

live

A BAPTIST RESOURCE FOR WOMEN ON A MISSION

E IS FOR EDITOR

A look at editors past

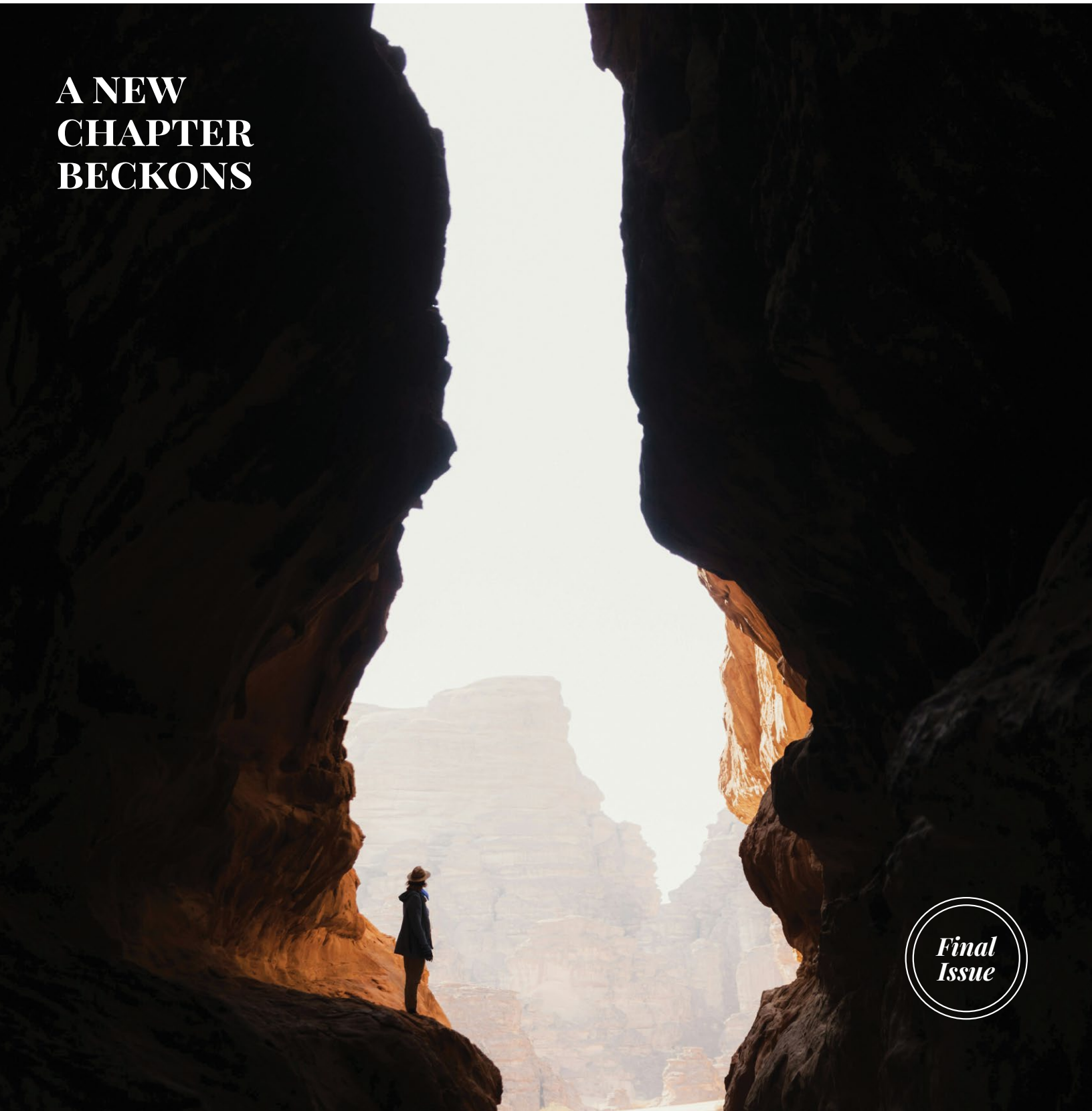
THE WELCOME OF A MAGAZINE

One reader's reflection

2024 BOOK CLUB

Let's read together

A NEW CHAPTER BECKONS

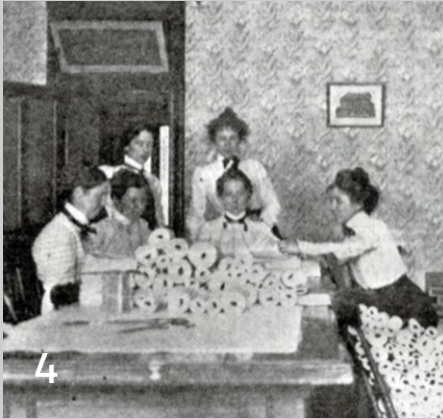


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Ministry through words
and images



COVER PHOTO
NEOM (UNSPLASH.COM)



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live

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A Final Word

I STEPPED INTO the communications director role at CBWOQ not knowing I was 10 weeks pregnant – an apt beginning to editing the *Link & Visitor/Live* magazine. Over the years, I’ve come to view myself as a midwife of sorts, searching for stories and people who could write them; coaching and mentoring contributors, sorting and discarding images, lining up each feature and report just so – all to ensure an easy “birth” for each issue and a rich, informative reading experience for subscribers.

Editing was a rich and informative experience for me too. I’ve often said, after putting an issue to bed, that I didn’t need to go to church on Sunday – I’d already met with God.

Rich, because reading the work sent in to me, or that I had to write, challenged and convicted me, particularly in seasons when I wondered whether God cared about the ministry of this little magazine that could.

Informative because I learned how editing could become a spiritual formation practice. I learned humility when I re-read the article on Lorna Dabbs I’d written on her passing – I got the date of her memorial service incorrect. And I re-learned that lesson with almost every issue when glaring typos, missed words and misspellings jumped off the pages at me – even though more than one person had proof-read, multiple times.

I learned the value of community – that the impact of anointed ministry is exponential to the gathering of community that allows said ministry to happen. In this case, I learned to

relish the community of gifted writers, art directors (two Jennifers at the beginning and end, Heather, and Donna Lee), and executive directors who all gave input to each issue – together, making each issue far more than what I’d envisioned when I’d planned its theme or listed potential articles.

Truly, each issue was a labour of love from many, not simply from me, crafted and bur-nished by the Spirit – who seemed to bring just the right ideas, writers, thought leaders and stories, at just the right time. Many were the issues when I thought: “God, you pulled this together, not me, not us.” Inasmuch as many of you have shared about the impact, the imprint of this magazine on your daily lives over the years, know too that I have been equally impacted and imprinted.

