Through the Fruit of the Spirit JOY

On November 5, 2012 Baptist women from around the world will come together to study God’s word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ. The focus this year is on the fruit of the Spirit, **JOY**.

There are many passages in the Bible that give us insight into the word joy. A few will be mentioned. The Magi rejoiced exceedingly with great joy when they saw the star that indicated where Jesus was (Matthew 2:10). We learn in Romans 14:17 that the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The second fruit of the Spirit is joy found in Galatians 5:22.

How can Asian women and children be filled with joy and know God’s kingdom when they are confronted with the following situations:

1. Close to 900 million of the world’s poor (i.e., those who survive on less than a USD$1 a day) live in Asia. Women represent two-thirds of the poor in Asia.
2. Women in war-torn societies in Asia struggle to keep families together and care for the wounded. They are the first to be affected by infrastructure breakdown, and may be forced into survival strategies that involve sexual exploitation.
3. At least one out of every three women in Asia will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.
4. It is estimated that 3.5 million people are currently living with HIV in Southeast Asia. Of that total number women account for 33%.
5. In Asia there have been a lot of natural disasters, and on average more women than men are killed.

*The above information comes from the website of UN Women.*

The aforementioned information is alarming. What can you do to help women facing these issues in Asia be filled with the joy of excitement like the Magi, and know that the kingdom of God is joy in the Holy Spirit?

You can come together with other Baptist women to study God’s word, pray, give and learn from our Asian Baptist sisters how we can be filled with joy in order to share the joy and love of Christ.

_Patsy Davis, Executive Director_  
_BWA Women’s Department_
Greetings from the President

My dear sisters:

It is with great joy that I greet you on this special day. This is a day that we always get together to pray for one another but especially to pray for the cause of missions around the world.

As we gather together under this theme “In Step with the Spirit: JOY” There are so many reflections that came to my mind.

Joy is linked with the central message of the gospel, the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. In Luke 2:10 the angel said, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people”. People who believed in Jesus and received Him by faith experienced a new birth. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual experience is marked by joy. Sins are forgiven. A right relationship with God has begun by grace through faith. An inward state of joy is present.

Joy is an expression of confident faith grounded in a love relationship with Christ.

Let me give you a definition of “joy.” “Joy is an evidence of the presence of God in your life.” If God is in your life, if you are filled with the Spirit of God, and this fruit of the Spirit will be obvious in your life.

Don’t mistake happiness for joy. It’s easy to do that. The Bible mentions “joy” or “rejoicing” 330 times. But it only mentions “happiness” 26 times. Happiness depends upon what happens to you. So if all the circumstances are right, then you can be happy. But joy comes from inside.

My mother was diagnosed with cancer exactly 12 months before she went to be with the Lord. During those 360 plus days she wrote almost every day a devotional type letter to God in an old notebook. One day she wrote in the front page the title for all those letters, she called it “Oh, that Joy”. This was a tremendous lesson for all of us. Here she was, at the end of her days, but the “evidence of the presence of God” in her life was so evident that joy was real in all her thoughts.

It is my prayer for you that the Joy that is in Jesus Christ will be real in your everyday life as you go In Step with the Spirit.

Raquel Contreras
President
BWA Women’s Department

Plan Your Day of Prayer

1. Preparation
※ It is very important for the planning team to come together early to pray and plan a program that will bring JOY and a better understanding of what Baptist women are doing to impact the world for Christ.
※ The planning team needs to decide what format would be best for the Baptist women they serve. Monday, November 5 has been set aside, but it is also possible to have the program as a prayer retreat on another day or weekend in November, or on a Sunday, in order to include the entire church. The important thing is to plan a program that will fit the needs of your Baptist women.
※ Make invitation cards/greeting cards using the joy design with the word joy in the different Asian languages to invite Baptist women from the local church, association, regional organization or other to participate in the Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer.
※ Publicize the event using the JOY poster or make one of your own. Make sure it is placed in strategic areas where all Baptist women will have the opportunity to be included. The words on the poster are the word JOY in Hindi, Thai, Malaysian, Burmese, Chinese, Korean and other languages from Asia.
※ Prepare offering envelopes or till bags to be used at the time of the offering. As people arrive, make sure everyone receives an envelope.

2. Center Piece Suggestions
※ Enlarge the JOY picture to use as the center piece. Have a globe or world map to one side of the JOY picture. From the world have 7 different color ribbons/color paper representing the 7 continental unions flowing from it. The colors are Africa – purple; Asia – light blue; Caribbean – green; Europe – dark blue; Latin America – yellow; North America – orange; and South West Pacific – red. On the ribbons/color paper place the different Asian words for JOY.
※ Have the “In Step with the Spirit” logo in a prominent place.
The Lord Jesus Christ has touched the hearts of Baptist Women in Asia with a burning desire for reconciliation and deepening our spiritual bonds, resulting in the official organization of the Asian Baptist Women’s Union (ABWU). ABWU is the 5th continental union of the Women’s Department (WD) of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). ABWU incorporates 19 different countries and thirty-five member bodies.

As the planet’s largest continent, Asia covers about 30% of the world’s landmass. Significant features of the continent of Asia include the world’s tallest mountain, Mt. Everest in Nepal, and the world’s most populated countries in China and India. Asia is an area of numerous races and cultures – so diverse that even one country could consist of people of various languages, backgrounds, histories, and ways of thinking (e.g. there are 55 ethnic groups in China).

However, as Baptist women, we have discovered the deep value in our differences.

