

## Our Baptist Women's Family

### OBJECTIVES

To discover how the Baptist Women's family is connected, from local to global. To understand the importance of our local WMS /Atlantic Baptist Women's group. To participate in each of the five Baptist women's groups through prayer, projects and events.

### RESOURCES

[www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca](http://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca) and *Tidings Magazines*

[www.bwna.today](http://www.bwna.today)

[www.bwawd.org](http://www.bwawd.org) and the current BWA Women's Day of Prayer program

### AHEAD OF TIME

Copy "The Baptist Women's Family Tree" sheet, with blanks; give one to each person. Provide pens as necessary. A large map of the world would provide a visual that can be referred to as each Baptist women's group is mentioned.

Ask others to participate in the program. Ask individuals to present one of the five Baptist Women's groups; 3-5 minutes each. They may find interesting details about each group on their websites to share.

If technology is available create a slide show that includes the logos and pictures of the Baptist Women's organizations. You may ask someone to help create a slideshow for this program.

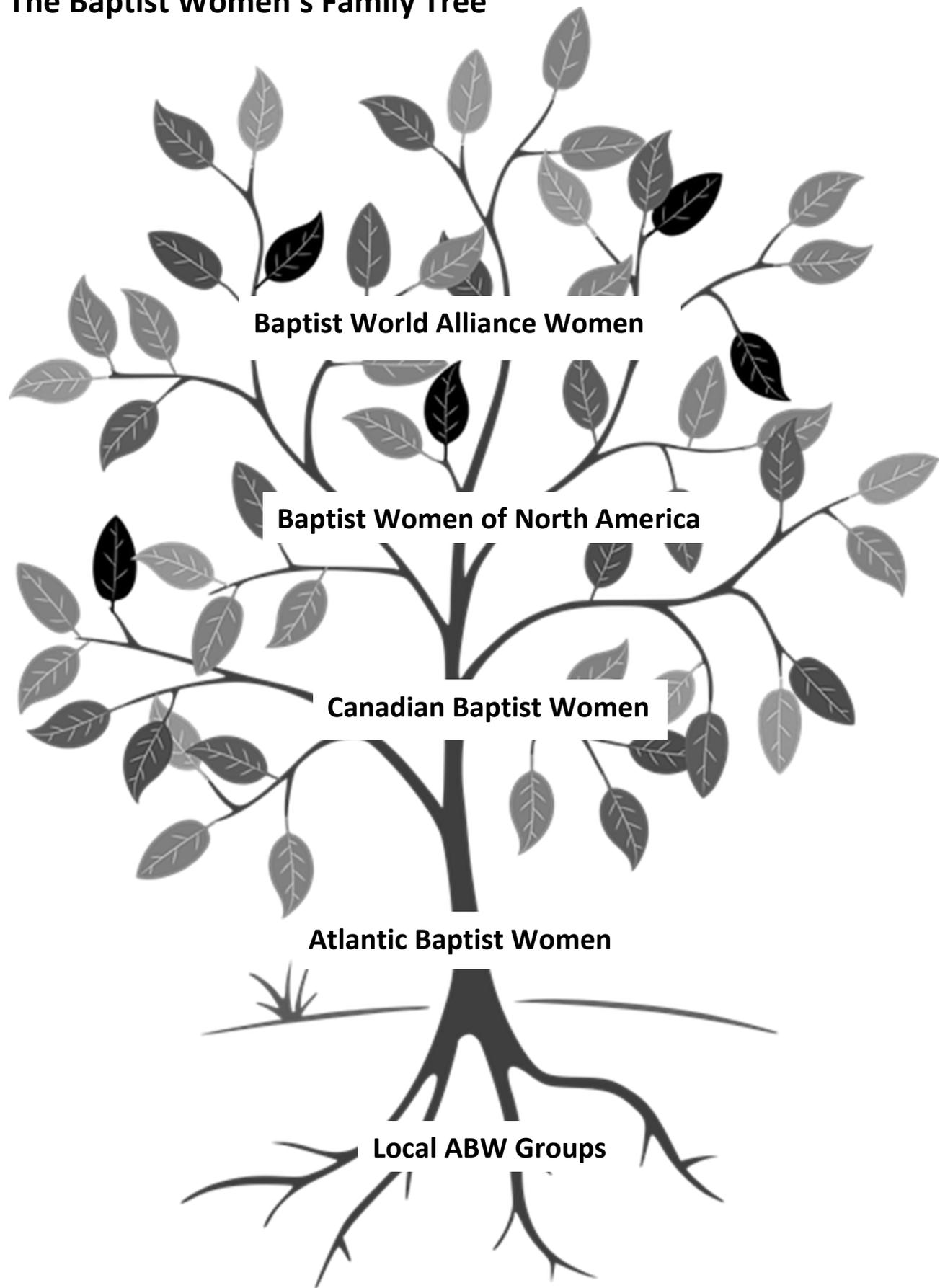
### Scripture Focus

Psalm 67 – make a copy of Psalm 67 for everyone or provide the same Bible translation for everyone. Read the Psalm in unison. How many times are the words "nations" or "peoples" used in this psalm? For what does the psalmist pray in V 2 and V 7? This psalm praises God for all of His blessings, especially the gift of salvation. How has God blessed you today?

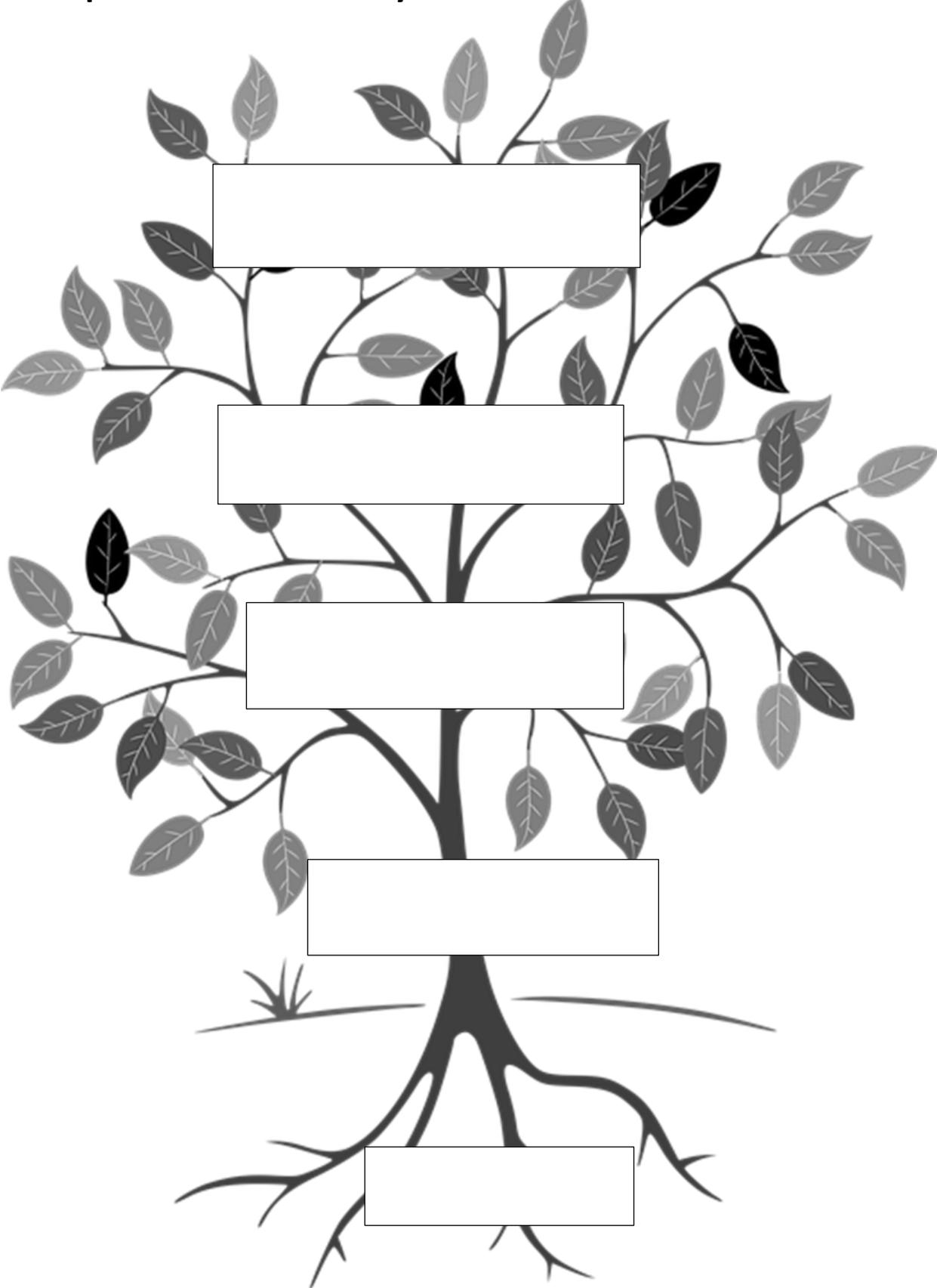
### INTRODUCTION

As Baptist women we belong to a large, global family. Give out the handout sheet, "The Baptist Women's Family Tree". Invite the women to fill in the blanks with the names of the five Baptist women's groups as they are presented. They may make note of any details about each group that they find important. Ask those who are participating to share information about the Baptist Women's groups, beginning with the local WMS / ABW group.