Even as we lay down this magazine, I know that you will be able to stay connected with the work of CBWOQ. In the fall, we will begin to add an article/feature on our website’s blog. And if you subscribe to our free monthly E-LINK newsletter, you’ll get all our news and updates. Esther Barnes and I will celebrate *Live* magazine at our May Women’s Conference. And mark this date: Thursday April 11 at 7:30 p.m. EST. Esther Barnes and I will host a *Live* magazine coffee/tea Zoom gathering. Bring your favourite covers and a story or two that impacted your life. We want this to be a time of celebration. Registration will open in late-March.

Renée James
Editor



Above Helen McMaster and volunteers rolling issues

Below Very first issues

E is for Editor

BY ESTHER BARNES

Like every family tree, *Live* magazine has intriguing roots and branches. Its foremothers were the *Canadian Missionary Link* (1878–1927), *Baptist Visitor* (1890–1927), and *Link & Visitor* (1927–2013). In their combined 183 years, they had only 17 editors. Five had first names beginning with E, and accounted for 90 of those years. But those are just numbers. To appreciate the story, we have to dig deeper.

Live was planted by a man. A.V. Timpany, the missionary to India who founded the Baptist women’s foreign missionary societies of Ontario and Quebec, believed in sharing news about missionaries and their supporters. The societies said they had no money for a publication, so Timpany paid for the *Canadian Missionary Link’s* trial issue. Some Toronto women saw that it met a need, appointed volunteer editors Margaret Buchan Freeland and Mrs. Rose, and set about getting 1000 \$0.25 subscriptions so the *Link* could pay for itself. It did.

In order to “keep women full informed of the needs and progress of home mission work and arouse the sense of duty in those who take very little interest”, the Women’s Baptist Home Missionary Society of Ontario West wrote a monthly column in the *Canadian Baptist*, and distributed free reprints to churches. These leaflets looked so uninviting that the women launched their own magazine, *The Baptist Visitor*. Helen McMaster, the society’s first president, stayed at the helm for 25 years. Like her young friends who wrapped, addressed, and mailed the magazines under her supervision, she was a volunteer.



The first of many proposals to marry the *Link* and *Visitor* occurred before the *Visitor's* first birthday. Lady Elizabeth Boyd declared, "Anyone who wants the papers as one, let them sew them together when they get them home."

In 1926, when Jarvis Street Baptist Church split from the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, the *Visitor* lost one of its main contributors. Perhaps this is why the two magazines finally became one. The *Link & Visitor* had two editors: Ellen Trotter (foreign), who had edited the *Link* since 1919, and future leader Marion Bates (home). "Why didn't you change the name?" people asked. The reply? "Perhaps, a little later, if there is a desire for a new name, and a better than our present one can be found." That December issue boasted a two-colour cover, 84 pages, and more subscribers (11,000) than circle members (8,042). The name didn't change until 2013, when it became *Live*.

All the editors have worked from home, as did some circulation managers before their job fell to staff in the CBWOQ's Toronto office. But before the last "E" shared parables about her pets and reflections on widowhood, editors revealed little about their private lives. History offers some glimpses.

Ellen Trotter's husband died before she became editor in 1919. Their son lay beneath a cross in Flanders Fields. She was employed as dean of McMaster University's first women's residence (in Toronto) while editing the *Link* as an unpaid volunteer.

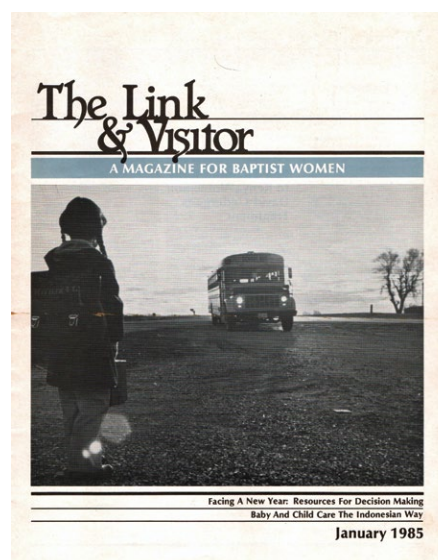
Ernestine Whiteside was a professor of German and English at Brandon University. She returned to Toronto to care for her aging mother and become principal of Moulton College (the Baptist school for girls). A critical illness compelled her to resign in 1930, but opened the way for her to pour her keen intelligence into the *Link & Visitor* as home editor and then editor-in-chief, until she was 80.

"[It was a privilege to see and record] the mighty acts that God has wrought on our mission fields."

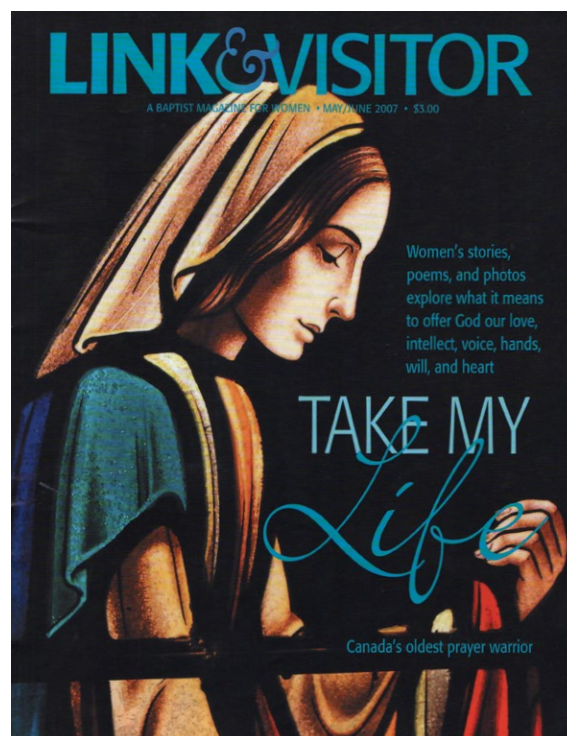
She was followed by Alfreda Hall, the Moulton teacher who had been her editorial assistant since 1941. Born in South Africa, Alfreda had come to Toronto at the age of two and earned an M.A. at McMaster. Like her predecessors, she was not paid for her editorial work. Her income came from her day job, editing correspondence courses for the Ontario Department of Christian Education. Each *Link*, she said, "is an adventure with Christ." In

December 1969, she closed her last issue with a letter to readers, thanking them for the privilege of editing 138 issues, and for their prayers. "Many a time only this could explain how an impossible task was accomplished or why certain articles were particularly timely," she wrote. "[It was a privilege to see and record] the mighty acts that God has wrought on our mission fields."

