

JANUARY 20, 2020

Hello everyone,

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you've had a good start in this new year of 2020!

You have not heard from me for some time so here is finally some news about myself but also news about Women's ministries in our District.

Personal: Looking back over 2019 I realized that it was not an easy year. It was difficult professionally as well as personally as I walked through the valley of the shadow of death with my father last fall.

As many of you know, my husband and I own a dairy farm and the weather certainly left us with some interesting challenges throughout the year, but there is really nothing we can do about it, but trust in the Lord. Again we were reminded this year of how much God takes care of his children. We finished the year with a late but good harvest after all. Praise the Lord for His wonderful provisions!

Last fall was more difficult as it became apparent by the month of August that my Dad was succumbing to his cancer. The family tried to make his last weeks as comfortable as possible with the help of doctors and care from the CLSC nurses.

Dad spent 2 weeks in palliative care in October and passed away peacefully on Oct 21st. Again I can testify to God's faithfulness in upholding us in difficult times, answering prayers in amazing ways and surrounding us with people who care deeply for me and the family.

News about women's ministries from 2019 :

Last year was a year of turmoil for the National Women's ministry team. We started the year with the elimination of the post of President for Women's ministry. A chair was appointed and the National office encouraged us to move forward but find a new direction that would include younger women in this ministry. In spring, our representative of the Pacific District also handed in her resignation. In May, our chairperson, who was from the Mid-west District found out that her mandate as rep. from her District would also be terminated. That left us with only 3 people on the team, 2 from the Districts in Ontario and myself.

In August we were informed that Women's ministry has officially been terminated as a National ministry. It is now up to each district to have a women's ministry in their District or not. Fortunately, we have a director in our St. Lawrence District that has given Women's ministries the green light and I was encouraged to continue in this ministry. Praise the Lord!! This means that we can build up a ministry that would continue to serve the needs of our women here in Quebec.

Last spring I was invited to participate as a speaker in a women's conference in Rimouski. Together with the ladies in leadership from the Rimouski church, we confirmed the need was there for such a conference in the Lower St. Lawrence Region. The conference was open to all churches from that region, not just Alliance churches. The event was very well attended as we spoke about confession and forgiveness and receiving liberty in Christ through that process. I'm always so blessed to be together with women of all ages, sharing and praying and learning from each other.



Looking forward to 2020:

The first message I heard this year was about prayer and specifically Psalm 145. This is a psalm of praise and worship and it encouraged me to be more like the psalmist. To see God's majesty and praise it, to speak of the wondrous things He does all around us and praise Him. I want to spend more time praising Him and make known who He truly is. Especially after a year that had its struggles and seeing how God has brought us through. Even with the world around us in turmoil, I want to have a Spirit of praise within me and not a spirit of fear. This psalm motivates me to open my eyes and to see Him more than I have before. I never make New Year's resolutions but I will make this psalm my resolution for 2020.

Looking forward to 2020 and beyond for women's ministries I'm looking to you for help. I have ideas on what we can do, but I would so much love to have your input and ideas, suggestions and comments about how women's ministries can better serve our women in our St. Lawrence District. How can we better serve our churches, and how can we better help with missions in our District but also globally. I'm also looking for women who would love to get involved in this ministry in whatever capacity you feel you would like to serve. We are building from the ground up, a new beginning, and I have every confidence that God will lead us and direct us in the plans and projects He has prepared for us.

In the past we have had conferences and retreats and there was always a mission project that we supported, but perhaps there are other needs that need to be addressed. How can we encourage each other on a regular basis, pray for each other and share what is going on in our women's ministries in our churches?

We will also update the information on our district website for women's ministries. What I would like to add to that page is resources that we can use in our women's groups such as bible study suggestions, projects for fundraisers, outreach and evangelism ideas, so please share what is going on in your women's groups. I would like to put pictures of your events. I want to put your stories out there because I know that God is doing amazing things in our women's groups and we want to speak of the wondrous things that God is doing in our midst!!

Share this letter with your women in the church and ask them for feedback as well and please, any and all feedback is welcome and appreciated.

I'm looking forward to your feedback

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Women's ministry
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