



**WOMEN'S COMMISSION ATTENDS WEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PATTEYA, THAILAND, OCTOBER 23-31, 2008**



**Eileen Stewart-Rhude**  
Executive Director,  
Women's Commission

The theme running throughout the Congress - "In the light of major issues facing the world today, what does it mean to be an evangelical?" Which is more important, **quality or quantity** in evangelism? Personal righteousness or numerical growth? Every session challenged our commission to self-evaluation and new commitment.

Prior to the Congress, the WC Global Council had the privilege of meeting with WC leaders from several nations for an intensive day and a half of teaching, training, encouraging and empowering. They shared resources of books, pamphlets and brochures, and each national leader presented a report of what was being done in her nation. This time together was strong in worship and prayer, and a great bond was established among the women who attended - from the far-flung corners of the earth.



L. to R.: Lee Bueno, Eileen Stewart-Rhude, Nabila Butrous, Judy Mbugua, Grace Nedelchev, Margaret Jacobs, Blossom White, Leela Manasseh



**NEW 2009/2010 MINISTRY PROJECT CHOSEN—HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

As we hear and read about the indescribable suffering and injustice toward women and children, both girls *and* boys, through the horrendous practise of human trafficking, the Global Council has determined unanimously that we must join others who are confronting sexual trafficking and commercial exploitation, with the goal of its eradication. A Taskforce met in New York, March 19 - 22, in the office of the International Social Justice Commission of the Salvation Army. **Christine MacMillan**, director of the ISJC (SA), and **Jennifer Roemholdt**, Sweden, a consultant on the issue, co-chaired the taskforce.



**REGIONAL MINISTRIES—EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP**

In the Caribbean, Barbados sponsored three interdenominational teaching conferences, the largest reaching over 700 women. Many women received Christ as Saviour, as well as 70 men. **Blossom White, Regional Director**, taught at a conference in Grenada, covering such themes as Biblical leadership, discipleship and mentoring.



In Central and Eastern Europe, the Women's Leadership Training program continues, graduating women from Russia, (who are now ready to share the teaching in Kazakhstan), from Rumania, who are now teaching in Moldova, from The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria, now partnering with Macedonia. **Dr. Grace Nedelchev, Regional Director**, reports networking and partnerships are developed among women through national and regional conferences which draw approximately 200 women annually.

**Leela Manasseh**, reports from Asia that leadership training was carried on in ten nations through seminars, consultations, round tables, e-mail and telephone discussions. Gender barriers are being broken as women and men work side by side.



In July, 2008, **Judy Mbugua, African Regional Director**, led a 5-day leadership conference in Kenya. The purpose was to celebrate, reflect and strategize for the future. Sessions included the importance of health, studying and staying relevant with the times and retaining a serious commitment to prayer.



Great strides are being made in the Middle East. The Menya tent program for young rural women, takes place twice a year. For one month prior to the meeting, **Nabila Butrou's** team goes from house to house in the villages and countryside to explain about the special day. Buses are rented and ready to go. In September 2008, 2500 girls filled the tent, where the topic was how to handle physical abuse and resist sexual temptation.



In September/October 2008, Nabila and her team launched an intensive eight-week 'Empowering Women' school in Cairo for leaders who serve women. They repeated the sessions in Menya City, in November/December. The course topics include self image, formation of character in childhood and adulthood, dealing with guilt, and more. Training manuals and specialized curricula are being printed, and, with the help of a professional legal consultant, the team is preparing a manual on the legal rights of women in Egypt.



**Lee Bueno** reports that in 2008, nearly 500 teachers graduated from the second Teacher's Seminar in the city of Tipi Tapa, Nicaragua. Over 35,000 students received a copy of *The Book of Hope*, containing the four gospels.

While education and training have been a major focus in 2008, strong emphasis continues on ministry to AIDS victims, orphans, and issues of poverty, domestic violence, abuse, and advocacy. Vibrant prayer movements exist in every nation.

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECTORS

We thank God for media doors he has opened for several of the directors to advance the ministry of his kingdom. **Blossom White** hosts a weekly radio broadcast, *Moment of Hope*, dealing with contemporary issues. This program airs throughout the Islands, Florida, and Atlanta Georgia.

**Judy Mbugua** broadcasts weekly from Nairobi, Kenya, and is heard as far away as China and the United States.

**Nabila Butrous** teaches on a Christian satellite TV channel, on topics such as love, sex, marriage, and marital problems. Another program, *Please Hear Me Out*, features youth asking questions. Nabila also hosts an ongoing program for youth, *Is There A Hope?* She has been a guest on the *Around the World* radio broadcast from Monte Carlo (Arabic), dealing with issues pertinent to women living in a male-dominated culture.

Will you celebrate with me the honour God has given to three of our Regional Directors for their faithfulness and selflessness through many years of service? *Rev. Dr. Judy Mbugua* has received her second degree in Theology in recognition of the evangelism and theological work she is doing in Africa, particularly among the women. *Dr. Leela Manasseh* has received a Doctor of Divinity degree, and both Leela and *Blossom White* are completing Ph.D. studies. Judy, Leela and Blossom, we honour and celebrate God's blessing on your lives.

**"Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up."**  
**James 4:10**

I heard these pressing words at the WEA General Assembly in Patteya. They came from women leaders in the Asian nations as well as from some of the General Secretaries in the region. “We need you to come to our nations and teach, encourage and empower our women.” I was overwhelmed with the urgency in their voices – they came from Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

In response to this need, **Leela Manasseh**, Asia Regional Director, is preparing a schedule for ministry to her region between September 15 and October 15, 2009. This will be a ministry of faith. Most of these nations are unable to support such an endeavour, but I sense in my heart *this is the time!* I must go and share with them the blessings of training and leadership development we have enjoyed all our lives. These women can become influencers for God, making a difference not only for women, but for their entire nations.

**Blossom White**, Caribbean Regional Director, has invited me to speak at her annual national Women’s Conference in Jamaica in late October, emphasizing God’s plan for women in the home, the church and the community. Once again I believe *this is the time*. God wants to release women into places of influence in the Caribbean, for his glory. This too will be completely dependent on God’s provision.

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**“ ONE BODY , ONE VOICE ” JOHN 17 : 23**

**‘PARTNERS IN FAITH’**

**Please stand with me in prayer** as you have done through the past few years. As we unite our hearts, I am confident God will minister and release blessings into every nation – which will have far-reaching results. Remember Jesus’ prayer? “Thy will be done on earth...” this is what we are believing for.

**Will you stand with me in giving?** Even as you read these words, you may sense God speaking to you, prompting you to support this outreach. I have a general idea of the amount needed and I know “God owns the cattle on the thousand hills.” Nothing is too hard for him. So I am trusting him. You may already support me on a monthly basis. I praise God for your faithfulness. You may prefer to give a one-time gift towards this global ministry. Will you listen for the prompting of the Lord and respond as he directs. Remember it is an investment in the lives of hundreds of Asian and Caribbean women, trying to make a difference in their troubled nations.

**“God does nothing but in answer to prayer.”**  
**John Wesley**

*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 its ministries, including the Women’s Commission.**

Please make your cheque payable to:  
**The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, GIWC** (Global Initiatives-Women’s Commission).