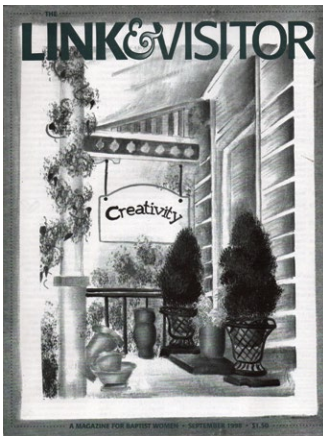
Her successor, a former missionary to India named Edith Allaby, was the magazine's first paid editor – and possibly the most stressed, at least at the beginning. She inherited a growing set of problems. Campaigns to increase paid circulation had failed. The Publications



Above "I learned a lot between 1985 and 2007. I created my first masthead on Letraset (and then the printer did typesetting and layout the old-fashioned way), and gradually mastered full desktop publishing software on my Mac." (opposite top left).



Above "One of my last issues" May/June 2007

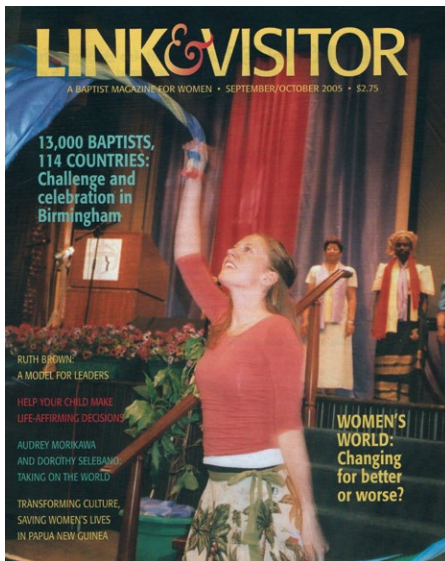


Committee considered the options. Increase the subsidy? Raise the subscription price? Publish fewer issues per year? Discontinue publication? Amalgamate with *The Canadian Baptist*? The BWMS board “felt very strongly that this magazine renders invaluable missionary service, and should continue as long as possible, even at greater cost,” said president Loula Gordon. Changes were urgently needed, and Edith made them:

paid advertising. It landed three or four regular advertisers, plus McCain Foods’ one-time ad on the March 1971 back cover. Thanks to Edith’s efforts, readers’ prayers and support, and the encouragement of BWOQ leaders, the *Link* survived well past her retirement in 1984.

In May/June 2013, the *Link & Visitor* became *Live*, with the front cover tag. “A Baptist resource for women on a mission”. Renée’s editorial explained that the name change “signals all the potential that waits for us as a movement of women. It also signals...fresh ways of doing mission together...When you think about it, the *Link & Visitor*, both as two separate pieces – *The Canadian Missionary Link* and *The Baptist Visitor* – and as one magazine, challenged Baptist women to live: to risk comfort and security to serve women and children...; to build up God’s kingdom using all their gifts... Linked through stories of our sisters, readers were challenged to live worthy of the calling they’d each received.” ①

In 1985, Esther Barnes, became the fifth “Editor E”, the first to produce text on a Mac computer, and possibly the first to become a widow during her tenure. Her successor, Renée James, was the first to become a mother. Esther thanks God for enabling both of them to provide print and online resources for women on mission “through all the changing scenes of life.” Most of this reflection came from her 2013 book, *Our Heritage Becomes Our Challenge*.



Top “September/October 2005 cover celebrated Audrey Morikawa’s installation as president of the Baptist World Alliance Women’s Department. This was the magazine’s first colour cover.”

Above “September 1998 cover artwork was by Diane McBeth. This issue was part of the package that won the 1998 CCP honourable mention award for general excellence, specialty magazines

A new look. After 43 years with only minor alterations, the aging *Link* needed a total makeover. Subscribers barely recognized their old friend when the January 1970 issue landed in their mailbox. Instead of 36 small, black and white pages with few photos, it had 16 bigger pages, many photos, and bright red cover.

New content. Edith gave readers the devotional page they requested. She introduced a page by and for youth, hoping to attract a new generation to the *Link*, but also to voice their concerns. And to stimulate all her readers’ thinking on the issues of the day, she published a controversial column by Louise Barber, a McMaster biology teacher. Her sixteen columns provoked more published letters to the editor in two and a half years than in all the other years of the magazine’s history.

A new source of revenue. For the first time, the *Link & Visitor* solicited

FROM THE ARCHIVES

May/June 2022

We devoted this issue to Baptist Women’s target of seeking justice. When I saw the cover for the first time, I felt hope, such a gift in light of the articles I’d received and interviews conducted for the issue. I had to remain in a prayerful place of lament as I interviewed, wrote and edited. I could not look away from the issues our First Nations and Indigenous sisters face – all given powerful voice by the Indigenous contributors who wrote articles or were interviewed for this issue. –RJ





– always believing that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ever hope for. We must be intentional in lifting up the many needs of our community in prayer.

I must admit I felt a tinge of sadness learning that *Live* magazine will be ending its long run. Thank you for all the years of thought-provoking stories that shared about Baptist women here and around the world. It's been an incredible journey and a blessing to many. As believers, we will continue to declare the greatness of God perhaps not in this magazine ministry but wherever we are. Even though this chapter is ending, His stories will continue to *live* on! To God be the glory. ①

The Welcome of a Magazine

BY **LOUISE HEDD-WILLIAMS**

THE LINK & VISITOR/*Live* magazine conjures up wonderful memories for me. It was somewhere around 2007, I had recently immigrated with my family and we had joined Heron Park Baptist Church in Scarborough. I was new to Canada and hadn't even heard about Baptist Women or understood what the magazine was about. Some of the ladies in the church received copies of the magazine and one of them thought I should start reading it and gifted me a yearly subscription. Her kindness didn't just stop there as she made it her mission to educate

me about Baptist Women. Little did I know this kind gesture would plant the seed in introducing me to Baptist Women and subsequently lead to my serving on CBWOQ's Board for many years. This was her way of passing on something to the next generation.

