

Advancing the Kingdom Series:

Who Is Investing in You?

One of my favorite things about being the director of Women's Ministries for the Churches of God General Conference is that I get to travel to lots of places and meet lots of new people. While travel in itself can be exhausting, I find it invigorating to find out what God is doing in other parts of the country and around the world. I love hearing testimonies of His grace and mercy in the lives of brothers and sisters I have the opportunity to meet along the way.

God is at work. Lives are being transformed. God is moving mightily.

Last weekend was no exception! While attending the Sisters of Strength Retreat at Camp Sonrise Mountain on the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland, it was such a blessing to hear what was shared during our closing prayer time! One woman shared how blessed she was the night before as the women in her cabin shared their testimonies. She noted how blown away she was by the testimony of a woman God had rescued from a cult and brought to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Suddenly several women were chiming in about how others had blessed them throughout the weekend. The theme for the weekend was being Re-born into the Kingdom of God with birthday cake and presents for all! Ashley



McDonald, our speaker for the weekend, shared about the importance of understanding your identity in Christ and walking in the life He has called you to. Each of us, she said, has unique gifts and abilities that God wants to use to build up the body of Christ. She shared many practical ways to pursue God's calling in our lives as she wove together her own personal stories of the faithfulness of God in her life. Ashley serves alongside her husband Greg who pastors the Goodridge Church of God in Cambria, Pa.

The weekend before that I had the pleasure of participating in the ERC Fall Retreat at Camp Yoliwja in Doubling Gap, Pennsylvania. What a joy it was to see the auditorium filled with women of all ages and stages of life! Our guest speaker for the weekend was Kay DeKalb Smith, also known as the Carol Burnett of Christian comedy. Kay masterfully wove together songs and stories with both humor and tears to touch our hearts and encourage us to be kind to others. She shared personal stories of how reaching

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Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19



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Thank Offering Update

Why are we talking about giving thanks in July? It is the time of year that our annual Thank Offering is collected.

The following resources and links available for your use at <https://www.cggcwomen.org/thank-offering>

- the history of Thank Offering
- instructions for collecting Thank Offering
- Thank Offering Brochure (updated 2024)

Links to:

- Thank Offering Updates in PDF and PowerPoint slides
- Printable Thank Offering Barrel Label **(updated 2024)**
- Deadlines and updated list of addresses of Treasurers

It is exciting to report that our 2024 Thank Offering totaled \$18,204.48. Of that, \$10,922.69 was disbursed to the following ministries supported by CGMW:

25%	\$2,731.00	Leadership Training
25%	\$2,731.00	Winebrenner Seminary
20%	\$2,185.00	Haiti Physical Therapy School
15%	\$1,638.00	Venezuela Bible School
15%	2,105.00	Madhumita Singha (nursing school)

100% \$10,922.69

2024 Thank Offerings will support:

- Bogra Christian Hospital Nursing Scholarships in Bangladesh (15%)
- Venezuela Bible School (15%)
- Physical Therapy School in Haiti (20%)
- Winebrenner Female Students (25%)
- Women's Leadership Development (25%)

However you collect your Thank Offering, please send your offering to the your CGWM Regional Treasurer (addresses are updated on our website) by June 30. Regional Treasurers, please send your Thank Offering to Nancy Scott, our national CGWM Treasurer by July 31. For those who wish to give online, you will find a link on the Thank Offering Page of our website linked above. Once these funds are received, they will be disbursed to the ministries listed above.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on our leadership team or email me at cgwmdirector@gmail.com.



Bangladesh Women's Ministry Trip

By Heather Houghton, Global Reach Commission

Wendy Zumbo and I traveled to Bangladesh from July 20—July 30, 2024. The main objective of our trip was to share and emulate basic women's ministry. We set the example by having fellowship with our sisters through prayer, Bible study, crafts, singing, and when possible, tea time! Our intention was to bless them and give them a visual model of what basic women's ministry can look like. Our hope and prayer is that they will take this simple example and begin to gather themselves and then take this example to their sisters in Christ.

We tried to impart how much of a blessing it could be if they gathered as women to support and encourage one another. The ministry was extremely well received! Many of our sisters in each group told us after we held sessions that they needed more time with us--time to gather and fellowship, time to pray together, and time to study the Bible together.

This was the first time they have had ministry solely devoted to them as women. They are thirsty for it! We have already begun the initial planning phase so that Wendy and I may go back to expand on this women's ministry. Dr. John would like us to have all-day sessions with our sisters next year. We will model the basics of fellowship, prayer, and Bible study as well as expand to begin talking about acts of service.

Personal points from Wendy and I: Wendy noted that as we made Lord's prayer bracelets, each colored bead represented a different phrase in the prayer that helps us to remember the prayer and is something that we have in common. Heather shared in Bible study several Scriptures that serve to remind us that as women we are uniquely created individuals who are equally valued, equally loved, and equally called to serve God.

Wendy shared an action song that had hand motions and really did not need translating. We wanted to share a song the women could take back to their churches and teach the children. Heather sang the chorus of the song, "The Blessing" over



the women at the end of sessions as a blessing and a prayer. This chorus is an excerpt from Numbers 6:24-26. Heather and Wendy prayed over our sisters in Christ.

We both were humbled and honored to serve God on this trip by sharing women's ministry. God used the extenuating circumstances in the country to grow us spiritually and missionally. We cannot wait to go back next year!



Save on Flourish Conference Tickets!

