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LOTT CAREY HERALD

missing women

SILENCE IS
VIOLENCE

HAVE YOU
SEEN THEM?

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Mikhail Nilov, Pixels

Our Christian duty is clear when it comes to missing women and girls

By Rev. Emmett L. Dunn

Missing women and girls: a heartbreaking phenomenon that has become a global problem. In regions across the world, violence, gender inequality, and discrimination have created conditions that disproportionately affect female safety and security. In many cases, girls and women disappear without a trace, leaving their families to anguish about their safety and whereabouts.

The United Nations identifies “Missing Persons” as a human rights violation. When young girls or women go missing, their families are left in the dark about their well-being. This is especially true when the missing person is a woman of color, a victim of human trafficking or domestic violence, a refugee, or migrant. In many cases, refugees or migrants who go missing are not reported or identified as such, leaving families to search in vain for any trace of their loved ones. It’s a heartbreaking reality for many families around the world, but it’s especially disturbing when a young girl or woman has disappeared without a trace.

The causes of missing women and girls are numerous and complex. In many cases, poverty, gender inequality, and discriminatory cultural practices play a part in creating conditions that disproportionately affect female safety and security. For example, in some parts of the world, girls and women have fewer resources, education, and opportunities than men, making them more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

The church should be concerned about missing women and girls because it is the moral obligation of all people to protect those who are susceptible to cruelty and corruption.

Proverbs 31:8–9 instructs us to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” Jesus taught us to “love your neighbor as yourself” in Mark 12:31 and to help those who are in need in Matthew 25:35–36.

This issue of the Herald reminds us of our obligation and duty as Christians to the vulnerable and marginalized. We must remember that women and girls are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation, and it is our responsibility as a church and Christian community to help protect and care for them.

Rev. Emmett L. Dunn is Publisher & Editor of the Lott Carey Herald and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Carey



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Wisdom Speaks . . .

“To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try.”
— Rosa Parks, Civil Rights Activist

“Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ‘How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple.’”

— Proverbs 1:20-22(a) ESV

By Dr. Gina M. Stewart

As Women in Service Everywhere (WISE) prepares to lift its voice in solidarity to the Lord on behalf of missing women and girls, we are responding to the biblical mandate to speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves (Proverbs 31:8). Lending our voices, petitioning God and interceding for the safe return of our sisters is our response to the Word of God that commands us to advocate for those whose voices are often muted and don't have access to the justice they deserve.

Let's join the Women of WISE and help them spread the word. We know that wisdom cannot be silent because evil and oppression thrive in the face of silence, and silence fuels gender-based violence against women and girls. This cycle of silence must be interrupted. We know that wisdom demands a response. The children of God cannot stand by with lips sealed and eyes closed. Silence is not an option.

As Solomon reminds us in Proverbs, “wisdom bestows well-being.” These wisdom sayings of Proverbs have provided context to support the well-being of women and content for the monthly prayer calls and work of WISE throughout 2022. As we navigate 2023, the Lott Carey family is committed to following the Spirit's leading. We stand in solidarity with women and girls victimized by gender-based violence and call on the global community to stand with us.

Through the Thursdays in Black Social Media Campaign—in partnership with the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Women at the United Nations—we are spreading the word and putting “feet to our faith.” Partner with us to collaborate and create



Lott Carey Photo

We will not be silent!

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter” is a statement attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and prompts the question: “Will the Church say Amen?”

— Proverbs 3:31-35 & 31:8-9

By Dr. Angelita Clifton

Silence is Violence. Black Lives Matter. Say Her Name—all popular hashtags that also appear on signs protesters carry to remind us of the epidemic that is consuming people of color. These mantras echo on earth and in heaven when Black blood spills on the ground and Black bodies fill graveyards in every town. The loss of Black lives, in general, and the disappearance of women of color, in particular, is a local and global issue.

As grassroot movements emerge and secular communities take to the streets, the obvious question is—Why are so many religious leaders in sacred communities still sitting in the sanctuary? Why are there so few pastors in pulpits and congregants in pews organizing around this issue? Have they not heard? Do they not know?

Women and girls, in general, and sisters of color, specifically, go missing and are murdered around the world—everyday. Do we not care that our indigenous mothers, daughters, sisters, and aunties disappear from poverty ridden spaces on government reservations? If

Black lives matter, when will the church care enough to call the names of missing women acknowledging their plight?

Every believer has to ask why the church has not said, “Silence is another form of violence perpetrated against women.” Just as racism feeds on stereotypes and stigmas, gendered racism is fueled by silence.