Most of Asia is enclosed in the “10/40 Window,” a term coined by Luis Bush that refers to the latitudinal lines that frame the least evangelized part of the world which includes as many as two billion people. As home to most of the world’s Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists, as well as to the fifty least-evangelized cities of the world, the region is the core of the unreached. Not only is the 10/40 Window the least evangelized, but it is also considered the poorest.

Many people in Asia are suffering from this poverty as well as from war, natural disaster, discrimination, oppression, HIV/AIDS, and violence against women and children. We, Baptist Women, desire to show not only our deep concern and love for these victims, but to share the message of the cross and the resurrection of Christ so that many more may live with the hope and joy of eternal life.

According to Galatians 5:22-23, as we walk “In Step with the Spirit” daily, the Spirit will produce Fruit. The focus for the 2012 Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer is Joy. The Spirit produces Joy when we serve God, enjoy unbroken fellowship with God, witness, and pray ceaselessly knowing God will answer our prayers. The true Joy of Christians is God (Psalm 43:4). Jesus said, “These things have I spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11, RSV). His will is for our Joy, and as this Joy permeates our being, it will also be evident in our doing.

Let us walk in step with God all the days of our lives, and look forward to being with Him in the heavenly Zion. This is everlasting Joy indeed!

May the Joy of the Spirit overflow in your heart as you study the scripture, pray and give in order to impact our world for Christ.

Sook Jae Lee
President, ABWU

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### Plan Your Day of Prayer (continued)

**3. Presentation**

- **Views from Asia** – Have a table with a microphone and two chairs placed in front of the room to represent a radio studio. Ask one woman to be the radio interviewer and a second woman to pretend she is Sook Jae Lee, ABWU president. Have the interviewer ask questions based on the statistics found on the first page plus the information given in views from Asia. The lady representing Sook Jae Lee needs to be prepared to answer the questions. The dialogue needs to be prepared in advance and practiced before the presentation.

- **BWA Women’s Department President Greetings** – Prepare the greeting of the BWA Women’s Department president as a letter. Have someone to come forward with great excitement because she has received a letter from the president of the BWA Women’s Department. As she comes forward she should be waving the letter in the air. She then reads the letter which is the greeting found in the program.

Don’t walk … run! Start planning your Day of Prayer 2012 today!
3. Presentation – “The fruit of the Spirit may be likened to a diamond, which has many facets. All the facets together constitute the gem, but each facet helps to reflect the true splendor and brilliance of the stone. So joy, one of the facets, reflects the brilliance of the gem” (Harpers Study Bible).

Joy, the second fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal. 5:22 by Paul, is therefore an important facet of the “Fruit of the Spirit” which He imparts to believers.

What is Joy?
★ “Joy means complete happiness as a result of absolute coordination of feelings, emotions and spiritual perceptions.”
★ In the Scriptures (The Word of God) joy is defined as the “attribute of Deity” – a divine characteristic (Ps. 104:31). God delighted in His creation – “He saw that it was good. Very good.” God wants us to enjoy His gifts (1 Tim. 6:17), but He also wants us to employ them for His service.
★ Joy is also defined as, “the infallible sign of the presence of God” (Leon Bloy, French poet and Novelist) “In thy presence is fullness of joy” (Ps. 16:11).
★ Joy, that has its origin in God is True joy. It is God in control of all circumstances to enable one to face each day with optimism. Nothing can take away the joy of the assurance that God is on one’s side even in the face of trials and difficulties (John 16:20-22). “The joy of the Lord is our strength” (Neh. 8:10).
★ Joy is conferred by Jesus on His followers (John 15:11) and mediated by the Spirit (1 Thess. 1:6, Rom. 14:17).

Synonyms: Rejoicing, mirth, gladness, blessedness. A state of being which transcends all others, best expressed as bliss.

Joy and Happiness
★ “Joy is sometimes equated with happiness, but the two are distinct” – separate.
★ Happiness is largely dependent on happenings and external circumstances (i.e. good health, congenial company, success in examinations, promotions in jobs, pleasant surroundings, etc.), but these are all temporal.

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Joy and Happiness (continued)

* Happiness is an ‘outside job’ short-lived and controlled by outside factors. Joy on the other hand is deep, long lasting, and an ‘inside job’, controlled by the Spirit. 

* Happiness and unhappiness do not exist together, but joy and sorrow do.

Our Lord was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Is. 53:3), but for the joy set before Him endured on the cross (Heb. 12:2). He suffered the cross for the joy of saving us.

Acts 16:22-26 relates how Paul and Silas were beaten, flogged, put in prison, and their feet were fastened “in the stocks.” However, amidst this pain they sang hymns and prayed to God praising Him.

Source of Joy

God wants us to find joy and experience it, but he wants us to find it in the right places. As Paul points out in Galatians 5:17-21, we should not find joy in the wrong places, but in the life of the Spirit. When we live in the Spirit we are controlled by the Spirit and then we produce the “Fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22).

If we desire the Fruit of the Spirit (including joy) to develop in our lives we need to recognize that all these characteristics/qualities are to be found in Jesus, and that therefore our lives must be joined to His life in close relationship (John 15:4, 5, 11). In Paul’s prison epistle to the Philippians, he focused on a ‘Christ centered’ life. We must love, obey, remember and imitate Him. Yield to the Spirit’s control, and Christ likeness will manifest itself as “Fruit of the Spirit” (John 15:10, 11). Jesus points to the source of joy when He promises “These things I have spoken to you that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

The Secret lies in remembering the Master’s Mandate to, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward in Heaven is great” in Him (Matt. 5:12, Luke 6:23).

