's Ministries, Union of Latvian Baptists
in America
- Women's Ministry, North American Baptist
Conference
- Women's Board, Seventh Day Baptist General
Conference



WORDS OF *Wisdom*

Lisa Lohnes
*NABWU Vice-President of Day of Prayer,
Prayer Grants, Prayer Partners*

To my Sister in Christ,

I am so grateful for your willingness to be used by God in this NABWU leadership role. As you embark upon this journey, I would like to share three thoughts with you.

Enrich your faith: You will have a myriad of experiences, from busyness to blessings with much in between. Always remember to honor and cultivate your relationship with God. Do not allow busyness to crowd Him out, nor blessings to pass without acknowledging their Source. Meditate on His Word. Rest. Speak less. Hear from Him. Draw from His strength. Ask for wisdom and discernment. Be adventurous. Stretch yourself as you encounter God outside of your little corner of the world. Rest. Be willing. Be available. Turn words into actions. Confess your shortcomings. Learn from mistakes. Rest. Walk with Him. Run with Him. Look for Christ. Discover Him in the faces of others. Be thankful. Respond with acts of mercy. Rest. Bask in His glory and grace.

Exercise flexibility: It has been said, “there is no ‘I’ in team.” Each team member will have her own thoughts, ideas, dreams, expectations and limitations. Backgrounds, geography, culture, and even practical expression of what it means to be “Baptist” will vary. On a team, the unexpected will happen, opinions will differ, approaches will be multiple, so flexibility is crucial. “My way or the highway” only leads to a bitter, lonely journey. As a Christ-follower, you are to look to the interests of others (Philippians 2:3,4). When prayerful, thoughtful input is accompanied with flexibility, greater things are accomplished for Him.

Engage in fellowship: You will be given many opportunities to fellowship with Baptist women across North America and around the world. But fellowship is not the pleasantries exchanged over a cup of tea. True fellowship stems from your relationship with God and is expressed in your deeper moments with others: hearing their heart cries, offering encouraging words, and following through on your promises to help. It is a coming alongside, a sharing of burdens. Fellowship includes praying: with your teammates, through challenges, over those serving the vulnerable, and for our global Baptist sisters in an informed and involved manner. Although fellowship requires commitment and action, it is also where you will encounter your greatest joys. “Together We Are Stronger” is fulfilled when we engage in fellowship. As you enter this journey, be bold, have a blast, and be blessed.



NABWU Assembly October 19-22, 2017

Delta Toronto East Hotel
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA

New Voices...
A New Experience...
DON'T MISS IT!

••

Get Involved with NABWU's Human Trafficking Initiative!

Go to NABWU.org
to learn more.

••

The NABWU Speaker's Bureau

Get more information
at NABWU.org

••

GO GREEN...

If you would like to receive a
DIGITAL COPY of the TIE
please send an email request to
secretary@nabwu.org



Brenda Mann
Secretary

WORK IN YOUR

Giftedness

Does God gift us in certain ways so we can serve Him in those ways? Or are we expected to cultivate gifts as we are called to serve outside of our comfort zones? While doing my homework for our ladies bible study group, reading Joanna Weaver's book "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World," I had one of those "light bulb" moments! On page 94 it says... "When we bring to him our willingness to serve, he'll always, eventually, point us toward something we can do for him. And that task will always have something to do with love."

So how does this tie into my role as NABWU Secretary? Half way through the five year term when I was asked to consider finishing the remaining time commitment for the secretary, He knew I was willing to serve. He showed me something I could do for Him, AND He gave me the opportunity to grow in areas I would not consider as my natural gifting. This position has been a big stretch for me AND there have been moments of frustration and helplessness. BUT God has always come through AND it has been a great learning experience for me. He has placed the people and the opportunities to learn, as I have needed them, AND He has given a lot of patience to the rest of the team too!

Now as we look ahead to see who God will lead into the next Administration Team, perhaps God is calling you to let your name stand for nominations. Working within our areas of giftedness is really important, BUT perhaps it is even more important to remember that His task will always have something to do with love. I would encourage you to live your dreams, in the book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 9:10 it says: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might!"



Darlene McGilberry
Treasurer

NEVER STOP *Dreaming*

Everyone can acknowledge having “New Dreams!” Some of us dream while we are asleep. Some of us are day-dreamers. Some of our dreams are triggered by something that we have heard or seen. Some of our dreams are goals that we have set for ourselves. Sometimes our dreams sit on a dusty shelf in our minds because we do not know how to bring the dreams to fruition. We keep doing things the same way, year after year, because we do not know how to birth the new dreams.