During the 31 Days of Prayer as we cry out to God, let's stand in the gap for our sisters locally and globally. I beseech the children of God to pause for the cause, stand together, and be anything and everything but silent. As we call out the names of missing women and girls around the world, ruminate in the Spirit on these queries: Has the body of Christ been compromised? Has the Church's conscience been colonized? Has the cry of justice been silenced by the Church's complicity in crimes against women? Has the Church's silence signaled its support of “Missing White Woman Syndrome” like the news media? Are we in step with the Spirit?

We will not be silent!



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JOIN US IN DAILY PRAYER AT 6 A.M. ET

Dial-in: 267-807-9611 | Access Code 172051

 **LOTT CAREY**

HAVE YOU S

• To submit a tip online—tips.fbi.gov • Telephone—1-800-CALL-FBI

The statistics are shocking—600,000 people go missing every year and 4,400 unidentified bodies are recovered each year. These numbers from the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, a national information clearinghouse and resource center, lead the organization to conclude: “The sheer volume of missing and unidentified person cases poses one of the greatest challenges to agencies tasked with resolving these important cases.”

USA MISSING



Dulce Maria Alavez
Last Seen: Bridgeton, NJ
September 2019



April Jean Bailey
Last Seen: Nashua, NH
January 2020



Mayushi Bhagat
Last Seen: Jersey City, NJ



Lori Ann Boffman
Last Seen: Youngstown, OH
August 2006



Diamond Yvette Bradley
Last Seen: Chicago, IL
July 2001



Khadijah Rose Britton
Last Seen: Covelo, CA



Maribel Oquendo Carrero
Last Seen: Homestead, FL
December 1982



Anthonette Christine Cayedito
Last Seen: Gallup, NM
April 1996



Madalina Cojocari
Last Seen: Cornelius, NC
November 2022



Devin Sacoya Cooper
Last Seen: Columbus, OH
August 2021



Mary Johnson Davis
Last Seen: Tulalip
Reservation
Washington State
November 2020



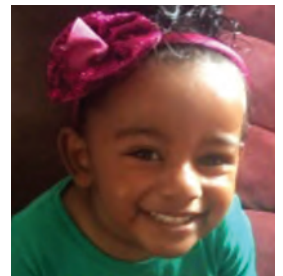
Asha Jaquilla Degree
Last Seen: Shelby, NC
February 2000



Keiosha Marie Felix
Last Seen: Duson, LA



Tina Marie Finley
Last Seen: Plummer, ID
March 1988



Arriana Fitts
Last Seen: Oakland, CA
February 2016

SEE THEM?

- Text BIAMMU and your tip to 847411 • Telephone—1-800-CALL-FBI
- Email—OJS_MMU@bia.gov

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior: "For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of women. Community advocates describe the crisis as a legacy of generation of government policies of forced removal, land seizures and violence inflicted on Native peoples." BIA estimates about 4,200 missing and murdered cases have gone unsolved.

NATIVE AMERICANS



Ida Beard
Last Known Location:
El Reno, OK
July 15, 2022



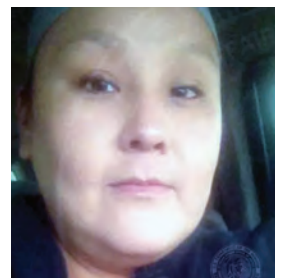
Ella Mae Begay
Last Known Location:
Sweetwater, AZ
June 15, 2021



Ranelle Rose Bennett
Last Known Location:
Shiprock, NM
June 23, 2021



Shacaiah Harding
Last Known Location:
Tumbleweed Runaway Center,
Billings, MT
July 23, 2018



Freda Knowshisgun
Last Known Location:
Kennewick, WA
October 18, 2016



Arden Pepion
Last Known Location:
Browning, MT
April 22, 2021



Ashley Loring Heavy Runner
Last Known Location:
Browning, MT
June 5, 2017



Tracy Michelle Samuels
Last Known Location:
Tulsa, OK
February 17, 1993



Mary Eleanor Thacker
Last Known Location: Reno-
Sparks Indian Colony, NV
May 6, 1988



Tyana Whitehawk
Last Known Location:
Anderson, CA
December 26, 2021



Pauline Williams
Last Known Location:
Choctaw, MS
August 2003

Lack of awareness, data hinders cases of missing and murdered Native American women, study finds

NBCnews.com
July 30, 2020

A new report documents more than 2,300 missing Native American women and girls in the U.S., underscoring the reasons behind the lack of awareness and scrutiny in these cases.



