



A Kaleidoscope of Love

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Atlantic Baptist Women is 150 years old! Wow! Isn't that amazing? We had planned a huge party ... that we've had to postpone until interMISSION and Camp - interMISSION in May 2021.

But it seems to me that it's more important than ever to celebrate the continued mission ABW has—to share Jesus' love to those near and far. So, how do we get together without contact? Or encourage each other from far away? Celebrate 150 years? Have purpose when staying home? Share our resources in a pandemic?

We've been using butterflies as a symbol at Camp - interMISSION for the last few years. Butterflies have an interesting life cycle. As caterpillars, they crawl around in the dirt, looking up to the sky and seeing the beautiful colours of the butterflies flying around. Then instead of things getting better, the caterpillars wind up in a dark cocoon where they can't even see the sun anymore, just waiting, stuck in the dark as they transform. Even when they finally get to fly, to be what they're designed to be, it's only others who can see the beauty of their wings.

Sometimes we can feel like we're stuck crawling around in the dirt of our lives watching others as they fly, and praying to the Son of God that one day we'll be out of the dirt and flying free. Sometimes it's even worse and we feel that life is closing in around us. We can't see what God is up to and waiting in the dark is hard. We try to trust that God is transforming us.

And some days, we get to fly. It feels like we're in the right place at the right time, doing or saying the right thing, living out who we are designed to be. And our beautiful wings are an encouragement for others. Unlike butterflies, humans go through the cycle over and over and over again as we move through the circumstances of our lives.

At Camp - interMISSION, where 40 girls and their leaders and leaders-in-training gather for a weekend, we said we were "catching butterflies" when women from interMISSION popped their heads into our room. When the women shared their stories and answered our questions, it was like they were showing us their beautiful wings.

Now, our collective mission is to be "sending out butterflies" and getting creative with sharing Jesus' love

and the hope that we have in the midst of difficult times. Our "butterflies" will be all the little things we can do to help, encourage, and support our neighbours here at home and around the world. And it may feel like these are small things, but remember those first ABW women who shared their pennies and prayers: God did more than they could imagine. In the same way, we will share our 150 encouragements (butterflies) and prayers this year and God will continue to do more than we can imagine. Since I know we do better if we have a goal, let's each aim for 150 "butterflies" as a way to celebrate where we began while still continuing the mission! I know that 150 sounds like a lot, but we have a whole year until the May 2021 party.

Did you know? A large group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope. I can't wait to see your kaleidoscope of butterflies over the next few months. Here are a few suggestions of things you can try even while isolating. I'd love to hear other ideas you come up with. In fact, if you can take photos and videos of some of your butterflies in action, we can celebrate with you and encourage others to be releasing butterflies of their own. Share them with me (joannadoak@yahoo.com or 506-292-0057) so we can share on the ABW Facebook page.



- *Phone/video-call a friend, neighbour, church member, missionary, pastor, or others.*
- *Send a card in the mail (could even be in the shape of a butterfly).*
- *Decorate your windows/driveway/sidewalk with butterflies.*
- *Make butterflies (crochet, cardstock, paper, fabric, crayons, rainbow loom, etc.) and share them with a note/Bible verse/quote.*
 - *Pick up some rocks on a walk, paint butterflies on them, put them back on another walk, and watch them make someone smile.*
 - *Take part in the ABW walkathon.*
 - *Send a letter, postcard, picture, craft, or email to a mission staff person.*
- *Reach out by carrying out a "Grow ABW" project: www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Programs/GetInvolved.*
- *Drop a treat off to someone (safely following all health guidelines).*
- *Share a song or story.*
- *Dress up in purple and/or green (ABW colours).*
- *Invite someone "virtually" to dinner or a tea party.*
- *Give a subscription to Tidings Magazine.*