In Isaiah 43:19 we are reminded that the Lord is able to “*do a brand-new thing.*” We are so grateful to the Focus Group of young women that the Lord used to help us see, to gain sight, to grasp the vision to birth “New Dreams.” Sometimes our dreams are answered by the Lord hearing the requests and dreams of others.

As NABWU moves forward, my prayer is that we will never stop dreaming and that we continue to work to help the dreams of the next generation come true through our Day of Prayer grants and resources. As things evolve in our world, so must our dreams evolve to keep up with the changing needs of the people we serve. I pray that the new Administration Team will continue to receive even more support and love than was shown to us during our term of service. I also pray that the Lord will continue to bless those “working in the field” who carry out the vision inspiring “New Dreams!”



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

We gathered with over 9000 women from around the world in March, at the United Nations in New York for the Commission on the Status of Women. This year’s theme was “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the World of Work.” Hundreds of sessions were available, discussing solutions to women’s issues that we are facing everywhere.

This year, the Baptist World Alliance Women’s Department had the biggest contingent we have ever had of 25 Baptist women, with eighteen coming from outside the U.S, and thirteen countries represented. For the first time ever, the full BWA Women’s Department Executive Board (minus one) came to experience, learn and grow together! It was a most rewarding time!

Get More Info at NABWU.org

5 W's of The Day of Prayer

WHAT? Each year, Baptist women around the globe gather together in their local areas to pray for one another; give an offering, and engage in Bible study and reflections

WHO? Family, friends, church members, colleagues, community members

WHEN? On, or near November 6, 2017 for a full day, a weekend, or a couple of hours

WHERE? In your church, home, workplace, community park, senior's home, or wherever you are

WHY? We uphold and support one another in prayer because we know that nothing is accomplished without prayer; and great and mighty things come into being because of prayer. The offerings during the Day of Prayer are essential as they are the main source of income for the ministries and partnerships of the BWA Women's Department and our continental unions. Many of the projects supported by the Day of Prayer offering use their grants as seed money for new ministries to vulnerable and/or disadvantaged women and children. When we share with our sisters, we are partnering with them by giving them the tools they need to make a difference for God's Kingdom in their own areas. Together we are stronger!

START PLANNING YOUR DAY OF PRAYER EXPERIENCE TODAY!

The 2017 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer program has several ideas to help you customize your gathering for your area. It has been prepared by the Baptist Women's Union of Africa for worldwide use, under the theme, "Arise, Shine: When We Rise Up, He Shines through Transformation". The program is available from the BWA WD office or website (www.bwawd.org). The website also includes supplementary resources.

Women from across the globe can also participate in the 24 Hour Prayer Vigil found on the BWA Women's Department Facebook page!

A unique way to celebrate the Day of Prayer in 2017 is on a spiritual journey to Israel with Patsy Davis. (Date: November 1-10, 2017). For more information, go to www.cvent.com/d/2fqhdm

WHERE DO YOU SEND YOUR OFFERINGS?

Send your check payable to the North American Baptist Women's Union to P.O. Box 282, Bordentown, NJ 08505-0282, USA. In Canada, please send in as directed by your NABWU member body, clearly marked "Day of Prayer" (see <http://www.nabwu.org/donate/> for details.)

GRANTS AVAILABLE!

Do you know of a Baptist women's project that could use a NABWU Day of Prayer Offering grant in 2018? See the application guidelines and information posted at <http://www.nabwu.org/grant-application/> or contact Lisa Lohnes at prayer@nabwu.org. The deadline for applications is September 29, 2017. (Please note the earlier deadline due to change of officers in October.)

NABWU is one of seven Continental Unions in the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. Together, we represent women in 137 countries and 239 national Baptist women's organizations.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT
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BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

Making Dreams Come True!

How **YOUR** Gifts Have Made a Difference for these 2015 NABWU Day of Prayer Grant Projects...



Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship Children's Ministry

We are very thankful for this grant and are blessed to be able to reach out to the children of the inner city community. Two of the little boys were baptized in May and just two weeks ago one of the little girls received Jesus into her heart!!!