J – Jesus

* Joy Comes from Jesus

At Jesus’ birth the angels sang. “Fear not for I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luke 2:10). Note He said “To all people” – not only the chosen race. Jesus came to give joy among other things. It was for future joy He went to the cross.

“Everywhere that Jesus went, joy tagged along” (Mike McIntosh). Indeed! This was evident when He ministered to the people during His earthly life (John 2:1-12).

* Joy was There

✓ At the wedding in Cana. A wedding is a joyful event and we find He was at home there (John 2:1-2).
✓ At the tomb of Lazarus when raised from the dead (John 11:43).
✓ When the leper came back to thank Him for healing (Luke 17:16).
✓ When the woman caught in adultery was released from sin (John 8:11).
✓ When the boy gave his lunch to feed the crowd (Luke 9:16-17).
✓ When children came to Him and He took them in His arms (Mathew 19:13-15).
✓ When the deaf heard, the blind saw, the lame walked (Mathew 11:5).
✓ When the storm was stilled (Mark 4:39).
✓ When Zacchaeus was forgiven (Luke 19:9-10).
✓ Finally when He rose again and appeared to women and later others (John 20:18, Luke 24:10)!

* Jesus Radiated Joy

“He was so different from the solemn religious types He constantly encountered during His earthly ministry” (Bruce Marchiano in “Foot-steps of Jesus”).

A story is told of a mother who took her young son to see the horses in a stable. They were admiring the stately animals, with their shiny coats and long manes – they were really grand. At the end, the young boy turned to the mother and remarked, “Mommy they must all be Christians!” The baffled mother asked, “Why?” The prompt reply was, “They have all got long faces Mommy.” I believe the boy had got that impression from his family, church, and community! Is that how the world sees us? Are we ‘long-faced,’ dull, solemn, grave, serious-looking followers of a Master who radiated such joy!

The ultimate value is Christ. Whatever happens we need to hold onto Him. He alone must be our source of contentment, Joy and life.

O – Others

* Joy Comes from Others (Phil.2:3-4).

Far too many of us are concerned about ourselves.

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The more we focus on ourselves, the more unhappy we get. We begin to compare ourselves with others and find that we lack so many things they have. We tend to count ourselves better than others, becoming boastful, and looking down on them.

When we focus on the interests of others and their needs, our joy becomes real (Gal. 6:9).

Jesus is the model for Christian life and service because He first thought of others, not of Himself, and laid down His life to save them.

Do we look out for the interest of others or only of ourselves (Phil. 2:19-21)?

Our love for others makes God’s love real and visible to them. “The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for the room we occupy on this earth” (Wilfred Grenfell).

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Are we content with the necessities of life or must God give us luxuries? God wants us to enjoy His gifts and employ them for the good of others.

Are we praying for just a little bit more by way of money, time, friends or job? Then, when we get that “little bit more,” will we be content or desire “just a little more” than that (Hebrew 13:5)?

We miss the joy of contentment when keeping rather than releasing becomes our objective in life. We can be most content when we are grateful for what we receive, satisfied with what we have, and generous to those in need.

To keep “In Step with the Spirit” through joy, let us remember...

**JOY... JESUS comes from OTHERS**

**Y - Yourself**

*Joy Comes from Yourself* (Phil. 4:11-12). The secret of Paul’s joy was contentment. Whatever state he was in, he was content with it.

Whether abased or abounding, hungry or full, rich or poor, he was content and so joyful (1 Tim. 6:6-8, 17-19).

Suggestions on how to use the poster to publicize the Day of Prayer and as a Center Piece are on the bottom of page 2.
Introduction – In the Old Testament, New Testament, and throughout recent Church history, we learn of women and men who experienced the “Joy of Serving.”

In our first Bible Study, we have said that if we desire to develop the “Fruit of the Spirit” – Joy being one of them, we take our example from Jesus Christ, because all characteristics of the “Fruit of the Spirit” are embodied in Him. So we must develop “Christ-likeness.” We need to remember that to be like Jesus means to serve others, especially those who are oppressed or without Christ (Matt. 8:1, 9:38).

Jesus Words on Serving Others

Jesus, the Son of God, came “not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).

Speaking of Himself He said, “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

Matthew 25:35-40 (The Judgment)

Even the smallest service performed to aid the most insignificant of Christ’s servants shall not go unnoticed (Matthew 10:42).

Jesus’ Example of Serving

At the last meal with His disciples, Jesus took a towel and a basin of water and washed their feet. Here He stressed the principle that to lead others one must serve others (John 13:3-6).

A person of authority, modeling the attitude of a servant by placing other’s needs before one’s own, and doing things to meet those needs, and not expecting anything in return, is a true Servant-leader. In verses 14-17, Jesus exhorts them to “do as I have done.” Follow His example.

What does this mean for us and our ministry? It means stooping to the foot-washing level of our neighbor’s needs.

Women of the Old Testament

Deborah – Used of God to be a mother in Israel (Judges 4:4).

Deborah, a major prophet in Israel, is first introduced as prophetess and wife of Lappidoth (an obscure man). She managed a household, and doubtless she was encumbered with many household domestic duties. But she also sat under a palm tree and, “the children of Israel came up to her for judgment” because she was wise, fair, and balanced in delivering them.

In a society where male dominance was the order of the day, Deborah had the “Joy of Serving” her God and her people who were in peril with attacks from enemies. Deborah knew God’s will and responded to His call willingly, with faith and courage.

