

sandals, heels, sneakers, athletic shoes, flats, clogs, loafers, slippers, oxfords, boat shoes, wedges, platform heels, bridal shoes, orthotic friendly, Adjustable Strap Shoes, Business Boots, riding shoes, Casual Shoes, Comfort Boots, cowboy shoes, Dress Sandals, Dress Shoes, total, Fashion Shoes, Formal shoes, terrain, mid-calf, Heeled Sandals, Heels, Luxury Shoes, Open Toe Shoes, Ornamented Shoes, Pumps, Rounded Toe Shoes, Slingbacks

A LADY & HER SHOES

THE METHODS AND MINISTRIES OF MISSIONARY LADIES

By James G. Smith
BBFI Associate Mission Director



We have all heard and probably used the expression “wearing different hats” regarding our various responsibilities as parents, children, spouses, employees, and people in ministry. But since we are featuring ladies in missionary ministry in the BBFI this month, we thought shoes were a more appropriate metaphor than hats.

A girl can never have too many shoes ... or so that’s what I’m told. I’m not sure men will ever understand this apparent obsession — the quantity and variety of shoes that must be in their possession. For most guys about three pairs will do.

At one women’s shoe supplier on the Internet, we found these categories: sandals, heels, sneakers, athletic shoes, flats, clogs, loafers, slippers, oxfords, boat shoes, wedges, platform heels, bridal shoes, running shoes, diabetic-approved, orthotic-friendly, eco-friendly, and vegan shoes. If we add boots, we have rain boots, riding boots, rubber boots, work boots, cowboy boots, snow boots, total terrain, mid-calf, thigh-high, knee-high, narrow, and extra-wide. This one supplier listed 33,150 different shoes and 4,043 boots for women!

Then we interviewed the missionary ladies in

Taking care of my family • Teaching • A children • Curriculum development • S ministry coordinator • My husband’s se mandolin in the orchestra • Singing in t events • Team worker with my husband Ladies’ retreats and seminars • Feeding Home for girls • Teaching pre-school E everything he does • Oversee the orpha the choir • Help train the next pastor’s church • Sending out prayer updates, t

primary school • Organizing the church our house for church every weekend • H college • Teach a weekly class for ladies

the BBFI ... not about shoes, but about ministries! We found an amazing variety of ministries being performed all around the world.

The single missionary ladies and the missionary wives of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International have amazing talents, abilities, and opportunities to exercise their spiritual gifts in serving the Lord cross-culturally. They wear many different kinds of shoes!

While this subject would be much broader in other publications, we will skip the discussion over the election of women as deaconesses or the ordination of women as pastors. Our constituency and readership would be pretty much agreed on that topic. We are hoping, however, that there will be great interest in the lives and ministries of the women in ministry who make up an integral part of the BBFI’s global partners.

It is our opinion, and thus our premise, that traditionally BBFI missionary women have accepted their roles in the family and in ministry as significant and fulfilling.

We asked several questions and were very pleased at the response to our questions. We are very grateful to the 40 ladies from 23 different countries who collaborated with us to

Administration • Teacher training • Discipleship training • Teaching in the seminary • Educating my Sunday school administrator • My family • Women's ministry • Church website administrator • Music secretary • Counseling • Electronic Bible study • Photographer • Children's ministry • Playing the piano • Singing in the choir • Supporting my husband • Writing lessons • Coordinating mission trips • Speaking at ladies' meetings • Church administration • Discipleship • Administrative Dean at the Bible college • Youth camps • Organizing programs • Soul-winning • Bible conferences • To my husband primarily • Music • Outreach • English • Baking refreshments • Keep the nursery • My principle ministry is helping my husband do his ministry • Manage • Coordinate the finances • Program director of the camp • Pastors' wives outreaches • Lead the church • Lead wife • Lead the Bible clubs • Visitation • Decoration of the church for different functions • Cleaning the church • Thank-you notes • File the quarterly reports • Mobilize, train, and equip God's servants •