How can one even start to pick a favourite article? From the Bible studies, to the many articles about missionaries around the world, to Baptist women's various missional campaigns – there are just too many to list. But I do remember one editorial written a few years back by Renée James where she discussed prayer walking in her community. For me this was a call to action because I believe that prayer changes things. I was inspired to take action, to in essence, stand in the gap and pray for my community. Over the years, I participated in prayer walks held at my church. Even to this day, I offer up prayer during my walks

Always believing that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ever hope for.

PHOTO CLEMENT PROUST (UNSPLASH.COM)

FROM THE ARCHIVES



March/April 2017

One of our most beautiful covers ever – the multimedia work you see is called Fragments and it was created by Sharon Tiessen, artist-in-residence at Weston Park Baptist Church in Toronto. The issue highlighted how God uses fragments to weave a beautiful picture of redemption. Contributors shared stories and photos of the work Baptists were doing in Cochabamba, Bolivia, while Baptist Women invited readers to begin raising funds for nine strategic overseas projects – all overseen by CBM.–RJ

Women Shall Be Informed

Words from past Executive Directors on how the *Link & Visitor / Live* magazine fulfilled its purpose

1975–1997

Audrey Morikawa

LIKE THE OLDER WOMAN in the TV commercial for *Heart to Home* meals, I am tempted to recall “the good ole days.” Days when the printed page was our most trusted source of information and means of communication. The *Link & Visitor* filled that role for a women’s movement whose ultimate purpose was to reach out to others with the love of Christ.

Where our Overseas Missionaries went, women at home prayerfully followed. Undoubtedly, searching a world map on the way, we at home became more aware of cultural differences and specific issues relating to family life. How to address these issues and help improve the lives of women and girls was at the fore.

Here at home, our world was also changing as people from other countries moved into local neighbourhoods. Our Home Missionaries often worked with churches in key areas of immigration, helping their members make meaningful connections. This often was made possible through ministries with women and children. Their stories were told through our publication.

So, when the *Link & Visitor* arrived in our mailbox, we felt connected. Connected not only with our missionaries but also in relation to other women spread out across 17 associations in two provinces. Drawn from these areas, women were chosen to serve as members of committees and the Board of Management. This resulted in strong bonds of friendship. The *Link & Visitor* told our story as an organization while never losing sight of the spiritual nurture of its members. So, my final word is to say thanks to our editors for inspiring us from *Home to Heart*.

1997–2005

Rev. Nancy Webb

MY JOURNEY with the *Link & Visitor* began as a young woman joining a Mission Circle with my mother-in-law. At that time, I learned about women serving our Lord not only here in Canada but in all parts of the world, in ministry, medical, and educational endeavours.

I was also introduced to exciting new endeavours in other churches, current social issues, informed about Conferences and Conventions, introduced to new missionaries here in Canada and abroad. Annual reports kept us informed about each other in the associations as well as the finances of our organization.

As I leaf through collected issues it is abundantly evident the integral part the *Link and Visitor* played in articulating how ordinary, amazing Baptist women responded to God’s call to mission, locally, nationally, and internationally. We met them, read their stories, learned about their challenges and victories, and most important, received insight into how we could pray for them and support them financially as they lived out God’s calling in their lives.

Words cannot begin to describe how valuable a resource the magazine continued to be throughout the years. It connected Baptist women to mission opportunities, interest groups, coffee hours, Bible studies etc. that reached out to meet the needs of women in the local church and beyond. To God be the glory for the *Link & Visitor/Live* magazine, its editors and others closely involved throughout the years.

2006–2014

Rev. Brenda Mann

CONNECTIONS, partnership, inspiration, personal growth – the *Link & Visitor* and *Live* magazine have enabled women to grow and move and fulfil God’s purposes in their lives.

In each issue you would have read the names of women who were being honoured on special occasions or being remembered after their deaths. Reading those names brought memories of women who had supported our organization with passion and commitment. It would often cause me to pause with gratitude as I remembered their lives well lived.

Throughout the history of these magazines we experienced ripples of growth and then times when the ocean waves of excitement seemed to wane. Hearing from new voices was always a highlight bringing fresh faith and new ideas.

Indeed, it is always so amazing how the many stories of young women have become the stories of middle-aged women, seniors and then women who have passed on. The generations come and go and now new generations are showing us new ways of communicating.

Our magazines supported our understanding of Canada’s multicultural landscape. As we worship in many languages, reading stories and seeing photos of our varied language group events brought learning to us all.

These magazines brought recognition of our work as we shared them with prospective CBWOQ donors. Each issue highlighted our endeavours and brought people onside with their support. The magazines also brought churches on board as they caught the vision of what our women were doing in service to God.

I am very proud of the recognition many of our writers and editors received as their work won awards at Write Canada and other literary competitions.

The staff relationship between executive directors and magazine editors was a very special part of our journey. The planning of topics in upcoming issues and the excitement of deadlines nearing print times drew us together. Each director and editor brought their own vision, focus, passion, and style and together, every magazine was a gift of love, time and talent.

2014–2021

Rev. Diane McBeth

WHEN I BECAME Executive Director in 2014, *Live* was one of the primary ways we communicated programs, events, and Bible studies. The majority of women chose workshops and sent in their conference registration via *Live*. Annual reports, mission news, and your stories from Love Day were all delivered through *Live*.

Live continued the excellent work of advocacy against human trafficking that was begun by Brenda, Renée, Kristi, and Sarah before me. When the board approved a new vision of *facilitating authentic experience of God and intimate connection with mission*, that vision was rolled out via *Live*. At first, entire issues were devoted to those themes, then gradually they became regular sections.

As CBWOQ created new spiritual formation resources, we introduced them via *Live*. They were available for download from the website, but women knew to look there because they had read about it in the magazine. We gave out copies of *Live* at Assembly and at many other events which helped raise our profile across CBOQ.

When the first COVID-19 lockdown came, a great many of you learned how to navigate the Internet to take part in our first online conference. Then you joined online groups like Soul Sisters, Complete and the Prayer Network. With that experience, more and more signed up for the E-LINK and got their news that way.

Now it is time to transition away from *Live* and rely completely on E-LINK, the website, and in-person announcements. I will miss Renée’s editorials, the photos, and the space for longer articles; but I am confident I can stay connected to CBWOQ. Helena and her team are doing great things! 📌

A LINK AND A VISITOR

BY ESTHER BARNES

I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN my first conversation with Nellie Pickles, who lived on Dill Street. It was in 1975, on my husband's first Sunday as pastor of her church, First Baptist in Bracebridge, and I was new to the Canadian Baptist family. Nellie approached me with a friendly smile. "Do you get *The Link & Visitor*?" she asked, in her role as the magazine's promoter. "What's *The Lincoln Visitor*?" I replied.