Day 1 Australia: Lamentations 1:2

Creator God, I come humbly before You to acknowledge and respect the Kambuwal people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the writing of this prayer takes place and to Elders past and present. Lord, I thank You for the wonder and beauty of the 300 Aboriginal nations with over 600 dialects of language who have dwelt on this land now called Australia.

In this next breath of prayer, I acknowledge the unimaginable suffering of Australia's First Nations people created by colonial invasion. The mountains, the rivers, the desert and the bush weep, the blood of the innocent cry out from the land. Jehovah Rapha, bind up the generational wounds, bring healing and restoration.

Father God, I especially bring to You the most vulnerable and abused—First Nation women and girls. Indigenous daughters of this land have been forgotten, ignored, missing, and left in despair. Lord, give us eyes to see their pain and ears to hear the cries of these precious women who are twelve times more likely to be murdered than the average Australian and 32 times more likely to be hospitalized due to family violence.

“She weeps bitterly during the night, with tears on her cheeks. There is no one to offer comfort,” says Lamentations 1:2.

See each one, Lord, and be a comfort. Envelop them with Your presence. We pray the police and justice system would be radically improved. We pray against reluctance and inaction to investigate missing indigenous women and violence against First Nations women. Lord, we ask You would grant sensitivity and wisdom regarding the complexities of trauma to those on the front line. Almighty God, smash down walls of systemic discrimination and break down the cultural strongholds of indifference, cynicism, and apathy.

Sovereign Lord, we ask for Your hand over the coming parliamentary inquiry into the missing and murdered Indigenous women and children. May it make a tangible difference and create a legacy of justice and impact for good.

O God, we mourn the missing mothers, sisters, and daughters. We cry out in lament: “How long, O Lord, how long? Bring comfort to the families and communities, count their precious tears, and tend to their broken hearts. Father God, hear our prayer. Amen.”

*Elissa Macpherson
President, Baptist Women of the Pacific
National Director, Australian Baptist Women
Brisbane, Australia*

Photo: cottonbro studio, Pexels



Day 2 Bahamas: Genesis 16:13

Creator God, You see us and know us by name and for this connection, we praise Your name. Even when systems are set in place to keep us silent, You alone, God, create ways and means for our voice to be heard.

Thank You for the hush harbors that hold sacred space for us to let go. So many plague our homes, communities, and world, and many are glossed over or simply ignored. Yet, we are reminded that like Hagar, You see us. And so, God, because You see the missing women and girls of color in the Bahamas, and because You see the injustices in the systems that have overlooked their stories, and You see and hear the cries of family and friends who attest to their love for their missing loved ones, we ask You to intervene.

God, because we recognize Your power, we now ask for provision. We need You, Mother God, to provide tender, gentle care for those who are missing. We need Your patience and compassion for those who search, please provide resources wherever there is a lack. Please give us unity where there is division. We need Your help because we need action.

God, we trust You. Therefore, we believe You can and will make a way out of no way. And when we don't know what to do ourselves, like King Jehoshaphat, we affirm that our eyes are on You. We know the odds don't look good when our daughters are missing. We know that thousands of daughters go missing every year. We know that their cases hardly ever grab national headlines, and the valley of the shadow of death is overwhelming. But You alone are God. And so, we seek Your face. Please heal our land and deliver our daughters. This prayer we ask in the matchless, magnificent, powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

*Rev. Littycia A. Clay-Crawley, Senior Pastor
New Life Community Church
Aylett, Virginia*

Photo: Anthony Trivet, Pexels



Day 3 *Brazil: Psalm 22:23-24*

Dear Lord, Creator of Life, we stand before You to ask for mercy for the 70,000 people who disappear every year in Brazil, half of them girls, young and black women.

Sovereign God who wants us to have life in abundance, we place in Your hands the lives of these women who end up disappearing voluntarily or involuntarily due to family conflicts, sexual violence, drugs, rejection of sexual preference, and kidnapping for adoption or prostitution.

Forgive, Lord, the structural racism that has affected Brazil for centuries and that makes Black people the most missing people, treated as disposable. Help, Lord, that people who defend the right to life in Brazil can change this cruel system of extermination of the Black population, most of which are women.

God of Justice, forgive the public agents who omit themselves in the face of this human drama, who do not even have detailed records of how many, who they are, and why the tens of thousands of women are missing throughout Brazil.

We also remember the mothers who suffer from the disappearance of their sons and daughters and who fight for justice to be done so that one day they can find them, can take care of them, have them back together, or at least bury their dead.

At the same time, we are very grateful to You, inspirer of peace and justice, for the women of resistance and courage, who created organi-

zations of mothers who work to pressure public agents and create their own resources to find missing children and adolescents.