Caring for and serving students in our institute • Sunday school workshops • Music in the church • Family life seminars • Missionary training seminars • Caring for our home • Host ladies' Bible studies • Equip people for teaching ministries • Head cook at camp • Young people's ministries • Medical assistant at the clinic • Teach in the public school once a week • Assistant principle in the school • Sports program • Hospitality • Outdoor evangelism • Cross-cultural mothers and children • Prepare for the future • Keeping myself spiritually fit and ready for service • Bible college administration • Teach in the Bible • Leadership • Teaching children • Working in the youth camp

present this issue. All of them contributed. Most of them are quoted directly. As always, we hope that our readers will be encouraged to continue to participate with our global partners in getting the gospel around the world.

You will find there are obvious differences in the priorities and perspectives of the single women and the missionary wives. However, the need for personal and ministerial encouragement to all these ladies is incumbent on all of us who form their support base.

We will make room for a few of them to elaborate, but take a moment and look carefully at the brief answers at the top of this page to the question, "In what kind of ministries are you involved?"

One of our ladies who transitioned from missionary kid to TEAM missionary and has now transitioned to career missionary is Megan Beard. We asked her about her ministry opportunities so far.

"Right now my husband and I do not have children, so while my first priority is supporting my husband in ministry and creating a comfortable and healthy home environment, I spend much of my time on responsibilities outside our household.

Since we are on deputation, we spend a lot of time communicating with churches and pastors. While my husband makes initial contact, I handle our follow-up communication, including our website, sending information to churches and pastors, revising and sending out our prayer updates, and sending thank-you notes after we have visited churches. I also manage our finances and file our quarterly reports.

Our primary ministry role in Korea is to mobilize, train, and equip God's servants, and God has opened the door for both of us to further our education so that He can use us in an educational and administrative capacity. Right now I am a full-time student and I try to balance this with our deputation travels.

While on the field, I spend a significant amount of time caring for and serving students in our institute (preparing meals during the school week and overseeing student housing), administrating in the school setting, investing in one-on-one discipleship with students, and teaching a few courses.

Outside of the school ministry context, we enjoyed using our home to host Bible studies and small groups, and about once weekly we would invite a family or group of individuals to share a

meal and an evening in our home."

We also received the following response from Miss Georgia Webb who ministers in Mexico:

"My principal ministry responsibility has always been teaching. At first I taught children in the churches and in starting new works, then young people, and for many years I taught mostly women, now I teach the young people again. In addition, I taught in the Bible institute in Ciudad Mante for 14 years, followed by 22 years as director and teacher in the Querétaro Spanish Language School.

For many years I have prepared illustrated lessons for children and for women. I have made them available at cost to our churches. This seems to meet a special need for teaching materials in Spanish. Recently I received a special blessing when a young lady, about 20 years old, told me her mother had taught my lessons when she was a child and they had been a blessing to her. Now she herself teaches children and would like to use the same lessons. It's great to know this ministry will go on even after I am gone to my heavenly home! By the way, some lessons are now available on the Internet so people can print them out free and use them."

Special thanks to all of the ladies who contributed

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Joy Anzalone | Ecuador |
| Karon Auterson | Ethiopia |
| Edith Baker | Philippines |
| Janice Baker | Haiti |
| Megan Beard | Korea |
| Susie Biven | Mexico |
| Kristina Brown | Croatia |
| Kim Davis | Wales |
| Carol Elkins | Nicaragua |
| Carol Esquibel | England |
| Christina Fulmer | Kenya |
| Gail Gritts | England |
| Caliopi Gonciulea | Romania |
| Mary Herman | Teacher |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Bonnie Jones | Tanzania |
| Ruth King | Japan |
| Joy Loveday | Spain |
| Lisa Mantonya | Brazil |
| Debbie Norris | Navajo |
| Christine Pelletier | Kenya |
| Dixie Quade | Wales |
| Linda Redding | Mexico |
| Sue Reddoch | Wales |
| Paula Rhoades | El Salvador |
| Tammy Rogers | Nicaragua |
| Sabrina Shangle | Ireland |
| Melinda Sissons | Japan |
| Mary Smith | Tanzania |

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Rachael Smith | Portugal |
| Uldine Steffy | Philippines |
| Melody Stephens | Zambia |
| Marie Strickland | Argentina |
| Ginnie Switzer | Ethiopia |
| Sandy Todd | Argentina |
| Carolyn Waters | Spain |
| Georgia Webb | Mexico |
| Rachael Weed | Nicaragua |
| Joy Williams | France |
| Becky Winters | Japan |
| Donna Woodson | Nicaragua |



Q&A

How is missionary life different than you imagined it?