# The Baptist Women's Family Tree



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## Local Atlantic Baptist Women's Groups

The groups were initiated by Hannah Maria Norris in 1870 as a means to support her call to serve in Burma. The Baptist women rallied to the cause to support her. Some used the money they earned from selling their eggs and butter. Over 150 years later the organization has grown from 32 Woman's Missionary Aid Societies to become the United Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and now known as Atlantic Baptist Women. There are Woman's Missionary Societies or Atlantic Baptist Women's groups as well as children's groups in all four Atlantic Provinces. These groups have been faithfully supporting local and global mission throughout all the years. The local Atlantic Baptist groups remain the foundation of Atlantic Baptist Women.

If you know, share when your WMS / ABW group began.

**Ask** each one to share what is their favourite part, or what is most important to them about their WMS / ABW group.

**Recognize** those who have been part of your WMS / ABW group for the longest time and the shortest time.

### Atlantic Baptist Women

Today the organization has a governing body of five officers: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and home mission coordinator. These five officers are part of the twenty-member executive board.

Annually the women participate in ABW Reads, a home mission project and the interMISSION event. Has your group participated in these?

2021's total budget is \$379,880.00. \$107,600.00 is budgeted for Home Missions.

The *Tidings Magazine* has provided mission information for the past 127 years. The ABW website, Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter and IMPACT newsletter have been added as communication tools.



#### Vision Statement

Impacting the World for Christ

#### Mission Statement

Partnering to serve Christ in communities at home and around the world – learning and growing together



## Canadian Baptist Women (CBW)

Canadian Baptist Women is made up of Baptist women's organizations in Canada.

They are:

Atlantic Baptist Women

Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec

In 2020, Women in Focus, from Western Canada, announced they will no longer operate an organization as geographical and other issues make it challenging for them to operate as an area wide entity. Baptist women's ministries in Western Canada do continue, so CBW keeps in touch with the women there.

What do we do together as Canadian Baptist Women?

We support the **Canadian Baptist Women's international scholarship**. Women, from outside North America, who have shown leadership gifts and abilities are given financial support to complete their university education. Female students who desire to develop their gifts and skills in ministry are supported. A portion of this scholarship is given by Atlantic Baptist Women. In 2021 CBW is supporting three women who are advancing their education: Gladys from El Salvador, Beth from Kenya, and Laetitia from Rwanda. Remember to pray for these women as they prepare to serve in ministry.

Canadian Baptist Women also provides support

for Baptist women in leadership, from outside North America, to attend the Baptist World Alliance Women's Conference that is held once every five years. This fund is called, **Canadian Assistance for Sisters in Leadership**, (CASIL Fund).

ABW supports the international scholarship and the CASIL Fund through the interMISSION offering.

All women are encouraged to participate in the **annual Great Canadian Bible Study and mission project**.

If you know the title of the current year's Bible study and/or the mission project you may share that information.

The Canadian Baptist Women's Committee has met together since October 1935. The committee meets for inspiration, encouragement, and sharing of mutual mission and ministry concerns. Canadian Baptist Women promotes a sense of unity among Baptist women in Canada.

The Canadian Baptist Women's Committee meets spring and fall (prior to the Canadian Baptist Ministries board meeting) and is made up of the President and Executive Director of each of the Baptist women's organizations. A secretary/treasurer is also appointed. This person is usually a Baptist woman from an area within driving distance from the Canadian Baptist Ministries office, Mississauga, ON. Canadian Baptist Ministries staff are also part of the committee to provide information and be a liaison with Canadian Baptist Ministries.



## **Baptist Women of North America**

**Two countries:**

**Canada & The United States of America**

**15 Baptist Women's organizations: Canada – 2; USA - 13**

**President 2017 – 2022, Dr TaNikka Sheppard**

“As we continue in our endeavors to unify and empower Baptist women throughout Canada and the United States, we stand solidly on the firm foundation of those that have come before us and look we forward to new and exciting opportunities for “Broadening Our Horizons” in relevant Kingdom service to God.”

