



WEA
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WOMEN'S COMMISSION

WINTER/SPRING UPDATE, 2008

RADICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EVERY REGION...

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Eileen Stewart-Rhude
Executive Director,
Women's Commission

How can I thank you for your generous support and faithful prayers over the past season? One way is to share with you the radical developments the regions have experienced in 2007. The purpose the WEA Women's Commission is to serve the global church by mobilizing and uniting women leaders to develop and train women in every nation and region, right down to the grass roots. Trained women are then able to address the major

issues and concerns in their own regions. Let me share with you some highlights.



Left to right: Leela Manasseh, Grace Nedelchew, Blossom White, Lee Bueno, Margaret Jacobs, Chair, Nabila Butrous, Judy Mbugua, Eileen Stewart-Rhude

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Education and leadership development are priority in every region
- *Orphans and vulnerable children—the strong focus in Latin America and Africa*
- Capacity building through skills training, education, micro-management
- *Domestic violence and abuse addressed in many regions*

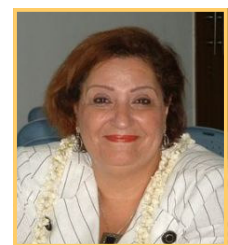
MIDDLE EAST



Dr. Nabila Butrous has developed a support group of eight women to work with her in Egypt and the surrounding areas. In June, 2007, they rented a huge tent and several buses to transport 1000 young, rural women to Menya City to attend educational seminars. They taught on self worth and the value of

women; the concept of biblical freedom according to the teachings of Jesus; the destructive impact of jealousy, bitterness, and unforgiveness. Personal counseling and teaching on communication skills within the family had strong impact on these underprivileged young women. Other seminars in various regions, using Christian study books, drew hundreds including both men and women.

A Christian satellite TV channel hosted a series of eight seminars relating to pertinent issues facing women, and an Arabic Christian channel carried seminars relating to youth.



CARIBBEAN

Blossom White and several Women's Commission leaders in her expansive Island region have made great inroads. They've been invited to teach on several Islands on the issues of *Women and Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Gender Issues*. Doors have opened to them to address girls in primary and secondary schools on values, self-respect, and character.

National Leadership conferences and Pastor's wives'

retreats have been conducted throughout the region. The WC team partners with churches and health care workers to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. As a result, the strategic plans to implement Rapid HIV testing have been developed and are being used in the hospital in St. Thomas (US Virgin Islands). Blossom continues an effective radio ministry.



Barbados seeks *Halfway House* for victims of domestic violence.

EUROPE

Because one of the greatest needs in the former communist countries is to prepare and train disciplined women, the *multiplication system* of leadership training and development continues to be the focus of Dr. Grace Nedelchev. Currently there are 120 women registered for the

second cycle of the three year training program in four local centers. By 2009, when they graduate, they will be ready to train and influence the next group. These students come from all denominations in Bulgaria. Grace reports there is great interest in surrounding nations to

begin similar models of multiplication training programs.



LATIN AMERICA

Building Capacity! That is what Lee Bueno and her team have done. After conducting teachers' seminars for two years throughout Medellin, Columbia, the Colombian Christian leaders have *taken up the torch* and are covering the whole country with teacher training, using the four gospels as a text! *Capacity building for sure!*

Nicaragua, one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, is Lee's next focus.

With 30,000 orphans and displaced children, some living under bridges or in



ditches, and the others making their home in the city dump among the garbage, cattle and vultures, Lee and her team are working to feed, educate and bring the gospel to these children. Some families have lived in

the dump for 25 to 30 years. "To supply the children with food, education and spiritual guidance is their only hope," writes Lee.



SOUTH PACIFIC



“There is a growing prayer network in the South Pacific,” writes Margaret Jacobs, “having a strong impact on the region.” New Zealand will host a national conference in 2008.

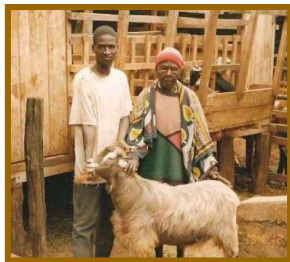


Strong emphasis in Tahiti for 2008
“Ministry in the Home”

An excellent conference, ‘Better Together’ in 2007, gathered men and women to dialogue on ways they could work together to have a stronger impact for the Kingdom.



AFRICA



next level of women, down to the grass roots. Literacy training, a passion with Judy and her team, is accomplished by building schools for those who have never had the opportunity to learn, and resources are provided for girls to have an education.

HIV/AIDS victims are close to the hearts of the leaders, and partnering with other organizations enables them to provide a continuum of care throughout the region.



Goats, chickens and skills training contribute to capacity building by the WC leaders in many nations of Africa. Dr. Judy Mbugua also establishes regular leadership training and development throughout the nations, preparing women at every level to teach and influence the



ASIA



The Women’s Commission has encouraged networking and partnership programs,

working through various interchurch networks throughout Asia. Leela Manasseh emphasizes “The future focus is to bring together women and men to work side by side in order to expand God’s Kingdom across the continent.”

Facing the challenge of HIV/AIDS in Asia, the WC has been able to assist congregations by holding seminars, workshops, symposiums and panel discussions, preparing them to provide understanding, care, and healing for the hurting in this pandemic.

“We want to see a world influenced by disciplined women.”



Leadership training is a priority for Canadian women. A partnership of 13 denominations and ministry/mission organizations has developed a national biannual leadership conference for women.

Throughout the year two strong leadership training programs – NextLEVEL Leadership and Leading Edge Retreat/Seminars, conduct conferences.



" ONE BODY , ONE VOICE " JOHN 17 : 23

'PARTNERS IN FAITH'

*It has been absolutely thrilling this year to watch the kingdom advancement through the ministries of the WC Directors, as they have poured their hearts and lives into training, empowering, and educating women in every region of the world. **Women's lives are being changed!***

*As a **Partner in Faith**, you have made it possible for me to strengthen their hands, through your faithful prayers and generous gifts.*

A special thank you to those who contribute monthly – this provides a constant foundation for the ministry. For you who send 'one-time gifts', these are cherished donations of encouragement and provision. Thank you. May I count on you for your continued support?

You will find enclosed a response card for 2008/09. If you have not already become a partner with me, I invite you to join this far-reaching ministry for women around the world. You may prefer pre-authorized giving – a monthly amount of \$100.00; \$50.00; \$25.00 or other.

Your 'one-time gift' is also deeply appreciated.

As Paul said to the Philippians, "Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account." Philippians 4:17 NIV

With gratitude,

Eileen

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The World Evangelical Alliance is a global network of 7 regional and 128 national evangelical alliances, 104 organizational ministries and 6 specialized ministries serving the worldwide church through WEA.

It is a global ministry working with a network of churches around the world to join in common concern to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus in their communities. WEA gives a worldwide identity, voice and platform to more than 420 million evangelical Christians.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is an Affiliate of the WEA and works jointly with WEA in resourcing many of it's ministries, including the Women's Commission.

Please make your cheque payable to:

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, GIWC (Global Initiatives-Women's Commission).

Thank you. ESR