We praise You for Associação Mães da Sé (Mothers of Sé Association) in São Paulo, founded in 1996 by Vera Lúcia Ranú, who lost her 13-year-old daughter, Fabiana Gonçalves, in 1992, and by Ivanise Esperidião, whose 13-year-old daughter, Fabiana Espiridião, disappeared in 1995.

Also, for the organization Mães em Luta (Mothers in Struggle) in São Paulo, founded by Vera Lúcia Ranú, in 2005, to educate children and adolescents in schools to prevent disappearances. Mães da Sé and Mães em Luta have already managed to find more than 10,000 people in Brazil. Thank You, Lord.

We also thank the NGO Mães Virtuosas do Brasil (Virtuous Mothers of Brazil) in Rio de Janeiro, founded in 2019 by Luciene Torres, whose nine-year-old daughter, Luciane Torres, disappeared in 2009, and has been active in the search for the missing and in the support and accompaniment of suffering families.

Please sustain the strength of these organizations and of all those who work for justice for the disappeared women in Brazil. Amen.

*Dr. Magali Cunha
Researcher on Media, Religions and Politics
Institute of Religious Studies/ISER
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Photo: Sameera Ganegoda, Pexels



Day 4 Canada: Psalm 103:19



Awesome, mighty, gracious, loving and always faithful God: We come before You because women and girls who have gone missing within the Canadian border. God, we cry out to You because women continue to be the least and the lost in most cultures and we can stand it no longer.

We long for You to bring our sisters and daughters home.

We call on leading officials—from the Prime Minister to the local leaders—to prioritize the resources that will aid those who are missing. We call on legislation to be passed that sets a standard of wholeness for the victim. We bind any racial divide that would allow for leading officials to treat women of color as “less than” when it comes to the plight of our sisters and daughters unaccounted for.

We long for You to bring our sisters and daughters home.

We lift up the divisions that search for our missing sisters and daughters. As they are ‘boots on the ground’ may they feel an abiding call to reunite families. As search teams follow the clues that will bring our sisters and daughters home, may You give them a mind to think

and a heart to serve those who cry out to be rescued.

We long for You to bring our sisters and daughters home.

We lift up the families of those who have prayed, cried, and filed paperwork for their loved ones to be found. Assure them this day that they do not pray alone. Remind them, O God, that there is an army of prayer warriors who unite this day with the same prayer.

We long for You to bring our sisters and daughters home.

God, we pray for the those who are missing. Give them hope amid despair. Be a light in the midst of the dark. Give resilience where it’s needed. Do not allow their captors to dim their lights. Make them fighters. Make them leaders. Make them warriors.

We long for You to bring our sisters and daughters home.

All this we pray in Jesus’ might name. Amen.

Dr. Rhonda Y. Britton

Senior Pastor

New Horizons Baptist Church

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Photo: cottonbro studio, Pexels





Day 5 Judges 21

Dear God of Justice, we come before You because Scripture reminds us that You hold a special place in Your heart for the lost, those left behind, and those deemed the least in our society. We acknowledge You as our Creator who loves all Your children dearly and equally. You command us to love one another and act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before You. We are especially grateful that You allow us to bring to You our complaints about our broken world and lay before You our petitions when justice is perverted.

Redeeming God, we bring to You women and girls who go missing everyday all over the world. Those who are well known and those whose names are ignored and forgotten:

- God of the Egyptian woman Hagar— captured, enslaved, raped and forced to bear her captor’s child (Genesis 16, 21).
- God of the dancing daughters of Shiloh who were kidnapped and hauled off as child brides to strangers (Judges 21).
- God of the enslaved girl whose gift of clairvoyance was exploited for profit and ill gain by greedy men (Acts 16).

Because Your love is compared to that of a mother hen who gathers all of her vulnerable little ones under her protective wings because it is there that they find warmth and shelter and are reminded where they truly belong, we cry out to You about this disparity in the way missing and murdered women are treated in this world.

We remember the 276 Nigerian school girls ages 16-18 years who were kidnapped by Boko Haram soldiers in 2014. While some girls managed to escape their captors, the vast majority never made it back home to their families. We continue to be haunted by the pain of what happened, none of us more than their families. Lord, heal our trauma.

Here in the U.S., a staggering number of women and girls go missing. Many are victims of violence. Intimate partner violence. Sex trafficking. Kidnapping. Murder. Mysteriously missing under unknown circumstances. It is impossible to calculate the harm that’s done to the survivors, the families, the friends, the people who know these women and love them. Compounded upon the grief is the fact that not all missing women and girls are treated the same. Not all receive the same attention and public news coverage. Accounts about missing women and girls of color—Black, Latino, native and indigenous, and transgender—simply do not get the same coverage as white women.