Other potential subscribers have asked this question over the years, and perhaps they, like me, found it to be both a link and a visitor. Here are some examples I rediscovered as I flipped through my library of back issues.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBM

“Would you care to come with me on a visit to some of our churches?” In January/February 1976 Shirley Freckleton invited readers to Kikuyu churches in Kenya, and women who maintained coffee and tea plantations. Many of them were illiterate. On their way to a meeting, several women were seriously injured and one was killed when their truck shot off the road and tipped at the bottom of a steep hill.

That 1976 visitor was also angry, and for a reason that is far too relevant today. The first Wintario tickets had sold out. In three pages of the strongest opinions ever vented in the *Link & Visitor*, Canadian church leaders condemned all lotteries. “Lotteries contribute to the exploitation of human weakness,” declared York University professor D. McCormack Smyth, a Baptist. He called them a “despicable aspect of human life”.

Most of my visits were friendly glimpses into missions and ministries at home and abroad, with women whose vision and passion led them to work with refugees, neighbours in need, international students, camping ministries, children and youth, and more. For example, Muriel Bishop, director of Project Reconciliation in Kingston, invited us to visit prison through her eyes. “When I am asked if I take Christ into the prisons, I can truly respond that I don’t have to, for Christ is already there, suffering, comforting, dying, and in resurrection,” she wrote in April 1989. “My task is to be available as a channel of God’s love, to respond to the presence of Christ in the prisoner, and, if so led, to remind the prisoner of that Presence.”

On a Sunday morning in 1989, the *Link* sent its own visitor into First Baptist Church, London – Margaret Wojtowicz of Windsor disguised as an unwashed bag lady. What she experienced was not the rejection she expected, but kindness exemplified by a senior who introduced herself as Mary and gently escorted her to the coffee room. “I was



overwhelmed by the depth of concern Mary showed for me and my welfare,” Margaret wrote. “Her easy manner glowed with warmth and love.”

In the mid-1990s, the back cover became a home for regular visits with mission columnists, starting with Janet Clark. Here’s how she introduced her May/June 1992 column on crossing cultural barriers:

“We followed two rules when served a meal in the interior villages of Kalimantan, Indonesia:

1. Don’t ask what it is before eating.
2. Don’t ask to see where it was cooked.

“We knew that villagers’ protein intake sometimes included dogs, rats, snakes, birds, and squirrels...But an invitation to share a meal was a sign of friendship and honour, so we made it a point to eat with grace and gratitude and a silent prayer for our health.”

I made my first visits to international gatherings of my sisters in the North American Baptist Women’s Union and the Baptist World Alliance Women’s Department as a *Link* reader. Later, as editor, I had the joy of attending and reporting these events, and introducing outstanding examples of faith and courage. One was Vera Kadaeva, a Moscow-based leader of Russia’s Baptist women.

When Putin attacked Ukraine in 2022 my heart cried, “Where are our Veras today?” I have never forgotten her testimony in the May/June 1992 *Link & Visitor*. An attempted coup had erupted in Moscow on August 19, 1991. Vera’s first thought was, “Lord! How little we managed to do for you!” She headed to the barricaded Red Square, offered New Testaments to the soldiers standing there, and declared. “I have come to you with a word from God: ‘Thou shalt not kill.’ Life is a gift from God, and no one has a right to lift a hand against his neighbour.” Someone in the shouted, “Let her go to the front...and tell us what God says!” Soon soldiers who had come into Moscow to



The Canadian Missionary Link went into production as soon as 1000 subscribers had signed up. A year’s subscription cost \$0.25.

Left Miranda Knight Hassell, granddaughter of Canadian Baptist missionaries, marches in Toronto

Above Canadian Baptist missionary Mildred Goulding in the field

Opposite A woman in India

FUN FACT

I was surprised to discover personal links to Americus Vesputius (aka A.V.) Timpany, the pioneer missionary to India who founded the Canadian Missionary Link in 1878. His birthplace (near Calton, Ontario) was just ten miles from mine. His great-granddaughter, Olive Clark Berdan, was my Grade 9 and 13 math teacher, highly regarded in her profession, and an exemplary Baptist woman.



shoot people were sitting on their tanks reading the Bible, and Baptists were praying for the soldiers, many of whom were “dirty, confused boys,” Vera wrote.

If I could choose one issue that exemplified my links and visits over the years, it would be November/December 2005. The cover story took readers to Louisiana, where five women and three men from Tillsonburg helped uninsured homeowners clean up after Hurricane Katerina. Page 5 called us to rejoice with Matthew House as it welcomed its 500th resident to its Dundas Street home, received funding for a new van and furniture, reported that 782 people had stayed at Matthew House—Fort Erie since it opened in 2000, and celebrated the launch of Micah House, a sister refugee home in Hamilton.

Page 6 brought news of “miracles” in Liege, Belgium, the city with the highest suicide rate in Europe. CBM field staff Ria and Patrick Deneut described lives that had been changed through an inter-church outreach with the theme “Christ, hope for today.”

Pages 8 to 10 led us to the Kenyan dessert, to Somali people who believed camel’s milk is the best food on earth, and to Canadian Baptists who were helping them build a camel herd and dairy.

On Page 11, an anonymous Toronto woman attended a Bible study in a Middle Eastern city, in a crowded room with 25 of the many Iranian refugees in that city. Meanwhile, the landlord was eavesdropping on other Christians meeting on the top floor. He ordered that host family to give him their Bible. They refused. He evicted them.

On Pages 16 and 17 we walked the streets of Prague with Luran Bethell, the American Baptist at the forefront to ministries to women trapped in prostitution or trafficked into it. “To be seen with God’s eyes is the cry of many [of them],” she told us. “To be seen with caring and compassion,...patience and understanding. To be seen with eyes...that see them as God’s beloved daughter.

Finally, this issue was a link to three executive directors, with a farewell to Nancy Webb, a welcome to Brenda Mann, and a testimony, “The Christmas Skunk,” by their eventual successor, Helena Bergen.

“TO BE SEEN WITH CARING AND COMPASSION, PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING. TO BE SEEN WITH EYES...THAT SEE THEM AS GOD’S BELOVED DAUGHTER.”