Carol Elkins, Nicaragua: “It’s a bit busier than I might have anticipated. However, it is much more satisfying because I am where God wants me. The peace of that fact is amazing. The love that I have for these kids is more than I could have imagined.”

Kristina Brown, Croatia: “Life as a missionary is a lot different than I imagined. We are often in the spotlight and we did not mean to be. Here, we are the weird ones who speak English, drive a huge American-sized minivan, and talk funny. In our little town, everyone knows we are here. The kids in our neighborhood call our house ‘the American house.’ We hope to begin teaching English on Tuesday nights in the next few weeks. We hope to use our ‘weirdness’ as a door for ministry.”

Rachael Smith, Portugal: “I imagined being busy with ladies’ meetings, children’s classes, and discipleship. As it has turned out so far, most of the adults that have been saved have moved away, the young people saved at camp are not allowed to be discipled or to come to church, and no one will allow their children

to come to Sunday school or to vacation Bible schools. Women I have built friendships with are very guarded about discussing spiritual things, and have all backed off for a while when I have actually opened up the topic with the purpose of witnessing. Having grown up in Mexico, where the people were more receptive to the gospel, it has been difficult to breathe deep and be patient for the Lord to work in His time. Our church is still very small, but definitely growing deeper in their walk with the Lord. But, my heart still aches with the desire to disciple more women and girls, and to see families reaching out to other families. I knew the work here would be slow and that the ‘soil’ is very hard, but I don’t think I expected it to be this dry and sparse spiritually.”

Sandy Todd, Argentina: “I would say that it is always changing. Every year is different. Every stage of life and ministry is different. Circumstances and life events can change how you do missionary work or feel about being a missionary. I have felt things emotionally that I never thought I’d feel. My Christian and personal values have often been challenged. I have learned so much more about God, my family, the world, and myself than I ever even imagined.”

Q&A

How do you handle stress in the ministry?

Visit a friend.

Pray.

Take a day off, wander around a little town. Visit another missionary friend.

My husband and I are total opposites. When he sees the negative, I see the positive. Helps keep a balance.

I love to walk and talk to God about the challenges.

Exercise and get my mind off myself.

I usually pray, talk it over with my husband, and sometimes my parents. I take down time to paint or sew or build something.

Mary Herman: "**Knowing that God will never give me more than I can handle is comforting.** I have found it is important to have someone with whom I can share burdens, get proper rest, and recognize that the world does not revolve around me and my needs. I have learned how important it is to just wait on the Lord. Much stress occurs when I wish to achieve something in my time frame and energy instead of His."

My husband and I are very thankful that God has allowed us to serve Him here. Being a little older and seeing how God has provided in the past, we trust in Him and know that He has our backs.

Spend time with the Lord and listen to godly music.

When I start to worry, I pray and praise. I give it to the Lord! It sounds so simple, but I have truly just rested in the Lord to know that He knows what is ahead and behind and around. What He allows I may not understand, but He does.

Prayer, Bible study, exercise.

I try to keep my mouth closed and pray. Taking a nap is a great stress reliever for me.

When there is stress in the ministry, talking to my husband about it is best and then we pray for wisdom on how to deal with it. My husband seems to be more patient and levelheaded in stressful situations.

Cry, sometimes. **Take a day off of regular duties to work on a special project.** Our ministry stress mostly comes from the rejection that is so common here and the lack of seeing "results," so sometimes it helps just to step away for a few hours.

Not well.