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Even though she was a woman she was ready to lead an army with Barak because she was certain God would go with her. Barak said, “If you go with me, I will go. But if you don’t go with me I won’t go.” Deborah’s response was, “Very well; I will go with you.” She went and they were victorious.

Then Deborah and Barak sang praises to God, with joy and thankfulness (Judges 1:31). In this song she is referred to as “A mother in Israel” (Judges 5:7). Indeed a mother, because it is a mother who understands and

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Women of the Old Testament
(continued)

cares enough to serve her children “with Joy” – not asking for anything in return! (vs.31) We are told, “The land had rest for 40 years,” another reason for Joy! A motherly helper in war and ordinary life.

Esther – Esther 2:5-18
A young orphaned Jewish maiden-Queen of Persia.

She rendered valuable service to her people. She was brought up by her cousin, Mordecai, who nurtured her.

When her people were threatened with complete annihilation, Mordecai convinced her to go to the King, telling her that, “Who knows that you have come to Royal Position for such time as this?” (Esther 4:14) Having instructed Mordecai and others of her people to fast and pray for three days, she too did so with her maidens. She could not go to the King without being called, except at the risk of death. So she wanted prayer. Then she said “I will go to the King, which is not according to the Law; and if I perish I perish” (Esther 4:16). No queen in history has had such a willingness to sacrifice herself and show such fearlessness to save her people. She pleased the King, made her plea for her people, and was victorious.

This victory was celebrated by the “Feast of Purim” established as days set apart to commemorate how Jews got relief from enemies, turning mourning into a holiday, sorrow into gladness, days for sending choice portions to one another and gifts to the poor” (Esther 9:20-22).

Joy of Serving – Do you feel that you are where you are not by accident, but because of what God wants you to do where you are and now?

Women of the New Testament

Mary Mother of Jesus – A true hand maid of the Lord.

A woman of submission
Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 1:26-80
John 19:25-27

Mary was a virgin from a poor family in Galilee. Yet she was chosen from all young women of her time to be the earthly mother of God’s Son.

At a very young age she was confronted by Angel Gabriel with God’s message. “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall call Him Jesus. She was fearful, confused and worried as to “How this could be! since she was a virgin,” and later her response to Gabriel was “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38). This was evidence of her faith and humility and her real understanding of servanthood.

After that the Magnificat Mary thanked God for regarding the low estate of His handmaiden (Luke 1:46-55).

She served not only her own people, but all mankind, by being God’s vehicle for sending His son to be the Savior of the world. This she did with the great Joy of humility.


Lydia was Paul’s first convert in Europe, a Gentile, a business woman, and head of a household. Luke introduced her saying, “Lydia, dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshipper of God” (Acts 16:14).

What more reverent words to describe an ardent Christian! She was together with other women and prayed by the river bank when Paul met them and preached. The Lord opened her heart and afterwards she and her household were baptized. Then she invited Paul and his companions to stay in her house. They were imprisoned for Paul’s deliverance of the slave girl from “a spirit of divination.” Upon being released from prison, Paul and his men again visited Lydia and the converts in her house, before going on.

Lydia served God by giving hospitality to God’s servants. As a business woman her mind and heart were not totally consumed by the business, but in serving God as well as her business.

Lydia is a remarkable example to today’s business women, of one who was successful not only in her business, but in “Serving with Joy.”

Women in Recent Church History

Mother Teresa 1910-1997
“Serving the poorest of the poor,” “Turning suffering into Joy.”

Founder of the “Order of the Missionaries of Charity,” in Calcutta in 1950, Mother Teresa dedicated her life to the alleviation of suffering amongst the “poorest of the poor.”

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Women in Recent Church History (continued)

Hailing from a prosperous Catholic family in Skopje, at God’s call to serve, she became a novice, with the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland. After study and training she ended up at a Loreto Convent in Calcutta (Kolkotta). Teaching children was a great joy, but every time she went outside the convent walls she saw at first hand the utter poverty on the streets and slums of the city. At this time she experienced what she explained was a “Call within a Call,” to serve the “poorest of the poor”. Leaving the sisterhood, she began serving the abandoned, the dying on the streets, and the slums of that “Great City.”

In her book, “Suffering into Joy” (what Mother Teresa teaches about true joy), Eileen Egan, a co-worker for 30 years says, “Mother Teresa, who sees such intense suffering, sees joy as the heart of the good news.” Her teachings emphasizes this concept as follows:

- In Bethlehem – “Joy” said the Angel (Luke 2:10).
- Christ wanted to share His Joy with His Apostles. “That my joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full” (John 15:11).
- Joy was the password of the first Christians. St. Paul often repeated, “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice” (Phil. 4:4).
- True joy must come from God.
- Keep the Joy of loving God, loving Jesus in your heart and share that joy with all you meet.

She insisted that the Sisters of Charity renounce gloominess. She also required that sisters be persons of a cheerful disposition – “A cheerful sister brings the sunshine of God’s love to those she serves.” Once, on seeing a sister with a mournful face ready to leave for work she said, “Don’t go! Go back to bed. We cannot face the poor with sad faces.” Such was her commitment to “Joy of Serving” her God turning, “Suffering into Joy”. A lone European woman clad in sari and head fully covered, she walked the streets and slums, rescuing the abandoned, dying, carrying them into the “Home for the Dying” to give them loving care and comfort in their last days.

How did she do this? What was her secret? She explained that her work and that of the Sister called for them to “See Jesus in everyone they ministered to.” She believed “they are Jesus; everyone is Jesus in distressing disguise” (Matthew 25:35-40).

“In as much as you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them you did it to me” (v. 40).