### **OUR MISSION**

To encourage women to live out Kingdom life, especially in the area of helping the vulnerable

BWNA provides:

Networking

Resourcing

Leadership Development

Every November, through the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer offering Baptist Women of North America gives grants to ministries within North America with the primary benefactors being women and/or children.

Preference is given to projects which: Improve the quality of life for disadvantaged women or offers leadership development and training. Projects that provide care and education of children are also given priority.

The Day of Prayer offering is divided equally between the Continental Union (Baptist Women of North America) and the Baptist World Alliance Women.

Ministry projects within North America and global projects identified by the BWA women provide help for many women. Several ministries for women and children within the Atlantic Provinces have been blessed to receive a Day of Prayer grant through BWNA. Most recently, Island Pregnancy Centre in Charlottetown received a 2020 BWNA Day of Prayer grant.

The 2017 -2022 BWNA leadership team is made up of six officers:

President: Dr TaNikka Sheppard

Treasurer: Corinne Skerritt

Secretary: Ivanna Graves

Vice President of Day of Prayer Promotion, Prayer Partnerships and Prayer Grants - Jemell Moriah

Vice President of Networking, Leadership Development and Mentoring - Lakeeyna Cooper

Vice President of Communications - Renee James

For more information see - [www.bwna.today/](http://www.bwna.today/)



## **BWA Women**

### **Thriving Together**

7 Continental Unions

representing Baptist women's organizations from 151 countries.  
We represent all the women that make up the Baptist World Alliance!

We are a global body. We have seven branches, one on each continent and one in the Caribbean. Each branch is made up of national Baptist women's organizations. Each of these member bodies are connecting their women in person and through prayer. Then, the Continental branches of BWA Women also offer many opportunities for gathering in person, through prayer and virtually. Then, BWA Women as the global connector, also offers opportunities in person, through prayer and virtually.

Each Continental Union has a designated colour. What colour is given to Baptist Women of North America? (orange)

Baptist Women's Union of Africa - purple  
Asia Baptist Women's Union – light blue  
Caribbean Baptist Women's Union - green  
European Baptist Women United – dark blue  
Latin America Baptist Women's Union - yellow  
Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific - red

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is the Baptist World Alliance Women's global day of prayer held the first Monday of November. Will your group be participating?

The Baptist Women's Day of Prayer is central in the program of the BWA Women. This annual

observance is the means for promoting understanding and for drawing together Baptist women around the world. It's a beautiful picture of how we, as Baptist women on the global scale, link arms and stand together in solidarity. We need each other, sisters!

In some parts of the globe, women are known to walk several miles, some over and down mountains, or swim small rivers and streams to reach the appointed places of prayer. Is it any wonder the movement has grown? With such courage and devotion, Baptist women will continue to be the strength of their churches!  
From: [www.bwawd.org/History-DOP](http://www.bwawd.org/History-DOP)

A global women's conference, organized by BWA Women is held every 5 years. Has anyone in your group attended the BWA women's global conference? On July 7, 2021 the global conference, LIFE, was held virtually.

#### **Leadership:**

Karen Wilson, Australia - President BWA Women's Department 2020-2025

Sherrie Cherdak, USA - Secretary/Treasurer

BWA Women's Department 2020-2025

Moreen Sharp, Canada – interim Executive Director

For more information, pictures and videos see: [www.bwawd.org](http://www.bwawd.org)

**RESPONSE**

How are the five Baptist women's groups alike?

Do you see any differences?

How are they connected?

How is your part in the local group essential to the other groups of the Baptist family?

What are the blessings of being part of the Baptist women's family?

**TOGETHER  
IN  
PRAYER**

Give thanks to the Lord for all the women who faithfully serve Him through the Baptist women's family and who generously provide care and compassion to many throughout the world.

Pray for the leaders of each of the five Baptist Women's groups.

Pray for God's wisdom and direction as they lead.

Pray for the events of each group that details will be in place and God will be glorified.

Pray for your own local group that it will continue to be part of the strong foundation of the Baptist Women's family.

Pray that more women will be involved and engaged in mission.

**TAKE  
HOME**

The Baptist Women's Family Tree handout.

Give each one a card with the ABW logo printed on one side and the Vision Statement and Mission Statement printed on the other.