Hello everyone,

Only a few more days before the start of the fall season, how quickly time flies by. I hope that you all had a great summer, time to relax and rest, and to enjoy the beautiful weather we had all summer.

It was a busy summer for me but the heat was a little more than I like but it was a good summer nonetheless. My youngest son got married in August and my daughter moved out so I now have an empty nest. It takes a little time to get used to but I am enjoying the quiet and the special time with my husband.

It is always nice to get a break from the busy church ministry and women’s ministry in the summer but I always look forward to get back in to a regular routine in the fall. Back to regular prayer meetings, bible studies and just spending regular time again with the Lord, this can be a challenge in the busy summer months.

So here are the latest news in the women’s ministry. The last event we had was the ladies retreat in April for the Greater Montreal area. The attendance was amazing, new churches attended, all age groups were represented and we had a great speaker with Lau Lilette Kenzo. We did have some challenges, during the first night, there was a big storm and we had no power starting around midnight. At 5:30 in the morning the camp employees started hauling water in to the dormitories, not an easy task taking care of 85 women without power. The staff at Capernwray camp were amazing and managed to take great care of us!! The power came back on as we were leaving at 6:00 in the evening.

In May, I had meetings in Toronto with the National Women’s ministry team. As I had mentioned in a previous letter, our president, Rhona Hathaway, had decided to step down as president. We were meeting with the Leaders at the National office to figure out how our ministry would continue. The Leadership in Toronto had decided that Rhona’s role as president would not be filled. As many of you know, the National ministry centre has had some issues with raising support for our International workers for some time now and they are looking to cut cost and budget better to take care of this shortfall. The women’s ministry president position was a paid position and eliminating the post is a way to cut costs. What does this mean for women’s ministry?

Each district will be responsible for its own women’s ministry and needs to have the support of the local District leadership. For the St. Lawrence district it means that our ministry in Quebec will go on as before. Our District superintendent is a great supporter of women’s ministries and encourages us to move forward with what we have been doing. Some other Districts have very little support from their director, so I praise the Lord that we have great support here! The only big change is that our National Women’s ministry project comes to an end. The Missions project that the National team always put together has been terminated. That has saddened all of us on the National team. We had figured out that since the beginning of these project, which started in 1981-1982 we raised 4’677’146 dollars! Isn’t that amazing! The current project for the Yezzidi people has been extended until December 31st. So I urge you to continue to promote this project in your churches until that time. The video is posted on our District’s website at www.districtstlaurent.org

Moving forward in this ministry we can really come up with our own unique way of ministering to women in Quebec. We have already been doing this so well here. Many of our churches have wonderful women’s ministries and continue to take great care of their women in the church. There is, however, more that can be done. It is my desire to build up a team of younger women. Find out the need of women, work on a vision for Quebec together and really build an awesome women’s ministry. That also includes a different way of coming up with projects to support that are either overseas projects or local projects. One of the things that I have considered is supporting one of the New Ventures that are happening in our District. We know that finances in our District are always tight. Wouldn’t it be great if our women could come alongside one of these Ventures and support it?

The next event coming up for Women is the conference at the church in Lévis organized by their ladies ministry for the Quebec City churches as well as the Lower St.Lawrence region. I know that it will be a great blessing to those who will attend.

I would like to have feedback from you about women’s ministries in our District, please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions. I am also always available to visit or sit in on your meetings. Let me know if you need help starting up a ministry in your church.

May God bless you and your ministry!

Monika