Prayer, God's Word, talking with my husband, mom or sister-in-law. **There are times when the best thing to do is to step away for a few hours or days to get refreshed, strengthened, and to gain a new perspective.** Then there are also times when you need to get some extra help and we have a counselor friend and some supporting pastors that we call to get counsel.

Christina Fulmer, Kenya: "Cry in the shower. Do something completely different from my usual schedule, get some exercise, or eat a great meal. I also have a great support group who prays

with me at a moment's notice, via phone call or Internet."

Prayer, putting it into God's hands, and then self-searching to see if I'm part of the problem.

Pray, cry if I need to, search the Scriptures for answers from God, leave my stress in God's hands each night, go for a walk, read a book, do a craft.

Karon Auterson, Ethiopia: "I have known disappointments, discouragement, bitterness, and even depression. Relationships with others can cause great challenges. I determined years ago to not allow these things to rule my life. I try to turn them over to the Lord as soon as He reminds me of them. A frequent prayer from my lips and my heart is Psalm 19:14 'Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.'"

Sometimes over the years I have to confess I handled stress poorly! But I have learned that if I put it all in the Lord's hands and leave it there, He does the handling.

I find that it is best to talk things out with my husband. After that, I only share specific things with a close friend back in the U.S.A. She is a wonderful, godly friend and she always has words of encouragement and advice.

We live just three hours from the United States. So when we need a break, we can take a quick run to the border, have a nice dinner out, go to a bookstore, and just sit and read.

Tammy Rogers, Nicaragua: "The best way I have found to handle stress in the ministry is regular, vigorous exercise combined with a healthy diet. We have always been active, but this past year we made some drastic changes in our daily diet that has helped us tremendously. We both feel so much better, have more energy, and think more clearly."

Q&A

How do you make your personal relationship with God a priority in your life?

Daily quiet time with Bible and prayer.

Trust Him in every challenge.

Faithfully meeting with Him every morning.

For more than 15 years I have read through the One Year Bible. I also do in-depth studies for our ladies Bible study.

I make sure first thing in the morning to have devotions before everything else overwhelms me.

Making Him a part of everything I do. Trying to always find new things to gain insight from.

I found out early in life that my relationship with the Lord is ongoing. I talk to Him throughout the day and He is truly my best friend. I have my personal time with Him and I read many good Christian books as well.

The only way to keep my personal relationship with the Lord on an even keel is to have a set time every day, a set plan for Bible study and prayer. Otherwise, too many other things take priority.

It is difficult at times. This is just a matter of discipline. Taking time to read, pray, and think on Him is a daily discipline which is also a joy.

My relationship with God is my priority and this is accomplished by spending time with Him in His Word and listening to godly music and sermons.

After my morning walk, I spend time reading my Bible, have personal devotions, and prayer time.

By making time to study God's Word and apply it to my life.

I make my personal time with the Lord a priority by having a routine in the mornings with the Lord. I also listen to Christian music when I am working.

I made a choice to have a daily relationship with the Lord a long time ago. If I am not willing to make my relationship with God a priority, then what am I doing in the ministry? Every morning I wake up before anybody else and I sit down with the Lord. It is a habit that I am not willing to break.

I find that the morning has to be my time with the Lord. Otherwise, it gets shuffled aside with the busyness of the day.

I love talking to God while I work. It makes me feel connected with Him all day long. I try to read a portion of Scripture every day. **I also enjoy reading Oswald Chambers' My Utmost for His Highest every day on the computer.** It always seems relevant to my life.

Keeping my relationship with God a priority means I have to get up early and sometimes sacrifice something to get it done. I often fail in this area.

I try to make time in the morning before the rest of the family is up. **When I am working in the house, I listen to music that encourages my walk with the Lord.** I also use Scripture to decorate my home.

Janice Baker, Haiti: "When I was just a young mom and wife, I asked God to wake me each morning for devotions and God still does. We have a close relationship. Why would I miss His cuddles, His 'I love yous,' and His ministering Spirit?"

I set aside a special time for God and **I fast once a week.**

Every morning, first thing, my husband brings me a cup of coffee and I have my personal devotional study time.