The late journalist Gwen Ifill is the one who called this to our attention. She called it the “missing white woman syndrome,” when the media is fixated on stories about missing young, white, female victims to the exclusion of other missing women and girls who do not fit the helpless white female stereotype.

Every disappearance, every death is a tragedy but

the media response to the cases of Black and Brown women is part of a larger pattern in which a victim’s race dictates the magnitude of the coverage she receives. This shouldn’t be. There is a reason the names of Polly Klaas, JonBenét Ramsey, Elizabeth Smart, Chandra Levy, and Gabby Petito are well-known in our cultures.

But who will sing a song for missing Black girls such as eight-year-old Relisha Rudd from Washington, D.C., who went missing in 2014 and is presumed dead? Who will call the names of the missing eleven Black women who were murdered by Cleveland strangler Anthony Sowell (2007-2009) or the multiple women raped and murdered by Kansas City serial killer Timothy Haslett (2022) whose victims’ families were all told by the authorities the women were probably on drugs or had run away?

How is it that Black and Brown women are blamed for being missing and get blamed for allowing themselves to be murdered? Missing females shouldn’t have to be white, rich, or attractive for their stories to matter to the public.

As thinking women of faith, we will not remain silent at this injustice. Our silence has not protected us. We draw from the example of women in the holy word who partnered with God in speaking up and healing a broken world:

- The girlfriends of Jephthah’s daughter who wept and refused to allow the name of their fallen sister be forgotten (Judges 11).
- Jael, who outmaneuvered her predator and saved her people (Judges 4).
- The women in the book of Acts who understood the power of prayer and the power of women’s collective organizing.

We are not paralyzed by fear nor will we be dumbfounded by injustice. Missing Black and Brown women, poor women, trans women will not remain nameless. They will not be forgotten. We will call their names in prayer. We will amplify Black, Brown, Hispanic, and transgender women stories on our social media platforms. We thank

You for our white allies. Understand that this is not about competing with white women in tragedy but about making sure the lives of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) women are honored and heralded as well.

To paraphrase Ella Baker, godmother and advisor to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and other young activists: “Until the killing of Black (women) is as important as the killing of white (women), we who believe in freedom cannot rest.”

Hear our prayer, Mother-Father God. Send us Your protection. Strengthen our hands for the work ahead. Save us from despair. Grant us Your peace and passion for justice.

Renita J. Weems, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs
American Baptist College
Nashville, Tennessee

Photo: Khoa Vù, Pexels



Day 6 Chile: Mark 5:41



ur dear God, You know all things even our most hidden thoughts, as well as the joys and sorrows that we all have. We recognize that You are a just God, a God who heals, a God that can set us free. You are a God of love and of mercy, who feels the pain suffered by the most defenseless.

We pray from this long and slender country on the Pacific Ocean for each of the new families from all nations that arrive to this land to find a better life. More than a million and a half people have migrated to Chile, leaving their homes to arrive at the unknown . . . looking for a better life. This is the reason we pray now—for them and thousands of young girls with a dream.

Father, we pray for all the girls coming from Haiti, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia. Many times, faced with economic instability, they are working on the streets, exposed to strangers who abuse them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

Father, we are anguished and hurt. There is a heartbreaking cry in each of us knowing that so many girls coming from foreign countries cannot study and do not have access to decent healthcare. For this reason, we plead for the lives of so many building their path in a far land and do not have the care and attention from their families.

We pray for the girls that from a very young age are exposed to mistreatment, violence, exploitation, and sexual commerce. We intercede on their behalf, those who suffer in silence and are unprotected from the care of their loved ones.

We pray for the young girls who have disappeared in Chile without a trace. Because we believe, Lord Jesus, that You are a defender of justice and You love those girls that we ask: Have mercy on them. Take care of them with Your divine protection.

We pray for our churches so that they can welcome those girls who have suffered abuse and violence. In an act of faith, we proclaim the Aramaic phrase Jesus spoke when he raised Jairus' daughter from the dead—*Talitha cumi*—"Little girl, I say to you, arise!" Just as the Bible reaffirms that You, Lord Jesus, gave life to this girl, we ask that You rescue girls and women who have been plunged into darkness, forced to live violently, and who have already lost all hope.

Dear God and Creator of our lives, please hear our plea. Help the helpless stand. We ask this in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Amen.