Farm Girls Rule

I am so encouraged by your giving that brought hope and wellness to deserving girls. Your gift made emotional support and hope available to girls regardless of their past or situation.



Crossroads for Women

Our "Girls' Day Out" provided a resource and visioning day for 40 women in the downtown Bangor church neighborhood. Activities included a resource fair of non-profit organizations serving the needs of women and children, financial workshops, arts activities, a church and ministries room, and locally grown food workshops.



Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Cultural Exchange Program

8 American women (7 American Baptist/1 Muslim) journeyed on an interfaith, intercultural spiritual pilgrimage to the Republic of Georgia. Thank you for the gift of the NABWU Day of Prayer grant, which gave us the ability to include Georgian women—Baptists and Muslims—in our experiences in Georgia.



eXpendable: a musical about sex trafficking in North America

Because of your prayers, encouragement, and financial support we were able to create eXpendable, mounting 13 performances in 5 cities and 3 provinces since the beginning of 2015. We are looking forward to more productions to continue to raise awareness. Thank you for your care for those who are vulnerable.

Your project has been selected to receive a grant from the NABWU 2017 Day of Prayer offerings.

Congratulations!

5 PRAYER GRANT RECIPIENTS!



A Hand Up Not a Hand Out

\$3300

Rowan Chowan CWJC, Ahoskie, NC
WMU North Carolina

Providing job skills and life skill classes for women in need with a Christian context of women helping women. This grant will provide transportation for rural community participants as well as assistance with tuition and/or books. (<http://www.rccwjc.org/>)



Helping Exploited Youth

\$5000

Open Door Women's Care Centre, Halifax, NS
Atlantic Baptist Women

This Volunteer Support Workers Program will support sexually exploited girls and women by helping them access community resources, including safe housing, addictions services, and counselling, and will walk alongside them in the long journey toward exiting and fully healing from sexual exploitation. (<http://lopendoorcentre.com/>)

ICHTHYS Theatre Summer Acting Camp

\$3500

ICHTHYS Theatre & Friendship House, Brantford, ON
Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario & Quebec

ICHTHYS Theatre will partner with Friendship House to provide Summer Acting Camp for children primarily from economically-challenged families. Activities will include script writing, sewing costumes, creating stage sets and props. Children will invite their community to attend public performance of plays at the end of their camps. (<http://www.ichthystheatre.ca/>)



Shalom/Broadway Women's Conference

\$5000

Broadway First Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB
Women in Focus

Annual three-day weekend conference/retreat focusing on African new immigrant and refugee women as a healing and reconciliation ministry. This event is intended to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged women by also providing training and leadership development. (<https://churchplantingatcbwc.wordpress.com/2014/10/02/church-planter-interview-shadrack-mutabazi-winnipeg/>)



Sister's Keeper Fund

\$5000

Matthew House Refugee Ministry, Fort Erie, ON
Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario & Quebec

Assistance for refugee women, girls and teens who have experienced sexual abuse or escaped violent relations to begin to rebuild their lives through counselling and legal advice. This grant will provide transportation of clients to doctors' appointments, counseling sessions, and accompaniment to refugee hearings. (<http://matthewhouseforterie.com/>)



Uptick

A NEW DREAM...

NABWU

*Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is
at work within us,
to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21

AS I think about the new venture that NABWU has assumed, this verse continues to come to my mind. God has been gracious beyond our imagining as NABWU has endeavored to engage a younger audience. Not only have things fallen into place, like people, places and financial resources; but also the encouragement we've received while hoping for a better future because of the young women we are investing in. If you've been paying attention to The Tie, viewing our website, or talking with leadership on the NABWU Board, you would have noticed the significant endeavor to engage a younger generation — for missions and ministry and leadership potential.

In March of 2016 the Reverend Dr. John P. Chandler, Leader of Spence Network, spoke to our Executive Board with the intent of helping NABWU understand how to grapple with reaching another generation for Kingdom purposes. The Spence Network is about "Investing intensively in the discipleship and leadership capacity of select, high-ability, young adult leaders to equip them for decades of servant leadership in congregations and communities." They do this through a process called Uptick, "a mentoring-based track where young adults are discipled by investing spiritual, relational, time/space, intellectual, and financial capitals in their lives. The term 'uptick' means "an asset that appreciates with investment." How amazing is that?

