



## Women's Ministry Newsletter November 2024

### Women Need Women

Do you recall any relationships between women in the Bible? A prominent one is the relationship between Elizabeth and Mary. Take a minute and think of some contrasts and comparisons between these two women.

- Big difference in their ages
- Difference in marital status
- Both were miraculously pregnant
- Both had an angel encounter – either directly or indirectly
- Both were devout followers of God
- Relatives of each other



I am certain you can find more from Luke 1 and 2.

What did Mary do after the angel announced to her that she would give birth to the Son of God – and that Elizabeth, her relative, was in her sixth month? She hurriedly went to see Elizabeth. Maybe this was the first time that Mary knew about Elizabeth's pregnancy. We don't know for sure, but Mary wanted to be with Elizabeth.

C.S. Lewis wrote, *Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another; "What! You too? I thought that no one but myself..."* Mary and Elizabeth formed a bond like that. They immediately connected because both were experiencing unusual pregnancies. I wonder what they talked about. Angel appearances? What their townspeople were saying? The power of God? I am confident, being women of great faith, that they both glorified God. Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord."

What life circumstances has God brought you through? – or maybe He is sustaining you in them right now. We know that God does not waste the lessons he teaches us. God comforts us in all our troubles. Why? So that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1) Are there ladies around you that have been through (or are in) similar circumstances as you? Women need women to encourage, teach, and comfort.

A word of challenge – as we develop friendships and help one another, let's move beyond sharing grievances and sympathizing with each other. Let's point each other to Jesus – encourage, build each other up, share stories of faith and God's goodness, and fix our eyes on Jesus.

One more observation about Mary and Elizabeth. There was no competition between them. God gave them companions – not competitors. There was certainly an opportunity for jealousy here. Elizabeth was favored by God to be the mother of a great man for God – John. But Mary was favored by God to

be the mother of His own Son. Elizabeth was much older and more experienced. How could this young child be honored in such a way? Yet there is no hint of competition here. Elizabeth and Mary both rejoiced in their own callings and the power of God.

Will we rejoice at the power and favor of God in the lives of the women around us? Will we call out and nurture her gifts, even if they are greater or more acclaimed than our own? Will we keep our focus on God and His callings?

As we unselfishly encourage the ladies around us, we will bring Jesus to ladies, families, our church, and our neighborhoods. We are not only walking with the Lord ourselves, but we are also influencing the people around us. May we purposefully share what God has taught us with others with a sense of comradery. Women need women and God provides for this need.

*Peggy Schlieker*

MidAmerica District Alliance Women Director

## Retreats

We provided two impactful and relaxing ladies' retreats this fall. Fifty-three Nebraska and Iowa ladies from 13 churches met for a weekend at Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center near Ashland, NE. Highlights were a challenging and humorous Walk Thru the Old Testament with Donna Carlson, hearing from Norma Van Dalen about Mexico, and a meaningful communion service. We had fun discovering downtown Ashland, visiting (and sampling) Baker's candies and eating s'mores by the fire pit.

Forty-six Colorado ladies from 8 churches met in Frisco on a beautiful October weekend. We were inspired by three ladies – Denise Hammer, Bridget Webster and Bailey Wolford - to love people who are different than ourselves. Vicki Mah gave us ideas of how we can support our international workers. We had guided discussions and mountain walks. The Rockies were stunning and the fellowship sweet.

Together, the retreats raised \$676 for the National Projects. We all enjoyed supporting the work of Mercy Market.

## Save the Date

The **Eastern Ladies' Retreat** will be held September 12-14, 2025, at the **Cobblestone Inn in Boone, Iowa**. We have several unique activities planned – stay tuned!

The **Western Retreat** will be held in October in the **Rocky Mountains**. More info will be coming.

## Care Fund

Every December we give each of our MidAmerica District's twenty International Worker families a cash gift. **Please send your gift to Peggy Schlieker, 18412 Nina St Omaha, NE 68130 by December 15.**

Through your generosity, we sent IWs Dave and Mi Rebok \$1,000 upon their retirement.

## Missions Trip to Germany


The National Alliance Women are planning a short-term trip to Waren, Germany – June 2-11, 2025. They will serve German women at a ladies’ retreat. They need ten women to teach crafts, preach, teach, lead worship, etc. The cost is \$1,800 plus airfare to Germany. Please contact Ana Cuevas for more information. (CuevasA@cmalliance.org)

## National Projects

Thank you for contributing to the 2023-2024 National Projects. The goal of \$122,000 was met!

Videos and other resources for the 2024-2025 National Projects are now online for your use. Go to Alliancewomen.org – Resources. Look under National Projects Resources, then 2024-2025 Rise Up Resource Downloads, then 2024-2025 Rise Up Project Videos.

Peggy has National Project cards in English and Spanish for your church. Let her know how many you need. (English and Spanish cards available.) [pschlieker@cox.net](mailto:pschlieker@cox.net)




**RISE UP**

*“In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul.”*

PSALM 138:3

**Alliance Women invites you to join us in prayer and consider extending your generous financial support to the “Rise Up” projects for 2024-2025.**

Visit [alliancewomen.org/national-project](https://alliancewomen.org/national-project) or scan the QR code to learn more about this year’s National Project.



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### **Africa** 📍 DAKAR, SENEGAL

Pray for the training of Senegalese Christian nurses and midwives who will serve in unreached areas in the Africa region. **Our Goal: \$24,000**

### **Asia Pacific** 📍 SENDAI, JAPAN

Pray for the Envision team as they continue making key connections with local ministries, churches, and universities. They are in need of a place to host university students and family events, English cafes, moms’ clubs, and short-term mission teams. **Our Goal: \$15,000**

### **Europe** 📍 BERLIN, GERMANY

Pray for the training and discipleship of three workers at the Vida Abundante Spanish Church so that they can become the multicultural church plant’s core leadership team. **Our Goal: \$12,000**

### **Latin America** 📍 LIMPIO, PARAGUAY

Pray for the establishing of the first evangelical church in this receptive community. **Our Goal: \$25,000**

### **MCA** 📍 CREATIVE ACCESS COUNTRY

Pray that the orphans who regularly gather at the Ministry Center would hear about God and the salvation of Christ as they receive food and supplies. **Our Goal: \$20,000**

### **United States**

Pray for non-majority, next generation leaders being trained through spiritual formation retreats. **Our Goal: \$25,000**

Pray for the Alliance Women Leadership Scholarship recipients participating in leadership development opportunities. **Our Goal: \$5,000**

**MidAmerica District Alliance Women  
Contribution Form**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (Treasurer or Local Director) \_\_\_\_\_

District Ministry Fund (receipt by **Sept. 30**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

National Ministry Fund (receipt by **Sept. 30**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

National Project (receipt by **May 15**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IW Care Fund (formerly Outfit Fund) (receipt by **Nov. 15**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please explain on reverse side) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to "MidAmerica District Alliance Women"**

**Memo line:** Name of the fund(s) you are contributing to

If you would like a receipt, please check here:

**Mail to:** Peggy Schlieker  
18412 Nina St  
Omaha, NE 68130

**Questions?** Contact Peggy at [pschlieker@cox.net](mailto:pschlieker@cox.net) or 402-681-5152

**ALLIANCEWOMEN**