

# What are the doing?

## 2016 Highlights

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Ann Green and Shannon Pritchard became the GCW leaders at Crossroads Community Church in 2016. During their first year, they worked to help the women of the church grow closer together, share openly, and use their strengths to help others.

The two leaders provided opportunities for women to fellowship, share together, pray together, and learn more about God and His word.

The year was also spotted with entertaining events

like a kick-off dinner, Beulah Beach, fun lunches, and even a baby shower!

Furthermore, the leaders made sure the GCW were up-to-date on Ohio's International Workers and raised needed funds for the National Projects.

Going forth, the leaders hope to continue the growth of women in the church and to put International Workers and the church first.

### This issue's staff:

- **Editor and Writer:**  
Shannon Pritchard

### At a glance:

- **Ladies' Lunch:**  
January 8th
- **Next Meeting:**  
January 15th

## Upcoming Events

All women are invited to attend January's Lunch after church on the 8th and our monthly meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. to learn what we'll be up to in 2017!

As always, we will be keeping you up-to-date on various International Workers situated throughout the globe, along with raising money for the National Project – see page 3 for more details about the project and who it helps.

As always, you can subscribe to our newsletter to get our regular updates by contacting Ann or Shannon, signing up on the website, or emailing us at [gcw.crossroads@gmail.com](mailto:gcw.crossroads@gmail.com) !

## International Workers Update – A Syrian Testimony

Below are the words of an undisclosed Syrian refugee during a time of unrest and chaos:

“We escaped Syria four months ago. With the war and the killing, we had no choice but to try and leave the country illegally. My husband went first to find us housing and I left with the kids several weeks later. It was terrifying. People were shooting at us as we fled across the border. We didn’t expect it to happen this way; there was shouting and screaming and we threw ourselves to the ground.

Immediately, I began checking all my children to see that they were OK. That’s when I saw that my fourteen-year-old son... had been shot in the head. I cried out, begging for someone to come and help him.

My son was taken to a nearby hospital and the kids and I were detained. We were held for three days before friends were able to secure our release. When we were released, I went to the hospital to find our son. I was terrified, because I thought for sure that he had died. When they took me to him, and I saw that he was still alive, we all cried. Several days later they released him from the hospital, unable to remove the bullet.

We had to get him to a good hospital, so we decided to try a

second escape. This time we succeeded. It was almost a week after he was shot that the bullet was finally removed. It’s a miracle that he survived.

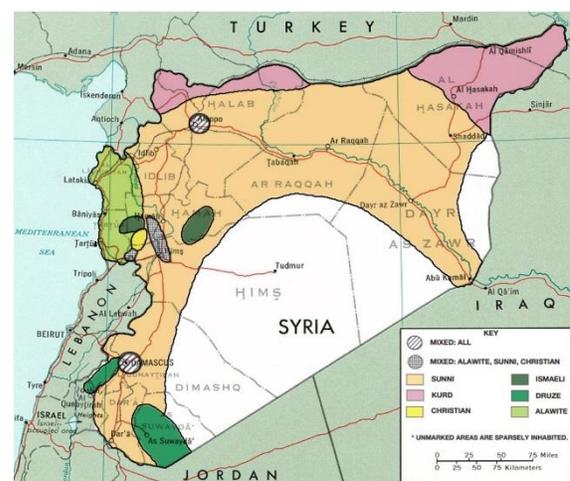
We had some suitcases the first time we tried to cross, but we left them as we fled, so when we arrived here we really had nothing. Our neighbor told us about the church and gave me the pastor’s number. He told us, ‘These are good people; they will help you.’

The pastor came and visited us that very day. And, after seeing our situation, we brought everything we needed that same night. We are frequently visited by church members and the pastor. They take care of our needs and spend time with us. We are so grateful for how they care for us.”

Please keep this family, and many others like them, in your prayers, especially as a new year and new political and social changes take place.

### Prayer Requests Around the World:

- Syrian refugees and diaspora around the world
- Funds for a youth center in Panama
- Young adults and students in training to be future International Workers
- Alliance World Fellowship churches, who partner with International Workers to meet the needs of people around the world
- Natives under religious persecution in North Africa and Spain
- Central Asian workers’ perseverance and faith in difficult times



## The National Project

“God’s Positioning System - Placed For a Purpose” is centered on those people around the world who, for whatever reason, have been scattered away from an established or ancestral homeland.

This is where our National Project steps up to provide funds for our Alliance international workers to offer services – such as language learning, job training, help with government paper work, or finding a place to live – they establish relationships of trust, and people are open to the gospel.

## How Can I Help?

Ann 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!

You can also help through monetary giving. The GCW are always accepting donations to the National Project. Also coming up is a new opportunity to support a “missionary kid” and Operation Christmas Child.

## The GCW at the Crossroads

### 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.

Ann and Shannon became co-leaders of the Great Commission Women at the Crossroads Community Church in January of 2016.

Since then, their goal 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.

“By strengthening ourselves and our group, we can use our unique resources for missions and outreach.” - Shannon