*Alejandra N. Riveros Martínez
Publicist, Journalist, and Teacher
Santiago, Chile*

Photo: Jasmin Chew, Pexels





Day 7 Croatia: Isaiah 54:4–53



Lord, God of all the earth, we call upon your promises
of redemption and freedom

For the women and girls that went missing
in a hub of human trafficking in Croatia,
which has become an unstable region.

Lord, we pray that the promise of
justice, peace, and dignity become a reality
for these young women.

Most are young Roma girls
abandoned by people and institutions
and handed over to abusers of all sorts.
You see them, Lord; You know where they are.
As they call upon You in their distress,
please fulfill their faith in Your redemption.

Lord, here are the names and birth years
of some listed in the missing persons records
of the Croatian police:

Damirka Hudrović, 2006.

Louanga Luzenga, 1997.

Aurora Bakić, 2009.

Esmeralda Balog, 2007.

Lorena Žižak, 2007.

Valentina Zahirović, 2007.

Ferida Zahirović, 2006.

Valeria Valderama Santos, 1993.

Valerija Veljković, 2000.

Aurora Carmela Vrabez, 2005.

Chettana Taprap, 1980.

Ana Topić, 1988.

Lara Trbušić Golubić, 2006.

Katarina Severin, 1998.

Tina Smoljo, 2000.

Diana Radulović, 1995.

Urša Rednak, 1995.

Samanta Riza Miftarević, 2008.

Danijela Nikolić, 1996.

Mary Valeria Nikolić, 2005.

Leticia Mahnić, 2005.

Slađana Matijašević, 1987.

Ksenija Mikan, 1976.

Ines Miković, 2007.

Kristina Murić, 1989.

Mayunga Mumbala, 1996.

Debora Katić, 2006.

Mazenga Kele, 1994.

Denifer Kos, 2006.

Andrea Kušenić, 2002.

Jasmina Jusufović, 2007.

Dina Imamović, 1995.

Đehva Hamidović, 1975.

Martina Horvat, 1982.

Valentina C. Horvat, 1998.

Manuela Horvat, 2005.

Vanessa Hrustić, 2000.

Damirka Hudrović, 2006.

Desire Hudrović, 2007.

Tihana Grgić, 1999.

Vinka Filipović, 2005.

Tia Franković, 2004.

*Dr. Ksenija Magda
Associate Professor of Biblical Studies
Centre for Protestant Theology
University of Zagreb
Member, 1st Baptist Church
Zagreb, Croatia*

Photo: Ann Vosk, Pexels



Day 8 Dominican Republic: Proverbs 31:8

G

racious God of the Universe, Our Great Defender, and Divine Protector, grant us courage to lift our voices on behalf of our sisters in the Dominican Republic. Over the past two years there have been 15,000 reported cases of violence against women in the capital city of Santo Domingo and several women are missing.

Today, we remember, and we call the names of Ana Antonia Llanos, 39; Yeni Reyes, 27; Lucía de la Rosa, 27; Mayelin Guzmán, 23; Mercedes Montero Valdez, 40; María Dolores Marte, 54; Lucecita Parra, 36; Idaiza Sierra, 21; Marisol Bautista Arredondo, 29; and Lourdes García, 42.

May the names of these women be a clarion call for justice and reform in the Dominican government and the church universal. Make us consciously aware of women who are missing in the Dominican Republic and forgive us for our silence that is also a form of violence against these women. May our advocacy and prayers give voice to their lives and the contributions they made in their community.

We pray against human traffickers who exploit domestic and foreign victims in the Dominican Republic. We pray for a hedge of protection around the women and children in impoverished areas, who are often victims of sex trafficking throughout the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean, South and Central America, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. God, who sees and knows all, also protect the foreign victims of human sex trafficking who are brought to the Dominican Republic from Haiti, Asia, Latin America, and other parts of the Caribbean.

We lift our voices in lament and we mourn for those who are missing. We pray for the families who are traumatized by unanswered questions and lost hope in their loved one being found alive and well. We pray for those family members who are experiencing extreme pain, grief, loneliness, and depression—grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, nieces, cousins.

Give the families and communities the courage to share information that may lead to the recovery of missing women. May law enforcement do thorough investigations and give proper attention to these cases. Agitate us and let us never become comfortable with the pillaging of Black and Brown lives.

Open our hearts to hear and tell the stories of women who are missing in the Dominican Republic. Give us vision of a world filled with Your love, where women and girls are protected from violence, rape, abduction, and murder. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Rev. Dr. Antoinette G. Alvarado
Co-Pastor
Grace Church International
Atlanta, Georgia*

Photo: Korede Adenola, Pexels



Day 9 *Ethiopia: Genesis 16:13*



All-Seeing God, we join our hearts to give You thanks for the privilege and power of prayer, and for this venue in which our collective prayers are raised for our sisters, for our kin throughout the world.