This overpowering concept drove her day after day to care with joy for men and women, brought into the home, covered in filth, spittle from the gutter, sores and maggots, and all manners of disease and pain and suffering. Her smile and her touch brought comfort and joy as she ministered to them.

Truly she turned “Suffering into Joy” and thereby experienced the “Joy of serving her God”.

“My Father will honor the one who serves me” (John 12:26).

Dr. Mercy Jeyaraja Rao – “Joy of Serving” through nurturing and leading.

She was born to a Christian family in Visakhapatnam (India) where she spent her early years (her achievements include: BS Arts, BT Education, Doctorate in Ministry, MS in Divinity, and an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity).

At 17 years, after commitment to serve the Lord, she became a Bible Scholar as well as Bible Teacher, studying and teaching the Bible to children, youth and women in her home town. Later, as a young teacher in Timpany schools, she went on to be its Head Mistress, Principal, and finally General Director of its three Campuses. Under her, the school which had 70 students on its roll grew to be 5,000 in the three campuses. The schools excelled in keen scholarship, strict discipline, and all-around development, thereby attracting discerning parents to enroll their children in large numbers. She nurtured those who came under her care to grow up to be loyal citizens of their countries and useful members of society.

Her students “stand up and call her blessed.” In July 2010, past students, living and working in about 40 countries, came together to celebrate her 80th birthday. This was “a beautiful reward for the God-given task of” nurturing joyously. She served Timpany school for 48 years.

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During this same time that Mercy was involved in teaching she made her impact on women’s leadership, by becoming a founding member of the “Asian Baptist Women’s Union”, which she served as Vice President and President (1988-1993). During this time she attended the B.W.A. Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mrs. Marie Mathis and Ms. Alma Hunt invited her to address Woman’s Missionary Union Conference in the USA.

With her winsome smile and engaging demeanor together with her expert communication skills and expressive command of language, she motivated, encouraged and guided women, not only in Asia, but in regions outside. As a women’s leader she role-modeled the “Joyful leader and Friend.” Because she knew, “the Joy of the Lord was her strength.”

In her own words, “Every woman has a legacy, given first to a woman by the Lord after His resurrection, “Go and tell”. Love the word. Find in it women who loved and obeyed, and made a difference in the world. YOU CAN BE THAT WOMAN; in humble dilapidated churches, homes, cathedrals of the world. My advice is to thank God you are a woman called by God “at such a time as this” to share the wondrous story of Jesus and His love. I have found Joy in small tasks of everyday as well as momentous occasions of celebration. There is Joy in small things and big things. Every woman has an opportunity to create a legacy just as women in the Bible.

At 82 years, my prayer is that I will reach out in love and joy to those who are hurting. My desire for “Baptist Women of the world is that they be Worshipful, Witnessing, and Winsome.”

JOY... JESUS
comes from
OTHERS
YOURSELF

Plan Your Day of Prayer (continued)

4. Website
* Check the Women’s Department website, www.bwawd.org the end of May or first of June for additional information such as; brief history of the DOP, DOP project reports, theme song, explanation of offering and other information to enhance your program.

5. Craft Idea
* Cross stitch a JOY bookmark or picture. Detailed instructions may be found on the Women’s Department website, www.bwawd.org – 2012 Day of Prayer.

Veetin Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka) – 1915

Veetin was one of seven children, four girls and three boys. The family became Christian believers due to the influence of one brother, Henry de Wilmot. She became a Baptist believer and began her teaching career in a Baptist Mission School in a village.

Solon Ranasinghe, a Christian man of high principles, was the principal of her school. A marriage proposal was made between Solon Ranasinghe and Veetin, but there was a problem. He was nearly twenty years older than her, had been married, lost his wife, and had a little daughter by her named Grace who was seven years of age.

Veetin, with her brother’s blessing, got married in 1935 in a Baptist Church in the area. After marriage she came to the husband’s village in Meewala where she lives to this day. She taught in the school in Meewala. She became a radiant and joyous wife as well as a loving and caring mother to the motherless Grace.

While continuing her teaching career, she was also the mother of three more children of her own—two boys and a girl. To Grace, her foster daughter, she was the same loving mother that she was to her own. Regular Sunday services were held in their home, and people of the village came across the paddy fields to attend, and she hosted all who came.

She became a member of the “Mahila Samithi”, a secular women’s society dedicated to uplift the rural woman. First, as a member of the Western Province “Mahila Samithi”, then as President of the Regional Society, she came to be associated with Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake (who later became Sri Lanka’s and the world’s first woman Prime Minister) when she joined a team to set up society branches island-wide. Thus began her involvement in women’s work. This led her to involvement in Baptist women’s work in her church and later the Sri Lanka Baptist Women’s League.

In 1993, at the “Asian Baptist Women’s Union Assembly” in Manila, Philippines, she was a Sri Lankan delegate. We remember the joy she spread, planning, preparing and rehearsing our parts for the presentation. She was then 78 years of age, but cheerful, energetic and infectiously joyful.

As much as she was a WOMAN OF JOY, she was a woman of prayer. Two incidents stand out when we recall our trip to Manila. First, a member of our team found that in Singapore, where we broke journey, she had no seat booking for her onward journey to Manila. We would have had to leave her behind or return her to Sri Lanka. We were desperate, while we rushed about restlessly, Veetin was missing. She, together with her friend, were in a corner praying, interceding for a solution. Sure enough, in a matter of hours the solution came. Our sister got a seat and we travelled on. Praise God for her answered prayer. Second, Margaret, her daughter, also a delegate to ABWU assembly, lost her valuable camera on our return back. She could not get over the loss because it was her husband’s, borrowed from a friend. That night before we retired to bed, we sat together in the Thomson Road Baptist Church hall for prayer. Veetin prayed with feeling and conviction. Morning came and we had no solution. At the airport over the public address system Margaret Perera’s (Veetins daughter’s) name was called to go to the check-in counter. She was asked to describe

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Testimonial 1

the article lost, and then given her camera, all intact. The Lord’s own miracle! This was an answer to our prayer – the prayer of a mother to relieve her daughter’s pain of loss.