Out of numerous conversations and prayer, the idea of Uptick NABWU was planted. As remote as it was, the possibility of NABWU partnering with the Spence Network to provide a year-long 'journey' for young women to learn from and engage leadership in Baptist life, it has come to fruition!

Between 8-12 young women will spend several days, three times during the year in face-to-face conversation. They will



& A NEW Dream A NEW Role

Eron Henry

BWA Associate Director, Communications

Moreen Sharp, a Canadian and president of the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) and a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department (BWAWD), has been appointed Interim Executive Director of the BWA Women's Department. Moreen currently volunteers part-time as BWAWD Acting Executive Director and will become full time Interim Executive Director after her five-year term is completed with NABWU in October. Her new appointment lasts until July 2020. She succeeds Patsy Davis who retired December 31, 2015, after working as BWAWD Executive Director for 17 years.

Moreen has had longstanding involvement in women's ministry. From 2008-2010, she was president of Women in Focus, the Women's Department for Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. During that time she was also on the boards of Canadian Baptist Ministries, Canadian Baptist Women and NABWU. Currently, she is a member of the BWA General Council and the Commission on Human Rights Advocacy, as well as the Executive Committee of the North American Baptist Fellowship.

She and her husband, Paul, have been ministry partners for more than 30 years in several countries. Moreen has led teaching, music and drama ministries in Japan, India and Canada. The couple has engaged in transitional pastoral ministry, serving various congregations in Canada on a short term basis. She is a graduate of Regent College, an international graduate school of theology in the City of Vancouver in Canada.



*Moreen Sharp with
BWA Women's Department president,
Ksenija Magda*

also spend about 90-plus minutes in 'Huddles' through the blessing of technology — learning from, encouraging each other through challenges, praying together and for each other — while building community. The goal— finding within themselves a greater giftedness, a greater potential and a greater possibility for Kingdom living.

Partnering with Spence Network (under the leadership and 'cheerleading' of John Chandler) we will also be partnering with Truett Seminary, in Waco, TX and Gary Nelson of Toronto. Many 'silent partners' have invested significant sums of money to make this happen. All of the NABWU Uptickers will be receiving scholarships. We don't have all the funds we need; but we have more than enough capital, more than enough promise of leadership and more than enough young women to see God's at work. I am so excited! I hope you are excited too while praying for Uptick NABWU, and should God lead you to contribute financially we'll know that you can see and support this **"NEW THING!"**

I am just so excited! I hope you will be too — enough so that you will be praying this year for Uptick NABWU and, should God lead, that you would be willing to contribute financially.

Gratefully,
Ruby

Theological Reflection



Angelita Clifton
NABWU Vice-President of Communications

*Watch for the new thing I am going to do.
It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make
a road through the wilderness and give you
streams of water there.*

Isaiah 43:19 (Good News Translation)

Team Work Makes the Dream Work...

God is always up to something! In October of 2014 at the NABWU Administrative Team meeting, the conversation focused on bringing young women to the table and unearthed a dream. In October of 2015 a small diverse “Think Tank” made up of six young women, who accepted an invitation to participate in a Focus Group, initiated a “New Thing.” This Focus Group ignited an ongoing discussion about making room and giving voice to young women invited to sit at the table. A second invitation was extended and four of the six NABWU Focus Group members attended the Executive Board meeting in March of 2016. A presentation by John Chandler at that meeting, initiated several planning sessions focused on encouraging, equipping and empowering young women to extend their witness in general, and working with NABWU in particular.

With much anticipation, great preparation and a huge celebration, we fast forward to the formation of Uptick NABWU, meeting for their first huddle in February of 2017. We serve an awesome God who turned a struggle into NABWU’s greatest stride, because we dared to dream. A collaboration, spearheaded by Ruby Fulbright, the VP of Networking & Leadership Development created a ministry model producing streams of living water. Attracting young women was

once a test but is now a testimony. What was a burden has become a blessing that began with a simple invitation, because we dared to dream!