I get up in the morning before anyone else gets up and have my quiet time with the Lord. That way I don't have any distractions or things screaming for my attention.

Never lay down to sleep until I have spent time in the Word. I talk to God all day.

Making my personal relationship with God a priority has been a challenge through the years. I wish more than anything that I had made this area a priority earlier in life. **It wasn't until I was 40 years old that I began a consistent daily personal time.** Each stage of life comes with its own difficulties and distractions, but I finally determined that this had to come first. Since I made this my number-one priority, my life has been so different. Sometimes I get up earlier or go to bed later. Sometime I even get up in the middle of the night. I have found that the more time I spend alone with God, the more I desire to spend time with Him.

Getting up early, a good cup of coffee, my Bible and notebook, and some good women's devotionals all keep me "normal" ... although some may question if I am or not.

First thing in the morning I read my Bible and have my devotions. This is hard sometimes. **I find that when I'm in a Bible study, I grow and stay better connected.**

I have a set time each day for my own devotions and my husband and I have a time for devotions together.

Joy Loveday, Spain: "I set aside my first time each morning to read the Word and pray and journal. Recently I began a new series with a few church ladies called "Daily in the Word." I am joining them on part of the homework that is actually writing out the Word of God. This has been amazing! I also **take my mp4 player to the grocery store and listen to a sermon while shopping.**"

I try to get up early, before the activities of the day take over my time. The days just go smoother that way.

This has always been a difficult task for me. I have found that my favorite time to pray is when I take the dog out for a walk every day.

The early morning alarm and being disciplined to not schedule anything that would keep me from that appointment. **Making sure I am a part of a Bible study where I am the student.** When I started to study for a degree again I realized how much more time I needed to dedicate to my personal relationship with God.

I have made Jesus my best friend. He awakens me every morning at 3 a.m. This is my time of prayer and meditation. I love it because it is quiet and only Jesus sees my tears.



Becky Winters, Japan: In January, the Wyatt family came to Japan to work as TEAM missionaries. Cristy has already been a huge blessing and encouragement to me. The Lord knew the timing of their arrival and knew that I would need the extra encouragement!

Carolyn Waters, Spain: When I underwent major surgery in January to have one of my diseased kidneys removed, I was in the hospital for eight days. The response of my church ladies and even some of my unsaved friends was overwhelming. I am talking about spending the nights with me in the hospital, bringing me entire meals for the eight days following my release from the hospital, and in general just showing their love in many ways.

Marie Strickland, Argentina: My most precious blessing now, being retired, is to keep up on the news of the ministries still functioning in Argentina. These are churches, our Bible seminary, youth camps, Sunday school teachers, musicians, and evangelism all being carried on by the Argentines won to the Lord during our many years in Argentina.

Gail Gritts, England: My greatest joy is to watch God work. I revel in listening to new Christians finding their way through God's Word and seeing them learn truth. I know you might not consider this a personal blessing, but it blesses my heart like nothing else can. God's love spread abroad in our hearts is very personal. It confirms that I am in His will, it confirms His hand upon our ministry, and it confirms that the sacrifice and hard work is truly worth it all! It is my most specific blessing to be a servant of the Lord.

Joy Loveday, Spain: In February, we celebrated the church's 25th anniversary. At the end of the service, a visiting lady asked to talk with me. She prayed and asked the Lord to save her. She is originally from Romania and we had just given her a Bible in her own language. She read the verses in Romanian and then prayed to receive Christ in Romanian as well! Never can I explain the joy in my heart to be able to guide a

soul to the truths found in the Bible and hear the prayer for salvation!

Ruth King, Japan: My greatest blessing is sharing the ministry with my young Japanese sisters. God has blessed me with gifted cooperative Japanese co-workers. When I came to Japan, they were youth and children. Today they are my allies, collaborators, and confidants.

Q&A

What is a recent, specific blessing you have received from the Lord as a missionary?

Paula Rhoades, El Salvador: My husband and I had the opportunity to counsel a couple with marital problems. After about a year, this couple is doing better now than they have in 20 years and God is using them in huge ways to minister to other couples. This family could have been destroyed and God is being glorified in them. The fact He allowed us to be a part of this process is truly humbling.