Seventy-five years after the *Link* and *Visitor* merged to become the *Link & Visitor*, it had transitioned from a magazine *about* mission to a magazine *for* missionaries, because all its readers have mission work to do. “We need training, encouragement, inspiration,” I wrote in my November/December 2002 editorial. “This issue helps us understand Judaism.” Some of the content is far too relevant today. “The situation in Israel had taken a turn for the worst,” Paul Beckingham wrote. “Another suicide bomber, troops in the West Bank, and a buildup of enemy tanks along the borders with Syria and Lebanon.”

I had Jewish neighbours, and I shared this testimony in the issue: “Recently I felt a divine nudge to take Maggie (my dog) out. My neighbour was passing by and stopped for some dog talk. I felt another nudge: ‘Ask her if she needs a handyman.’ So I asked. ‘Do I?!’ she replied. The guy working on her house had had to go to court, and hadn’t been heard from since. She was desperate. I knew that my handyman was a Christian who loved to talk about his faith. I didn’t know, until later, that he was raised in a Jewish home. He and my neighbour had some very interesting conversations.”

My God continue to call and equip Baptist women to be His links and visitors in our neighbourhoods and in our increasingly needy world. 🙏

A Task Fit for God's Kingdom

BY VICTORIA MOK

GOD'S ORCHESTRATION is always something to behold. In a season of seeking realignment, the opportunity to write for *Live* magazine became a beautiful and affirming move of God.

During the height of the pandemic, I took a week of vacation and fashioned a stay-at-home retreat where I spent much-needed time resting, soaking in Scripture and prayer, and reflecting on my life through journaling and poetry writing. I thoroughly enjoyed the spacious time I got to spend alone.

Without the distraction of work and screen time, I slowly entered into the still presence of the Lord who spoke so much love into who I was. God reminded me that He had crafted me to be a deep introvert and that burrowing into alone time to think, dream, and create was, and is, a perfectly good task in His kingdom. I struggled against the permission to take ample time alone. Am I not commanded to go and make disciples, serve in church ministries, love my neighbours?

God continued to impress upon me that introversion is His creation, and that choosing to live more authentically into the way He had shaped me is what He desired. He then reawakened an old dream I had had since I was in high school: He called me to be a writer. He affirmed that it was okay to carve time out to be alone to think and write. I was to use this particular gifting to bless others, and it was an important gift in His eyes. What else could I say but yes, Lord?

The next challenge arose: How does one begin to write and be published? My church had a small publication

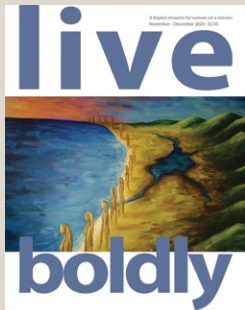


where I had written a few articles, but I sensed the Lord wanting me to reach a wider audience. That was all good and lovely, but I had no idea where to begin.

Just one week later, I was sharing my retreat experience with a friend and timidly revealed that God had called me to write. After hearing my story, she in turn revealed she had written for a publication called *Live*, and asked whether I was interested in connecting with the editor. I replied a hearty yes! My heart was full of amazement and thanks at how quickly God orchestrated a way for me to write for Him.

Writing for *Live* magazine has been incredibly affirming. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of Renée James who nurtured my craft and took the chance to house my work in this powerful magazine which has allowed so many unique voices to be heard. Thank you for the immense privilege of sharing my words with this beautiful community. ①

Victoria attends Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church and is grateful to have been a contributor to *Live* magazine.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Nov/Dec 2020

This cover introduced readers to Karen Wilson, the newly appointed Australian president of Baptist World Alliance Women and our plenary speaker for Baptist Women's 2021 virtual Women's Conference. The cover is Australian artist Corina Jasmin's rendering of the vision God gave Karen about her five-year tenure as president. Karen went on to change lives through her sermons and meet-the-speaker time at our Conference – testimonies recorded in subsequent *Live* magazine issues. —RJ

OLD FOUNDATIONS – NEW BEGINNINGS

Nehemiah to Hebrews

BY **LINDA ELLSWORTH**

How often in life do we move from old to new? Have you ever torn down a garage, a shed, a barn, a house, to discover that the original footprint has a solid foundation? Remember that old Sunday School chorus: “Don’t build your house on a sandy land. Don’t build it too near the shore. Well, it might look kinda’ nice, but you’ll have to build it twice! You’ll have to build your house once more! I’m gonna’ build my house on the Rock...on a firm foundation in a solid spot...though the winds may come and go, my house on the Rock stands firm!” (Read Matthew 7:24–27) Well, Nehemiah was called back from Babylon to rebuild.

Read Nehemiah 1

Why did the walls of Jerusalem need rebuilding? Describe Nehemiah’s heartfelt response to God’s call. What made it so noteworthy that Nehemiah left his “position” in the palace to follow God’s call to rebuild?

Read Nehemiah 2

Why do you think King Artaxerxes responded to Nehemiah in such a positive manner? What do the King’s responses tell you about Nehemiah’s character? What do verses 11–20 tell you about Nehemiah’s faith? And leadership?

Read chapters 3–7

Many incidents occurred during the reconstruction, but my favourite part is in Chapter 6, at a point where the rebuilding of the walls had been completed, but the new gates were not yet installed. Refusing to be distracted, and put himself and the operation at risk, Nehemiah sent enemies Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem the same message four times. You’ll read this message in verse three of this chapter. *What was the message?*

I would rate Nehemiah’s leadership tenacity at a 10! *What are you rebuilding? Rate your tenacity on a scale of 1–10.*

We are often tempted to skip over chapters like Chapter 7, but it is of great importance because it details Nehemiah’s impeccable leadership regarding the honouring of the past, and the building of the future. *Can you explain the importance of this chapter? In your situation today, how are you able to relate your story of rebuilding on a solid foundation?*

Read Hebrews 11 and 12

In chapter 11, the writer takes great care to inform us of those who built on the firm foundation of faith. God’s challenge to us then begins in chapter 12.

Read 12:1–3. *What is the writer recommending that we do? How are we to accomplish this?*

Read 12:5–13. The writer also reminds us that growth and success involve _____?

I love the challenge in verses 12 and 13 – a three-point sermon with results listed. *Can you outline it? How would you apply this sermon to your present circumstances?*

Read 12:14–15. *Note the specific instructions for a holy and influential life.* After reminding the readers of the faithlessness of God’s people in the Old Testament, the writer then reminds the readers and us of who it is we are approaching in prayer, worship, and obedience.

2024 Book Club


Read 12:22–29. *Cite the incredible foundational statements about God listed in verses 22–24.*

How do these statements affect your reflection regarding God's character?