We entreat You, especially on behalf of women and girls of Ethiopia who are missing. We hold them in our hearts, along with their families and communities whose lives, too, have been disrupted. We remember their pain and disorientation as they are separated from the community and ways that feel to them like home.

Because there is no place where You are absent, no condition that blocks Your view, and no circumstance in which Your saving arm is shortened, we pray for restoration. We pray for a return home from the exile of those who were kidnapped and displaced. We ask more than just for their bodies to be returned; we believe it is possible for their joy and peace to be restored. We pray for redemption and renewal.

As we remember those who experience the profoundest of violations, we also pray for all the women and girls who know the possibility of violence and always feel vulnerable. Mend the broken and give peace to those who are feeling terrorized.

In so many ways, we are lifting up the conditions and catastrophes that result from making war. And so, we close this pray by asking that You will give us all the will and wisdom to make peace. Create in us, through us, and for us communities that study war no more and where the harms and desolations of violence are no more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Dr. Leslie Callahan, Pastor
St. Paul Baptist Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Photo: Jack Sparrow, Pexels



Day 10 Ghana: John 2:9–10



ur Father who art in Heaven, we do hallow Your name. We come, Lord, first with thanksgiving in our hearts and with praise on our lips. Knowing that even in the midst of our struggles You are still God.

We live in a time where love has waxed cold. We pray for the families of the four young ladies who were kidnapped and murdered—Ruth Abekah, 18; Priscilla Blessing Bentum, 21; Ruth Love Quayson, 18; and Priscilla Mantebea Koranchie, 15.

Yes, some time has passed since their tragic disappearances in 2018 but the pain of loss still lingers.

Yes, some changes have been made, but we pray for Your intervention in stopping the violence and human trafficking.

When love waxes cold we treat one another inhumanely. Father, lay Your hand of mercy and grace upon those who live in fear.

Father, change the hearts of those who use human lives as a way of making money. Father, raise up those in the law enforcement and political positions who have a true desire to protect and provide for the people. Your Word tells us, Lord, that hate will plunge us further into darkness, and there is already too much darkness in our world.

We pray that Your light would shine on those dark places and cause hope to spring forth.

Father, we intercede on behalf of the women and girls of Ghana for their protection. We intercede for them to be respected and given freedom to walk in the life You have set forth for them. We pray for the women and girls of Ghana and so many other countries that they too no longer be treated as property but seen as equal.

Father, we thank You for hearing us. In Jesus' name. Amen

*Dr. Earlene Coleman
Senior Pastor
Bethlehem Baptist Church
McKeesport, Pennsylvania*

Photo: Muhammad-taha Ibrahim, Pexels





Day 11 Guyana: Mark 11: 22-24



ost-high God, You are our great all-loving, all-knowing, and all-powerful creator of the universe. Precious God, we know that You are the hope and protector of all humanity. We thank You for this privilege of prayer as we the women of the Guyana Missionary Baptist Churches join with the women of the Lott Carey global family around Your glorious throne to pray for the women in our global village.

We give You special thanks for the women of Guyana and for how You have extended Your grace and loving mercies towards us. Thank You, Lord, for being our refuge and deliverer. Thank You so much for delivering us from the hands of the enemy and for providing for our every need. We are very appreciative to You, O Lord. Accept our praises.

Merciful God, today we join our global sisters in prayers for women and girls who are missing or have been abducted from their families. God of hope, bless all families whose loved ones are missing. Comfort them as they deal with the agony of not knowing whether their loved one is alive or dead. Give these families the blessing of Your grace that they may face each day with courage and hope.

All-sufficient God, we pray for all women and girls who are being held against their will, wherever they are Almighty God, cover them in the precious blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ and grant them grace to survive whatever ordeal they are facing right now.

Righteous God, we pray today for all abductors: We ask that by the power of Your holy spirit You would convict and confound them and cause them to release Your daughters unharmed, in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, we pray that as Your daughters are released that You will provide safe passage for them and that You will restore them to safe and trusting relationships.

Lord, empowers us, the women of Lott Carey global family, so that we will continue to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; help us to work tirelessly to ensure justice for the poor, helpless and exploited. We know that all things are possible with You. We know our prayer is heard and Your will is done on earth.

We thank You for Your everlasting mercies, so be it . . . Amen and Amen.