Christina Fulmer, Kenya: I recently began working with young teens in the local

church where I serve. Within three weeks of beginning this ministry, seven youth have been saved. I personally led each of them to the Lord. In addition, two of the girls have mentioned how grateful they are to have a lady teaching them — who loves them and shows it. They both are spending time in their Bibles daily and are growing quickly.

Recently I have had the opportunity to counsel several Kenyans in a variety of situations. I absolutely love this area of ministry and witnessing first hand how the Scriptures can and will totally change an individual's life from the inside out!

Caliopi Gonciulea, Romania:

I started a Bible study with the ladies from Rogova. Even ladies from the village are coming. This is a great blessing for me. Because of the heavy snow, we had to stop for three weeks. Now that the weather is getting better, we have started up again. It is a blessing to see how these ladies want to grow and to learn more about God.

Tammy Rogers, Nicaragua: I think the greatest recent blessing I have received is twofold. First, my son and his wife were recently approved as missionaries to the country of Nicaragua and will be returning to help us for their internship. Finally, after ten long years I will have one of my children close by. Second, God has given me unspeakable joy in seeing great beauty and spiritual maturity in my daughter. I am awed by the maturity I see in both my son and daughter's lives and am so thankful that they have developed a truly intimate relationship with God at a young age. I know that it is only by God's grace that they have remained true to Him.

Christine Pelletier, Kenya: I was reconnected on the Internet with a former student of mine from 35 years ago. I was able to

lead her to the Lord and now God is blessing me with the opportunity to mentor her as well.

Carol Esquibel, England: My husband was a pastor for 16 years in Kansas and Indiana and we have now been in England for 15 years, which is difficult to believe at times. My ministry is to my husband primarily. I am so proud of him. I feel like my calling is to hold his arms up as the battle is being won for God in this world. I also minister alongside him teaching the women and children of the church. I enjoy being called to be my husband's wife! I love sharing the ministry with him, and I love sharing the Lord that we serve with others who do not know Him.

Dixie Quade, Wales: Recently in my Sunday school class a boy, after much deliberation, asked me how to be saved. I had been praying for him for four years. He would never admit that he was a sinner. Since being saved he has been reading his Bible and learning the memory verses. It is such a blessing to see how one comes to the knowledge and acceptance of the Lord Jesus!

Mary Herman, STEP: I just returned from the Philippines where I taught on the Island of Bohol. There, I found a group of young pastors and their wives who were so very hungry to learn how to take the Word of God and teach it more effectively. There were 14 churches involved in the conference and others had to be turned away as there was no more room in the conference area. After the two-day seminar, I presented them with materials for visuals and activities to help in their children's ministries. Many had tears as they accepted the materials. One couple in particular stands out. They came to tell me that they had never had the opportunity to study in college, but the teaching had helped

them so much. Then the lady began crying and said, "Oh ma'am, we have been praying for visuals and ways to teach the children and now we have them. Thank you so much." After three weeks, we received a report that one Sunday school has tripled in attendance. Praise the Lord for such an opportunity!

Bonnie Jones, Tanzania: One of the greatest blessings I have had recently has to do with being in Tanzania a long time. We are not only seeing children in the ministry but grandchildren. What a joy to watch these young people grow up and serve the Lord. Many of the new young leaders we have in our churches are children of people we led to the Lord years ago. What a joy!

Joy Anzalone, Ecuador: One of the really neat blessings for me in the ministry here in Manta is my work with the ladies in the church. I've had the opportunity to teach a ladies Sunday school class since the church started and to disciple several of them. In the first years I also was very hands-on in the children's ministry but after working closely with Ceci, I have been able to hand over that ministry into her capable hands and now I'm just a "consultant" for "big questions." In our ladies ministry it has been a joy, as I have worked with our leaders' wives in a bi-monthly Bible study and planning session, to see them step up and use their gifts in ministry. Two of them started having a monthly Bible study and fellowship time for the young wives and mothers in the church. Another great thing to see is that they are now taking ownership of this ministry. When we have monthly meetings, baby or wedding showers, they are organizing them, and working out the details, from food and decorations to games and activities.