She brought Joy to her family Church and Community, about which the Lord is highly pleased!

Testimonial 2

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress. My God in Him will I trust. Amen (Psalm 91).

I was born in a pastor’s family, and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord at the age of 14. My father, Aslam Irfan, is the Pastor of the only Christian church in Azad, Kasmir, Pakistan. This was the only sign of Christianity in Azad, Kashmir at that time.

Coming from a pastor’s family, I strengthened my belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and grew spiritually.

Currently, I am teaching in a Muslim school, and I feel that the Christian community is deprived of its basic rights. Christian families cannot afford basic education for their children. God put a burden in my heart to work for the flood victims helping them in agony and painful conditions. We went to several places where Christian people were suffering from disease and hunger, and we thank God that with the help of ABWU we were able to meet their urgent needs in their critical situation. Then, I decided to pray and continue to morally and financially support these children.

Louis Irfan (Pakistan)

We recently visited a village where children needed support and to be looked after, and we determined to provide basic education for those in the Gujanwala city in Pakistan.

Living in a 98% Muslim society has its challenges. There are many legal and social barriers. My vision is to make Pakistani women strong and independent as we are also suffering from a male dominated society.

In order to make our children strong, confident, and useful members in their families and society, we want to provide primary education and a sewing center.

I would like you to join us in prayer so we can meet the target of this challenge. It will be difficult, but not impossible. One of the ways you can help to make this a reality is through the 2012 Day of Prayer project; “Education for Christian children in Pakistan”.

I thank and praise the Lord with all my heart for the strength He has given me. I must say I am filled with joy by serving our Lord. Amen.

See 2012 DOP Projects on page 14: Education for Christian Children in Pakistan for more information.
Blooming Night Zan was born in the jungle at night in Burma now known as Myanmar. She spent the first four and a half years of her life in the jungle hiding with her family from an oppressive military regime. Her grandfather named her so that she would shine in the dark for the needy. She lives up to her name as she shines brightly amongst the Internally Displaced People (IDP) in the Karen State in Myanmar formally known as Burma. She is Karen and her love for her people and God gives her the strength and energy to cross the Thai border to help the IDPs.

Blooming Night was first a member of the Nyaunglebin Baptist Church in the Karen State in Myanmar before escaping in 1988. She first lived in the Mae La Refugee camp in northern Thailand before obtaining her Thai citizenship. As a Thai citizen she has been able to travel and be an advocate for her people.

“The Karen people are wandering in the wilderness,” she said. They are “looking for a safe place. But there is no safe place for them” – especially not for women and children. They make up 70% of the people who have suffered during the current military offensive against the Karen State. Soldiers are under orders to rape Karen women in their homes, on the road, or in the jungle.

In the Karen State and neighboring Shan and Karenni states, more than 3,500 villages have been destroyed in the past 15 years. There are more than half a million internally displaced people, and over half of them are women and children. These are the people that Blooming Night is helping through the strength and love of the God who has called her to minister to them.

Back in the 1950s, Blooming Night and her family managed to escape from this wilderness and settle in the port city of Syriam. She trained as a nurse, graduated from the Burma Institute of Theology, taught at the Bible school in her home town for many years, and became a regional leader in the Karen Baptist Women’s Organization. In 2004 she was elected joint general secretary of the dynamic Karen Women’s Organization, whose 30,000 members work for relief and development in the refugee camps on the Thai border and with IDP in Myanmar.

She views this position as a God-given opportunity to tell her people about God’s love at a time when they are without peace, hope, and joy.

Fighting broke out after the 2010 national election in Myanmar. There was severe fighting along the northern border with Thailand. Many of the Karen’s crossed the border, but many were not able to do so. Blooming Night immediately went into action asking her Baptist family to pray for peace, and her safety as she crossed the border where the fighting was taking place in order to help the women and children that had been displaced.

Several Baptist women’s organizations and BWAid responded to the crises with a donation. The money was used to buy basic supplies, clothing, and needed items for IDPs that were a long way away from any kind of help. Blooming Night helped to make this possible. She shared that one of the women that was helped had just lost her husband who was shot and killed during the fighting. This left her with four children with the oldest one being four. She had also lost her mother two months before.

Blooming Night is a woman who loves her people and works hard every day to make a difference in the lives of the Karen refugees and IDPs. She reaches out to women and children who are marginalized, and helps them to know the hope that is only found in Jesus Christ. She goes into the most dangerous places in order to impact her world for Christ.

To read a comprehensive report about the more than 4,000 cases of abuse go to www.karenwomen.org and click on Walking Amongst Sharp Knives. Blooming Night helped to gather information for this report.

1. **Name of Project:** Leadership Training for Indonesian Young Women  
**Organization:** Indonesian Baptist Women’s Missionary Union  
**Person responsible:** Mareyke Wagey Tairas  
**Description of Project:** To help train young women 2012-2013. Training topics will be making a leader, women and the Bible, counseling, balanced life/balanced ministry, power of prayer, and how to serve Him with joy.