The bible says, ask and it shall be given! Over the last five years I have learned to appreciate the declaration, “what God brings you to...God will bring you through.” Working with these extraordinary women of God, has helped to clarify my call and expand my ministerial focus. Every challenge I experienced was God’s invitation to grow. As I think about the next NABWU Administrative Team I offer these “words of wisdom,” your gifts will make room for you. Never—ever stop dreaming or nurturing the people God puts in your path. Please believe, God is always doing a “New Thing!” I am overwhelmed with gratitude, looking back at the great things God has done, my joy springs forth like a river. I am thankful for all the stretching. I am grateful to have survived, with God’s grace. But I am most appreciative, to have played a small part in paving the way for younger women. My final thought is simply this, never stop dreaming, God is able... **Together we are stronger!!!**



NABWU Assembly 2017

NEW DREAMS

October 19-22, 2017
Delta Toronto East
Toronto, Ontario Canada

ALL BAPTIST WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA
SHOULD ATTEND THIS AMAZING
CONFERENCE THAT FEATURES

- + Dynamic Speakers
- + Powerful Workshops
- + Inspirational Worship
- + Motivational Leadership Sessions
- + Invaluable Networking Opportunities
- + Impactful Service Outreaches
- + Life-changing Experiences
- + and much, much more.

REGISTRATION

Early Bird: \$200 CAD (\$155 USD) – ends May 1, 2017

Regular Rate: \$225 CAD (\$175 USD) – ends September 14, 2017)

To register or to get more information, please visit www.nabwu.org, which features this event and other inspiring endeavors of The North American Baptist Women's Union.

"See, I am doing a new thing!" – Isaiah 43:19



THE TIE is published annually by the North American Baptist Women's Union, a network of 17 organizations in the US and Canada affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department. Copies are mailed free of charge to individuals and groups on the NABWU and BAWWD mailing lists. Bulk copies are sent to national and/or regional offices of NABWU member bodies and distributed through their organizations.

North American Baptist Women's Union

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Please help us keep our mailing list up to date. Send updates, additions, and requests for copies to communications@nabwu.org. Please include the name of your member body. For changes and corrections, state your old and new name and/or address.

Find a wealth of resources for outreach and women's ministries, news, information about NABWU and the Day of Prayer, useful web links and coming events at www.nabwu.org.

**Follow us on Twitter! - [@NABWU](https://twitter.com/NABWU)
Like our Facebook Page!**

Share The Tie with women in your church.



When You Give, **We Can Do More**

We believe in the power of North American Baptist Women working side by side to share the hope of Jesus Christ with our communities and our world.

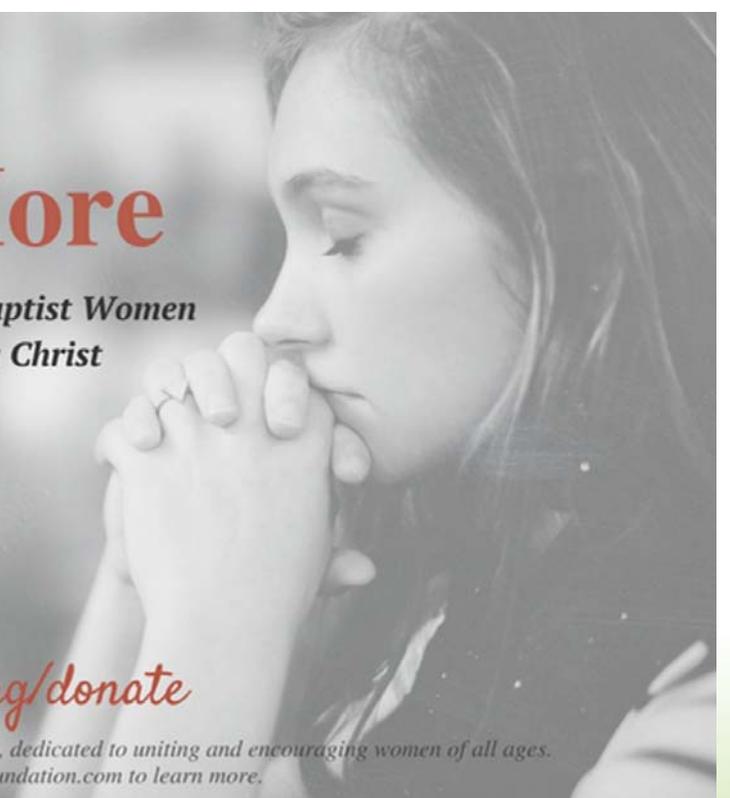


NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION

TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER

Giving online is simple and safe at nabwu.org/donate

Include NABWU in your estate plans to ensure the future of our ministry, dedicated to uniting and encouraging women of all ages. Contact the WMU Foundation at (205) 408-5525 or go online to wmufoundation.com to learn more.



Designed by SLBenn

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