How can we more effectively pray for women in missionary ministry?

Q&A

When we asked our missionaries this question, we had an abundant response with some general ideas and some very specific prayer requests. We joyfully present these to you in hopes that you will indeed pray for these amazing ladies.

Joy Loveday, Spain:

When a missionary lady has a problem, sometimes being in another country can compound the problem. We need prayer for God to help us in times of physical illness as well as encouragement to study His word daily and walk in a relationship that is marked by our obedience to Him. God sustains and gives strength and health to serve Him in every situation, and the prayers of God's people are always so appreciated.



Karon Auterson, Ethiopia: We have the same needs as women in America. Pray for health, wisdom, and a constant awareness of His presence when loneliness tries to take up residence.



Linda Redding, Mexico: Ladies groups could make an effort to personally find out what specific needs or prayer requests their missionary has and pray regularly for those specifics.



Paula Rhodes, El Salvador:

Praying for God to put a hedge about our hearts and minds — helping

us to stay focused on eternity and to not lose sight of the goal of expanding the kingdom. Also, it's a huge blessing to me when I know they are praying ... little notes or emails are such an encouragement.

Uldine Steffy, Philippines: By making an effort to know the missionary.



Sabrina Shangle, Ireland: That we would not get discouraged. We put ourselves into the lives of people and they don't seem to care. So we sometimes wonder why we even try. But then I remember ... for Whom are we doing this?! The Bible says they rejected Him first. So we stay faithful to the Lord and pray for the people He has sent us to, that their eyes would be opened to His truth.



Christina Fulmer, Kenya: Our health — both physical and emotional, our focus on ministry, and pleasing Him, direction for care of elderly parents, strength to stay the course.



Lisa Mantonya, Brazil: For grace and strength to keep running the race. To not lose sight of the fact that I am a helpmeet first.

Kim Davis, Wales: My two biggest concerns: 1. That we will keep our devotional life a priority. It is our lifeline!! 2. For our children — I have three older children back in the States and it is one of the hardest things I deal with. When my daughter calls and says she misses me and needs her mom, it really causes me to have to stop and remember why I'm here in Wales and not there. We need to know that there are people in the States who will minister to our children while we are ministering in our respective fields.



Caliopi Gonciulea, Romania:

That God will give me the wisdom, understanding, and love to reach more children and ladies for Christ.

Christine Pelletier, Kenya: Safety and boldness. Because the world is not very friendly these days, we need to be careful but we also need to be bold to continue reaching out to the lost. We need wisdom to know God's will in all ministry endeavors.



Janice Baker, Haiti: My prayer for missionary ladies is that we will lead disciplined lives even with all the responsibility we carry.



That we will have a one-to-one relationship with the Father and keep His commandments. Knowing Christ in our inner life is important.

Tammy Rogers, Nicaragua: My prayer request would be for wisdom. I need wisdom in prioritizing and time management, counseling, outreach, and so many more areas. Life and ministry many times become so overwhelming that I feel as if I am drowning, and I know that I lack the wisdom to be effective in either arena.



Rachael Smith, Portugal: Pray for our walk with the Lord more than anything else. Busyness can be one of our greatest enemies and cause us to miss our times with the Lord. Aching for close Christian fellowship can become a real weight, and we need to run to the Lord and find our friend who is closer than a brother. Pray for our relationships with our husbands to be what the Lord desires for them to be. Pray for our relationships with our children and for their faith to become deep and personal. Pray for protection for our children.



Susie Biven, Mexico: Pray for our spiritual growth and understanding, that we would serve the Lord with a joyful heart, and be faithful to His calling on our lives.



Bonnie Jones, Tanzania: Missionary women are just like women everywhere. We have good days and bad days. We have PMS days and menopause days! We have health scares without a good doctor around. We have marital conflicts.