2. **Name of Project:** Education for Christian Children in Pakistan  
**Organization:** Baptist Church Azad Kashmir Pakistan  
**Person responsible:** Louis Irfan  
**Description of Project:** The intent of this project is to help the Christian children with their education in the different villages such as Gujranwala, Azad Kashmir and Peshawar. Their goal is to start with 60 children. Their basic education requirements are books, school uniform and fee for elementary school. They have estimated that the minimum amount required to help each of these students will be USD$25 per child per month. They hope to receive enough to help as many students as they can. They expect to help these students for five years during which they hope that the Lord will help change their circumstances. This program would help to bring positive change in Christian children in Pakistan.

3. **Name of Project:** Day of Prayer Project  
**Organization:** Kaw Htoo Lei Karen Baptist Church Women Organization  
**Person responsible:** Naw Maira  
**Description of Project:** Part 1 – Thirty women will be trained in leadership skills and how to observe the DOP program. These leaders will then in turn take the information to the different churches. Part 2 – Take the DOP program to the IDP camp in the Karen State, as well as distribute small gifts to about 200 widows. Part 3 – Sewing machine to help make hand crafts for income-generating project. It will be used in all 7 refugee camps. The goal is to represent BWA WD and ABWU, and tell the refugees and IDP people about God’s love and how God cares for them through His children from around the world.

4. **Name of Project:** Animal Husbandry Skills Development  
**Organization:** Karen Women’s Organization  
**Person responsible:** Blooming Night Zan  
**Description of Project:** The internally displace people living in the Karen State survive on farming and animal breeding. Each family raises domestic animals which help them to get nutritious food as well as some small income for their family. Since they have to move from one place to another place they are not able to settle down and earn a living. In this situation, the groups seek funding to start a project to breed domestic animals as a community project and to learn more about how to raise animals in order to have some income. There are 4 different locations where they want to breed pigs and goats. The first step will be to start a model and center where the different communities will come to learn the skills on animal husbandry, and this will expand to support each other after this project.

5. **Name of Project:** CU Special Project Fund  
**BWA Women’s Department Executive Board**  
**Description of Project:** This fund may be used to assist any Continental Union in a special project or event on the Continental Union level.
1. Thank God for the salvation of souls in Africa. Pray for spiritual growth.

2. Pray for forgiveness of our sins: sexual perversion, overdependence on material things, and lack of consistence between what we preach and what we do.

3. Pray for the newly inaugurated BWUA Executive for wisdom, strength and journey mercies as they strive to reach out to more Baptist women for Christ and BWUA.

4. Pray for the new leadership of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF) especially for the new General Secretary.

5. Pray for peace in Africa. Many governments have been toppled and political revolts are still going on in many countries. Pray for divine protection in the midst of general insecurity.

6. Pray for economic empowerment. Pray for the stable financial situation of Baptist women in order that they may be good stewards.

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Plan Your Day of Prayer (continued)

6. In Step with the Spirit Through Prayer

- Make enough copies of the prayer guide by copying pages 15-20 for each person in attendance. If you copy front and back it will be a three page prayer guide.
- Put a number 1 - 8 on the front or back of the prayer guide. When it is time to divide the group into 8 groups each person is to look on their program to know which group they are to go to for the prayer time.
- Ask 8 women to come prepared to lead the 8 groups in prayer. The 8 groups are Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North America, South West Pacific, and the BWA. As an extra inspiration have each person dress in a traditional dress from the area of the world they will lead in prayer. It would add meaning to the prayer groups if you know of someone in your community that is from one of the continental union countries, and invite them to come and share about their country during the prayer time.
- Please allow sufficient time to pray for each prayer request, as well as permitting each person in the group an opportunity to pray.

Have each person dress in a traditional dress from the area of the world they will lead in prayer.
Asian Baptist Women’s Union (ABWU)

1. Pray for continuous sharing of the Gospel and His love among the women and children in Asia, so that those who are living in poverty, violence, discrimination, illiteracy, child abuse and trafficking will have better lives.

2. Pray for the protection of the people living in Asia from natural disasters which cause huge losses of life and property every year.

3. Pray that each member body of ABWU will have competent leadership, adequate resources, unity, and effective ministries for enlarging the Kingdom of God.

4. Pray that the women who attended the 2011 Young Women’s Leadership Conference will become effective women leaders in Asia and around the world.

5. Pray that the restrictions imposed on Christians in various countries throughout Asia would be lifted so the Gospel can penetrate and expand (e.g. North Korea, China, Myanmar, and Pakistan).

6. Pray for the ABWU officers to be healthy spiritually and physically, so that they can continue to carry out their ministries faithfully.

Plan Your Day of Prayer (continued)

7. Highlight the Offering
   ✴ The offerings on this day support the continental and worldwide ministries of the BWA Women’s Department. Indeed, the Department depends on this one-day offering as its main source of income.
   ✴ Prepare a colorful/joyful looking box or basket to receive the offering. Place this at the front of the room from the very beginning as a reminder of good stewardship.
   At the time of the offering have someone play joyful music as everyone comes forward in a joyful manner to place their offering in the box/basket.
   ✴ Encourage the women to give double the amount given last year. Be sure those attending know that the offering they give will join together with Baptist women’s offerings from the other continental unions in order to impact our world for Christ.

The offering will join together with Baptist women’s offerings from the 7 continental unions in order to impact our world for Christ.
Caribbean Baptist Women’s Union (CBWU)

1. Pray that more families in the Caribbean will experience the forgiveness of God and be able to bask in the Joy of their Salvation.