Want to save on this year's tickets to The Flourish Conference? Be sure to register before January 3! Female pastors and pastor's wives can receive a complimentary ticket by sending a written registration form to Nancy Scott. For more information or to download a printable brochure (modified for easier printing) visit <https://www.theflourishconference.org/>

From the Director's Desk

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out to neighbors can be life-changing, though not always easy. She invited us to join her Saturday evening to watch **Unsung Hero**, a movie based on the life of the Smallbone family from which we would recognize Rebecca St. James and For King and Country. Kay is portrayed in the movie by Candice Cameron Bure', a neighbor whose simple acts of kindness impacted this struggling young family when they first arrived in the United States from Australia. It is such a powerful testimony of how lives can be impacted by the kindness of a neighbor!

Mt. Tabor Church of God in Celina, Ohio hosted the **Believe Conference on Saturday, November 2, 2024**. This year's theme, Foundation ~ A Focus On Prayer, featured Wendy Bender. I was blessed with the opportunity to lead a couple of breakout sessions at this event. What a joy to learn what God has been up to in the lives of these precious women! The 5+ hour drive is always well worth it because of the ladies I get to spend the day with! This year was especially fun for me as I brought along a sister in Christ from my home church and had the opportunity to stop on the way home to encourage a dear friend of ours! Fellowship is so sweet!

The Flourish Conference 2025

As we talk about Fall retreats, I want to encourage you to be on the lookout for this year's Flourish Conference brochure which will be mailed early in November. You will want to pay close attention to the details of the conference this year, since there are a few significant changes in our event as we look forward to celebrating the 200th birthday of the



CGGC at the 2025 Triennial. CGWM will have its Triennial meeting during the Flourish Conference. This means it is time to prepare for election of CGWM officers for 2025-2028. If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the CGWM National Leadership Team, first make sure that person is willing to serve, and then email their contact information to Kathy Foor at cgwmdirector@gmail.com before January 31, 2024. These candidates will be interviewed prior to being added to the ballot for a vote at Flourish 2025.

The Flourish Conference will be held at Grand Point Church in Chambersburg this year in celebration of the 2025 Triennial and John Winebrenner's Pennsylvania roots. We welcome Georgina Verzal as the featured speaker for this year's conference which will be held March 7-9, 2024.

About Georgina Verzal

Georgina Verzal is a captivating and transformative speaker whose powerful life story resonates with audiences across the globe. As an ordained minister, she shares her journey from deep personal pain to spiritual triumph, demonstrating the life-changing impact of unwavering faith in Jesus Christ. At 21,

Georgina's life was shattered by the tragic death of her brother, leading to a decade marked by emotional, physical, and spiritual turmoil. She endured multiple failed marriages, single parenting, miscarriage, bankruptcy, eating disorders, and abusive relationships. Yet, at her lowest point, Georgina made a life-altering decision to recommit her life to Christ. This decision ignited a profound spiritual renewal, transforming her life and fueling her passion for helping others find healing and purpose through faith. Today, Georgina stands as a testament to resilience, redemption, and hope. As a sought-after speaker, she inspires audiences worldwide with her compelling testimony, encouraging people to overcome adversity and embrace God's redemptive power. Her influence spans across the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, Africa, and Europe, where she speaks at conferences, retreats, church events, and evangelistic outreaches.

Complimentary Registration

We are also excited to announce that as part of a grant from the CGGC, we will be offering complimentary registration to this year's conference for pastor's wives and/or female pastors of the CGGC. These will be given on a first come first served basis up to the amount of the grant, so we advise registering early. Pastor's wives/female pastors should fill out a paper registration form, being certain to indicate your request for complimentary registration, and mail to Nancy Scott as instructed on the registration form. Registration forms and print-friendly brochures are available to down-



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(CGWM)

YouTube:
CGWM



If you or your women's group have not been a part of Thank Offering in the past and would like to, all you need to do is get a container and start thanking God for the many blessings he gives you each day. Look for our reminders to send in your offerings in April. We are better together! Thank Offering barrels may be obtained by contacting Kathy Foor or ordering online at [Berlin Packaging](https://www.berlinpackaging.com/).

Visit our Website

<https://www.cggcwomen.org/>

There you will find:

- ⇒ more information about CGWM and it's officers
- ⇒ CGWM Blog
- ⇒ Sign up to receive these Newsletters in your email
- ⇒ Download
 - ◆ CGWM Brochures
 - ◆ Thank Offering Brochures & Barrel Labels
 - ◆ CGWM Booklets
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 - ◆ Opportunities to Connect

CGWM is funded through donations. To donate please make check out to CGGC with WM1800 in the memo and send to:
Churches of God General Conference, P.O. Box 926, Findlay, OH 45839

load and print on our website.
<https://www.cggcwomen.org/>

Whether you never miss a Flourish Conference or have never had the opportunity to attend, we are certain that you will not want to miss out on this opportunity to discover the tools needed to live a victorious Christian life as we advance His Kingdom on this earth! **See you there!**

Advancing the Kingdom together,



Kathy Foor

CGWM Director
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THE FLOURISH CONFERENCE
VICTORIOUS!
IT'S TIME TO SLAY YOUR DRAGONS
MARCH 7-9, 2025
Featured Speaker

Georgina Verzal
Register at
cggcwomen.org or scan
QR code
NEW
Location: Grand Point Church—2230 Grand Point Road, Chambersburg, PA 17202