We feel lonely and separated from our families. We miss our children and grandchildren. [I have only seen my little granddaughter twice.] We feel

inadequate in the face of trials, attacks, and failures. I believe I am still on the mission field and happy to be here because people pray for me. I cannot do this on my own. The readers can more effectively pray for us by remembering us in our

specific needs and in realizing we are normal women who live in "abnormal" places.

Rachael Weed, Nicaragua: 1. That we would always keep a healthy balance between ministry and family. 2. That we would be able to train our children to love the Lord, (both cultures and ministry). 3. For complete protection and safety.



Ginnie Switzer, Ethiopia: To be able to pray more effectively for women in missionary ministry, it is crucial to learn about the specific challenges these women face. Many missionaries face the same challenges, such as linguistic barriers and cultural adjustments. However, each field has unique challenges that are endemic to that particular field. Effectiveness in prayer can be greatly increased when focus is given to those unique challenges.



Dixie Quade, Wales: People can pray more effectively for missionaries by not only praying for their work and salvation decisions, but also pray for their wisdom, as well as their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. It has always been hard to be away from family, but now that I am a grandma, it gets harder.



Sandy Todd, Argentina: I would say to try and have a more intimate relationship with the missionary, not only asking about her prayer requests but following up with her. I have no doubt that ladies have prayed for my prayer requests. But one thing I feel like we lack is a more personal relationship with ladies back in the States with whom we can more openly share our needs.



Debbie Norris, Navajo: The only way we are different is the distance from family and the culture. For the most part, pray for us as you would any other woman. We need boldness to witness and strength and health to share the gospel. For our health — with diseases you may not face in the U.S. or the medical benefits that might be lacking. Holidays are usually hardest when away from family.



Carole Elkins, Nicaragua: Pray for our health, emotional stress, and physical and ministry stress. Pray for our language ability to increase and our love for the Lord to deepen with each day.



Melody Stephens, Zambia: I would ask that people not only pray for us but for our families in the States also. If we are worrying about things going on with our parents, children, or grandchildren, it takes our focus away from our ministry. We need wisdom. I want people to pray that I will keep my focus on what is important and to be effective in my witness.



Mary Herman: Please pray for your missionary ladies. They need encouragement and a feeling of not being isolated. I have a few supporting churches who have a ladies' prayer circle for missionaries. They write me monthly and let me know they are praying. What a blessing to me! It is definitely a privilege to have these precious ladies taking my needs to the throne.



Joy Williams, France: By remembering that we are a long way from family and can't be there for them when they are in need. I think that is the hardest thing, especially as we age. Our parents are old and frail, and we aren't there. Our children are grown and our grandchildren are growing up across the ocean from us.



Mary Smith, Tanzania: I believe that women are indeed the weaker gender. Pray for your missionary women in the realm of their emotional health. Asking God to make clear what is chemical, spiritual, physical, or emotional. In the clinic I am faced with this daily, as well as seeing how Satan invades my thought life.



Melinda Sissons, Japan: The mission field really takes a toll on the women. I pray for physical strength for each of our missionary ladies. I pray for their finances. I also pray for our sending church's finances. It is good to pray for language learning as many missionary wives do not get the language as well as their husbands. I pray that we do not get lonely. Even though we may have a family, it does get lonely sometimes living in a different country.



Edith Baker, Philippines: Pray for good health and a great ministry.

Gail Gritts, England: For courage and strength. It is easy to get fearful and angry on the field. It is easy to get distracted and discouraged. We need courage and strength for the journey. God gives it, but we can always use more!



Donna Woodson, Nicaragua: Pray for our personal relationship with God to grow stronger daily, for friendships that will be iron sharpening iron, for wisdom, discernment, and guidance in all that we do: for the vision to see the opportunities God has laid out in front of us.



The ladies below contributed to this issue of *Global Partners* but their responses did not appear in this final section so we have included their pictures here.



Kristina Brown, Croatia



Georgia Webb, Mexico



Carolyn Waters, Spain



Sue Reddock, Wales



Carol Esquibel, England



Becky Winters, Japan



Megan Beard, Korea



Marie Strickland, Argentina



Ruth King, Japan

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