2. Pray that Baptist women in the Caribbean will be the instrument through which the Joy of the Lord will be advanced and thus help to reduce depression of women, and it will help to raise their self-esteem which in turn will produce more stable families.

3. Pray that the Lord will raise up women to serve Him and that they will experience joy in the midst of suffering, unemployment, disasters, criticisms, jealousy and abuse.

4. Pray for Christian women in the Caribbean, that they will develop and be committed to a mentoring relationship as they embrace a joyful relationship with people – especially among the younger Christians and unsaved.

5. Pray that God will give the governments of the Caribbean wisdom to generate jobs so that more people can be gainfully employed – especially women. This will help to reduce abuse of women, and it will help to raise their self-esteem which in turn will produce more stable families.

6. Pray that God will stop the gruesome killings taking place in many of the islands of the Caribbean, and the raping of elderly and homeless.

European Baptist Women’s Union (EBWU)

1. Give thanks to the Lord for His work in Europe in spite of the pressure of the secularization of Christians.

2. Pray for the strength of believers to be encouraged for testifying their faith in the living God.

3. Pray that God will bless the women in Europe to fill their calling for sharing their love in their family, toward their children, and being the “heart” in their homes and society.

4. Pray that we will see clearly what it means to act like the “Good Samaritan”, and be the salt and light for the world.

5. Pray for the Christian marriages that the couples may be faithful to one another and to the Lord.

6. Pray for the next generation that they may recognize the true values and joys of life.

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1. Pray for the regional congresses.

2. Pray for the project “La Niñez, nuestra esperanza en la América Latina” (The Children, our hope in Latin America) and the children and adolescents that are being reached.

3. Pray for the executive committee of UFBAL so that God will take them in His hands and give them happiness in serving the Lord.

4. Pray for God to be in control of the planes for the UFBAL congress in 2013.

5. Pray for children and adolescents that are in risky situations, as well as for the churches to invest time and resources in order to save them and help them know the true meaning of happiness.

6. Pray for children and adolescents that are in risky situations, as well as for the churches to invest time and resources in order to save them and help them know the true meaning of happiness.

Baptist Women’s Union of Latin America (UFBAL)

1. Many North Americans have difficulty understanding the culture and struggles of our Aboriginal (Native) people. Ask God to direct our thoughts and guide our responses. Pray for our Baptist ministries in Native communities, and for our Aboriginal Baptist sisters.

2. In a time when the concept of the traditional family is being eroded, pray for renewed encouragement for weakened families, strong support for functioning families, and healing for hurting and broken families.

3. Pray for trafficked women and children, for the people working to create networks to rescue them, and for the political leaders and governments who need to acknowledge the problems realistically and take measures to fight against them.

4. Pray for those left homeless, stressed and financially ruined as the result of recent unusual weather-related disasters in North America. Pray that those responsible for rebuilding and restoration may make wise and compassionate decisions. Pray for those whose faith in God’s goodness and protection has been tested by these disasters.

5. Most of us have difficulty recognizing the disenfranchised and desperate people around us. Ask God to give us eyes to truly see and hearts to quickly respond.

6. Each of us needs sustained vision, faithfulness and energy to carry out the work that Christ has called each of us to do. Pray that our Lord will so touch our lives that we will experience an inward transformation resulting in an outward demonstration of His love causing us to be change agents in our world.

North American Baptist Women’s Union (NABWU)
1. **FIJI** – Pray that their rural women’s ministry might grow and expand so that Fijian Baptist women will be a source of blessing to their surrounding villages.

2. **AUSTRALIA** – Pray for each of the seven state directors as they lead their states/territories. Pray that the new team will become united in their mission and calling, and that the women of Australia will stand strong in their churches and support and encourage their sisters in other countries.

3. **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** – Pray for health and strength for Kaa Simon who continues to train village birth attendants. Pray that this work will continue without hindrance. Pray also for the women’s leaders in PNG, that they will be strong, united and visionary.

4. **PAPUA** – Pray for strength and courage for the Christian women of Papua who face increasing social and religious pressures. Pray that the women will have more opportunities to speak in their churches.

5. **NEW ZEALAND** – Pray for the people of Christchurch, a city which still suffers earthquakes and aftershocks. Pray that the churches will continue to be generous and ready to help in areas of greatest need.

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### General Prayer Requests

For more detailed information go to: [www.bwawd.org](http://www.bwawd.org)

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**BWA Women’s Department Executive Board**

1. Pray for Raquel R. Contreras, BWA WD President.
2. Pray for Donna Groover, BWA WD Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Pray for Patsy Davis, BWA WD Executive Director.
4. Pray for the following Vice Presidents:
   - **Africa**: Motunrayo Adegbilero
   - **Asia**: Sook Jae Lee
   - **Caribbean**: Yvonne Pitter
   - **Europe**: Livija Godina
   - **Latin America**: Marlene Baltazar
   - **North America**: Linda Weber
   - **South West Pacific**: Julie Belding

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**Baptist World Alliance Leaders**

1. Pray for John Upton, BWA President.
2. Pray for Neville Callam, BWA General Secretary.

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Baptist Women’s Union of Africa
Email BWUA Treasurer Mrs. Peju Fajobi at: pejufaj@yahoo.co.uk for information on how and where to wire your offering or email: womenbwa@bwanet.org for the information.

Baptist Women’s Union of Latin America
Email UFBAL Treasurer Ofelia Rendon de Tapuy at: luz_ofely@yahoo.es for information on how and where to wire to wire your offering or email: womenbwa@bwanet.org for the information.

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