

What are the doing?

March Highlights

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This issue's staff:

- Shannon Pritchard

The theme for the Great Commission Women throughout the United States for 2018 is *MORE*. Keeping in conjunction with that theme, the goal for the Crossroads' GCW is more for you and more from you.

For the first trimester of the year, we took an inward focus, and challenged ourselves on how to grow more on a personal level. For more on this and how it played out for Shannon, skip to page 3's article, "Me and More."

In March, we also had the opportunity to celebrate one person's beautiful contribution to our church through the years, Erma. Thank you for all you've done for us!

Mid-month, we visited a couple local laundromats and gave away over \$100 in quarters to those who needed it most. Thank you, church, for your contributions!

Upcoming Events

We'll be taking it easy in April, spending time with loved ones for Easter and having our regularly monthly meeting on the 15th. A reminder – our meetings are now right after service, lasting for roughly 45 minutes. Come join us!

Keep on the lookout for our May events, including a special Mother's Day banquet!

We hope you are all able to enjoy this relaxed month with family and friends, and get yourself the rest that you need!

At a glance:

- **Ladies' Lunch:**
Cancelled for Easter
- **Monthly Meeting:**
April 15th

International Worker Updates

On International Worker, who has been helping on the principal team of a school overseas and who also has taken in several children of her own, was able to witness doors being open for them, including an exciting opportunity for one of her sons. On this, he told her, "... God is giving me things I never thought would ever happen!" She says of him and his life that, "...right now is a beautiful picture of how God takes things the enemy wants to use to destroy and can turn it into good." For this family, though, please pray for continued protection against neighbors who may be trying to "curse" someone in the house.

Another IW family welcomed in a new baby recently. Please keep them in your prayers as they become adjusted to this new life and as they

settle back into their home. They are excited for what the future holds!

A Bible translation group has made a significant contribution to the 38 Amerindian peoples in Guatemala, overseeing New Testament translations for many of them. Please continue to pray for the hard work and productivity of this group, and as the translations are finished, for the effective use of these items to the surrounding areas.

Because of your giving and your prayers, these groups and more are able to thrive and touch the unreached areas. To read more updates and learn more about how the C&MA is helping around the globe, visit www.cmalliance.org.

Points of Prayer:

- For Andorra as Catholicism loses its zeal and congregations where evangelicals can worship is growing, but slowly.
- For the presence of women in leadership in Rwanda, where the primary perpetrators in the genocides have been men.
- For the accelerating decline of religious faith in France, and protestantism is compromised by contradictory doctrinal and ethical views.



Me and More

Starting the year off as the newest leader of the Great Commission Women, I knew that whatever I challenged the other women in our group to do, I had to do, too. It would not be fair to challenge others to grow and not embark on that journey myself.

When I challenged the ladies at our January meeting to find an area of growth that they would work on for the year, I most assuredly *did not* want to pick one for myself. I am an all-or-nothing person, and I follow an all-or-nothing God, which makes things like setting growth goals extremely intimidating – it's all or nothing. Period. So, after much debating and denying and trying to pretend it wasn't so, I knew my call for growth for the year would be in the form of, "COURAGE."

My challenge to the ladies had been to pick a personal growth area, work on it for the year, and find specific ways to make that growth happen. Regular time in prayer, talking with God, reading His word, being open to the Holy Spirit, and many other things were given as beginning steps. For me, I knew I needed make even *more specific* strides towards this courage I had decided to achieve. This unfortunately meant that I would need to put myself in situations where I would have to be brave.

The best way to build a muscle is to exercise it.

I shouldn't *still* be surprised when God lines things up at the right time to give me crucial growth experiences. But I am. Every. Single. Time. To give you a snippet – since I declared I would work on being courageous through God, I have:

- Organized and participated in a trip to a laundromat where I had to talk to complete strangers
- Lead monthly meetings where I have to talk *in front of people*.
- Had many opportunities to pray *in front of people*
- Been invited to help train others for addictions support groups, both at church and at work
- Had several opportunities to talk about my faith at work with coworkers.

It still feels too early to talk about how it has all affected me, especially since some of these things haven't come to fruition yet, BUT I do want to encourage you. If you have the guts to ask God where you need to grow, He'll answer. He'll help. He'll guide you. So This is where I leave you. Ask yourself:

1. What area in your life would you like to see growth?
2. How can you work towards making that growth a reality?
3. Which path should you focus on – alone time, or time with others?

"If you have the guts to ask God where you need to grow, He'll answer. He'll help. He'll guide you."

Verses to Ponder:

- Ephesians 3:14 – 20
- 2 Peter 3:18
- Hebrews 13:1
- James 1:27
- Matthew 28:19

The National Project

For the 2017-2018 year, the Great Commission Women are asking for MORE. More for the women of the church and more from the women of the church.

A part of this push, The National Project, is asking for more help and involvement in four areas: at-risk girls in West Africa, pregnant teens in Ecuador, human trafficking survivors in Cambodia, and female prisoners in the Philippines.

Throughout the upcoming year, look for our fundraisers and keep these groups in your prayers. To learn more, visit greatcommissionwomen.org.

How Can I Help?

Ann, Amy, and Shannon have monthly meetings that give the women of the church a chance to pray together, talk about the word together, learn from one another, and discover how we can make a difference in the world around us. Your participation is what keeps these meetings going!

Attending our events and gleaning something from it is the best gift you can give. If you can't make them, though, you can also help through prayer and monetary giving. The GCW are always accepting donations to the National Project and materials. If you have ideas for fundraising or ways to help, please let us know!

The GCW at the Crossroads

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The Great Commission women, an auxiliary ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, exists to glorify God as devoted Christ followers of all generations, empowered by the Holy spirit to Live the Word, Do the Work, and Reach the World.

Shannon became the new leader of the Great Commission Women at the Crossroads Community Church in January of 2018.

Since then, her goal, along with Ann Green and Amy Foster who help lead the group, has been for the women of the church to grow together in order to help others.

They hope to achieve that goal through having the ladies meet regularly, share openly, and live spiritually. They believe in constant prayer and having God as their center.