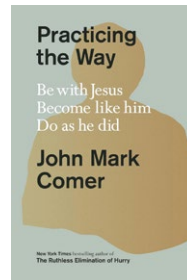
Meditate on verses 25–29, which carry powerful words of warning, but also a great and precious promise. *Restate the warning[s].* Examine your own life (as I have mine) in light of these statements. *Does anything require a change or adjustment? What is the tremendous promise entwined in verse 25?*

As our view of a holy God changes, so then should our responses change. Chapter 13:1 encourages us to “Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters,” and out of that love flows action – action based on the sure foundation of a loving and holy God.

As you face “new beginnings” in 2024, keep your foundation solid, and build your future in Jesus.

Honour the past – engage the present – embrace the future! My thanks to all of you who have walked through the Scriptures with me for the past 12 years. 

Linda is the member-care coordinator for CCI, Canada.



May–June

Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like him, Do as he did
John Mark Comer

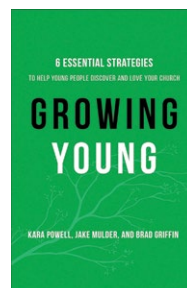
\$33



July–August

Grieving Room: Making Space for all the Hard Things After Death and Loss
Leanne Friesen

\$30

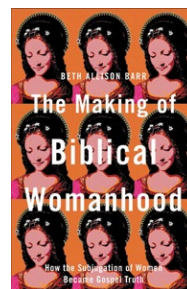


September–October

Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad Griffin

\$20



November–December

The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth
Beth Allison Barr

\$22



Books available at READ On Bookstore. Free shipping on all these titles.

The Impact of One Magazine Over Time

BY JENNIFER SHEWAN

I WOULD LIKE TO START by saying *thank you*; for the privilege and absolute honour it is to share in this piece of Baptist Women legacy. I grew up hearing my mother and grandmother talk about all the missions happening and stories that had been shared in the *Lincoln Visitor*. There was always something to talk about and share it seemed. It wasn't until I was older that I got my hands on a copy and realized the magazine's name was the *Link & Visitor*, which made so much more sense to me for a missional magazine! We sure shared in some laughs over that one. I was blessed to hear the stories through the generational

women in my family, and then later experience the fullness of what *Live* magazine had to offer me as a young adult and to present day.

Over the years *Live* has been a tool I have been able to use in various aspects of my life: From the devotions and Bible studies being shared in our women's circles, to personally praying for the needs of my sisters around the world, to the spotlights on new local ministries that my friends and I had the opportunities to visit.

One of my favourite adventures was heading to Hamilton, Ontario, for the day to check out the 541 Eatery. *Live* had run an article about their button ministry and the various other programs it offered and we thought, *we need to share*

in and experience this ministry. It was a wonderful afternoon among friends, as we sat around a table eating, and being able to help others through the simple act of purchasing buttons.

Another way *Live* made an impact in my life was through an article written by Rev. Julia Bowering. I read it during a very busy transition and emotionally raw season of my life. I felt overwhelmed and drained, still trying to do it all while ignoring my own needs. Julia wrote on Mark 12:31, loving our neighbour as ourselves, and this helped me to realize that I needed to love myself more and show myself some grace, not in a self-ish way, but so that I could then, with intention, pour more deeply into others as Jesus had done for me. I don't think I had been truly loving others the way I could have been; instead I was focused on survival.

Julia's article gave me permission to pause and hear that even "Jesus didn't do it all, but accomplished all that He was called to do." How powerful! I have carried this idea in my mind since then, and it has truly given me more space to love myself and others the way God loves each of us – not expecting us to just survive, but to thrive on the goodness, the peace and the steadfast love of His Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ❶

Jennifer Shewan is a past CBWOQ Board president

FROM THE ARCHIVES



September/October 2020

This issue was the first issue ever dedicated to highlighting anti-Black and Asian racism and it marked the beginning of CBWOQ's response to God's call to talk about racism in ways that could help us all change the cultures and conversations in our churches. It was also the first issue where all the authors and this editor moved their stories to social media – via a Facebook *Live* event. All the authors gathered to discuss their articles, offer insights into their lived experiences as women of colour serving in evangelical churches in Ontario, and answer questions from the online audience. All the responses to that event were positive. –RJ

Beside Still Waters

BY **NOREEN MCMASTER**

A FEW YEARS BACK I was struggling with an area in my life. It was so stressful, trying to understand, I felt empty – my joy, my peace taken away. One night as I brought the situation before the Lord, I felt my burden lift, my joy and peace returning.

I wanted to see where the Lord had put my sin and a picture of a beautiful scenery appeared in my mind. He led me beside still blue waters that were, surrounded by trees and beautiful flowers. He had buried my sin in the sea of His forgetfulness. My tears of joy flowed freely. Then I heard Him say, “Noreen, I give you beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness.”

As we lay down this magazine ministry I know that many are asking why. Is change good? Can’t we stay the way we are? The past is good, so let us embrace it and give thanks for the many women who paved the way for CBWOQ to be where it is today.

Let Him lead us beside the still waters, where we can be revived and where He can give us a new collective vision. May we move forward with expectation, in unity and with hope, as CBWOQ women who pray, lift up one another, and seek God as new ministries take shape to reach out to those in need – all under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. May CBWOQ bring glory to an Almighty God who opens doors for us that no-one can shut, thus helping us to reach children, youth, families, seniors, communities here and around the world.

Spring is here – God’s way of saying, “Let’s start again.” Refreshed. Renewed. Reclaimed for His glory as He leads us by the still waters. We need those still waters to be able to see clearly and be free to move forward. ①

Noreen is Vice President of CBWOQ’s Board

We Remember

Each generation has the opportunity to fuel mission for the next. We are thankful for the following gifts:

IN MEMORY OF

Elaine Tapp, Wallaceburg
Shirley Forrest, Hagersville

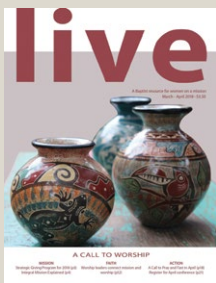
IN HONOUR OF

Janet Hess, Wallaceburg
Isabel McDairmid, Vernon
90th birthday

FROM THE ARCHIVES

March/April 2018

January/February 2021



These covers were voted on by Rev. Tina Rae and her child Jazz as their favourites. Both covers feature Tina’s photography (2018) and art (2021). –RJ

2024 CBWOQ
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Belonging. Becoming. Brought back.

[re]claim the gift

May 3–4, 2024
McMaster Divinity College

Registration is now open at
baptistwomen.com/events/

New and Updated Details

This page details new or updated details. All other details remain unchanged – please review them in your January/February issue.

This Conference will not be recorded. The only way you'll be able to enjoy this experience is by registering. Please note that we do have bursaries should costs be prohibitive.

REGISTRATION COSTS

Online \$40 (Friday and Saturday)
Includes one of two workshop choices as per revised workshop list.

ACCOMMODATION

Les Prince Hall

Single room \$88
(1 twin bed)

Double room \$140 (\$70 pp)
(2 twin beds)

Book directly with Les Prince Hall
by March 31



CBWOQ thanks McMaster Divinity College for their sponsorship support of this Conference.

SCHEDULE

*Subject to change

Friday May 3

6 p.m. Registration / prayer room opens
7 p.m. Time of worship
8 p.m. Fellowship time & appetizers

Saturday May 4

7 a.m. Registration / prayer room opens
7:45 a.m. Hot breakfast buffet
9 a.m. Plenary Session 1
Finances – presentation by auditor
Workshops
12:30 p.m. Lunch (catered)
2 p.m. Plenary Session 2
Break
Annual General Meeting
Plenary Session 3
5 p.m. Conference ends



WORSHIP LEADER

Cheryl Hill

Cheryl is a woman of passionate worship. Through tragedy and loss in Cheryl's story, worship has grown to be an unspeakably rich experience of devotion to Jesus that she longs to invite others into. Cheryl will lead us to reclaim our intimate gift of worship with God.

PROJECT WE WILL SUPPORT AT THE CONFERENCE

Hands-on Mission Initiatives

Please give generously to CBWOQ's ministry priority of hands-on mission. Your donations will fund initiatives like **Flourishing Friendships** (Indigenous/ Non-Indigenous relationship-building and mutual learning) and **Bring Them Home Safely** (refugee sponsorship). Thank you for donating to these initiatives at the Conference and for considering how to raise funds.

WORKSHOPS

Final Lineup

1. **[Re]Claiming Our Young Women:** Creating welcoming spaces for Millennials and Gen Z women in your women's ministries & groups (a workshop for women 50+) – *Rev. Tanya Yuen*
2. **Emotionally Healthy Women:** Quit denying anger, sadness and fear – *Karen Heppner*
3. **Soul Day:** a mini Soul Day experience – *Tracey Bagley*
4. **Discovering God's Call Through Understanding Your Spiritual Giftings and Personality** – *Rev. Leslie Makins*
5. **We Belong to the Church:** Singles and their place in the Family – *Rev. Julie-Ann Morton & Rev. Elaine Poproski*
6. **Discipleship Within Complex Family Systems** – *Tracy Upham*
7. **How to Prep the Soil and Sow Seeds for your Church's Mission in its Community Using Alpha** – *Rev. Gloria Stafford & Jackeline Riedstra*
8. **Sustaining our Call to Love our Neighbours** – *Lynda MacGibbon*
9. **CBM field report** (in-person & online) – *Patty Nacho, Kallie Hutton, Barbara Keys*
10. **What it's like to be a Woman in the World** (online only) – *Merritt Johnson*
11. **Giving Grief Room** – *Rev. Lanne Friesen*

CBWOQ retains the right to redirect funds in the event a particular initiative or project cannot be undertaken or fulfilled or becomes oversubscribed.

Registration

2024 CBWOQ WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

To register and pay online, visit baptistwomen.com/events/

To register by mail, please complete all areas, detach and mail together with cheque to CBWOQ Office, 5 International Blvd., Etobicoke, ON M9W 6H3

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Church and City _____

- This is my first in-person CBWOQ event
- I wish to volunteer at this event. Please contact me with more information.

Age

- Teen 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70+

I will apply for a bursary* to cover:

- Childcare Travel Registration

*For Bursary forms visit baptistwomen.com. Your application must be received by March 15, 2024.

Photo Release

- I agree to allow photos of me which may be taken at the event, to be used in all CBWOQ publications and social media for the sole purpose of sharing about CBWOQ with the Baptist community at large.

PAYMENT

- Registration Fee: Friday evening (\$20)
- Registration Fee: Saturday (\$95 – meals included)
- Registration Fee: Online (\$40)
- I am an Uptick alumni or a student (\$95 – Friday and Saturday)
- My contribution to event/bursary fund* \$ _____

I have enclosed a cheque for \$ _____

Please make cheque payable in full to *Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec*. Our bank will only accept this and we will not be able to confirm your registration including workshop choices until your payment is successfully processed.

- *Yes, I would like a receipt for my donation to the event/bursary fund. Only for donations over \$20.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are offered once during the Conference. Please indicate your top 4 choices by writing the workshop number as indicated. Workshops are assigned on a first come, first served basis and are capped by room capacity.

My workshop choices:

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

4th choice _____

LUNCH

Any food allergies or sensitivities? Please note them here:

VOTING

The program includes the brief transaction of annual business for Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ). Voting privileges are open to women who have identified as members of CBWOQ, are affiliated with a CBOQ church; subscribe to the CBWOQ vision of "empowered women transforming the world as God's Beloved," register at least 10 days before the conference starts (Bylaw 4:26a and 37) and sign and date below. **This means you must register by Tuesday April 23, 2024 in order to vote.**

Please sign and date below only if you fulfil these requirements. We will mail members a link to the audited financial statement and list of motions in preparation for the AGM.

If you'd like to become a member or don't know if you are, please indicate below and we will follow up with you.

- I would like to become a member of Baptist Women
- I would like to know if I'm a member

Signature _____

Date _____

Cancellation Policy

1. Cancellations before April 23: Refund of registration minus \$15.
2. Cancellations after April 23: No refund. Exception: In the case of accident or illness of the registrant, or a death in the family: refund minus \$15.
3. Registration forms without payment: These are not considered registered. Meals will not be ordered and workshop choices will not be held. Please know that we have a cap of 250 in the main hall so you are very welcome to register and pay at the door, but you may not be able to enter if we've reached our cap, and will need to make alternate arrangements for breakfast and lunch. Workshops will be subject to availability.

“

It is a positive, practical magazine for women who want to make a difference in their world. Whether this difference is by doing, praying, writing letters, or giving, it's a difference that will only be made if each of us, prayerfully and with the power and love of God, do (sic) what He has called us to do.”

– From a speech prepared and given in the early to mid 1990s by the Nancy Rebecca Missionary Society (First Baptist Chatham), Betty Matthews, President

live

Thank you, dear readers.

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