*Roxanne Persaud
Deacon
Abrams Creek Baptist Church
Pomeroon River, Guyana*

Photo: Sam Jhay, Pixels





Day 12 *Jeremiah 31:15*



od of our silent, loud, wailing, and unrelenting tears: Hear our prayers. We come before You on behalf of Your daughters, created in Your image. Like Rachel, we refuse to be comforted (Jeremiah 31:15) as we remember our missing sisters, daughters, friends, lovers, wives, cousins, mothers, and all the many ways these women in Ohio were known,

understood, and loved.

Missing. Hundreds of women from every major city in Ohio and from every corner of the state. Missing from small towns, from college dorms, from graduation parties, from grocery stores. Missing. By hands or ways unknown to us. But You know, O God.

We are the wailing women that Jeremiah said needed to be called. And so, we come.

For the prophet, it was death by wars and famine, brought on by judgement. But we are here because of the possible death of daughters missing for reasons unknown to us. We have come, skilled in raising a dirge, in drowning our eyes with tears. See the flood of our longing for our sister, dear God (Jeremiah 9:17–18). See and respond. How long must these families (must we) go without resolution? Evil stalked these beloved; only righteousness can make it right.

Come to their defense. You are the seeing and knowing God. Show authorities where to look; trouble the minds of any who participated in their abductions; free any of them who may still be bound; bring comfort to all who love them. You alone are our hope for them, O God. You alone can make it right. And while I name some, it is by no means all who have been missing, some as far back at the 1950s. Some as late as this last week. Merciful God, hear us. Answer us. Deliver our sisters.

Remember in mercy: Sacova Cooper, Raja McQueen, Bertha Williams, Alexis Jackson, Parriss Hopson, Le-Shay Dungey, Erica Jones, Kimberly Wilson-Talley, Dawn Sneed, Connie Frances Leonard, Maebell Dawson, Charlene Victoria Price, Brandie Hicks, Dorothy Marie Douglas, Janis Pringle, Kim Walker, Lori Ann Boffman, Gloria Virginia Walker, Nevaeh Cleveland, Markeia Hamilton, and Kennedy Wheeler.

Hold in Your holy heart: Shaniece Mona Briggs, Claudia Lopez-Escobar, Samantha Ardrena Joseph, Venessa Jones, Mary Cox (missing 35 years), Elaine Ford, Trinia Williams, Carmella Dixon, Queenamya McClendon, Makayla Wells, and Kyana Gray.

We pray in the name of all that is holy, right, and true. We pray on behalf of all their loved ones and in the presence of our ancestors. We pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

*Rev. Valerie Bridgeman, Ph.D.
Founding President & CEO
WomanPreach!
Delaware, Ohio*

Photo: PNW Production



Day 13 *Haiti: Romans 5:5*

Heavenly Father, we come to You humbled today; humbled because You are God almighty and You see us and You hear our cries. We are so grateful to be called Your daughters. You know us by name and You care about our situations.

We come to You on behalf of all the women in Haiti right now who are missing, who have been kidnapped or captured against their will; the women and girls who have been taken without anyone knowing. You know them by name. You see them where they are. You know their needs and You care.

Father, we ask that You protect them, hold them in Your loving arms. Wherever they are today, please catch every tear that falls. Let them feel Your presence and peace. Pour Your strength over them today and every day. Give them courage to continue to fight. We pray that they will not give up, and that they will be rescued.

We also pray for their captors. We pray that their hearts will be moved with compassion to release these precious daughters of Yours.

Father, You said whatever we ask for in prayer, we will receive once we believe and have faith. Today, we declare, Lord, that we continue to stand strong in faith, believing that all the missing women in Haiti will come home. Until then, wherever they are, almighty God, cover them in the precious blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray they find grace to survive whatever they are facing right now. Amen.

*Linotte Joseph
Founder/CEO
Mission of Grace, Haiti
Greenacres, Florida*

Photo: Zachary Vessels, Pexels





Day 14 *India: Luke 1:45*



Dear Lord, we ask You today to protect the millions of poverty stricken women in India who set out from their homes each day in search of a livelihood. A few reach their destinations and labor on building sites receiving less remuneration than their male counterparts for equal tasks or become bonded laborers in homes—tolling from dawn to dusk, often abused and tormented, hungry and worn out.

Lord, there are victims of feticide and others aborted before they are born. Many are sold into the flesh trade and exploited in the worst possible ways. Often, no one even bothers to look for them until it is too late. They dwell among the statistics of missing Indian women.

Help our countrymen, Lord, to respect womankind, to remember that they too were born of women. Help women to fight for their rights, to be strong in thought, word, and deed; help them to believe

that You, their Lord and Master, are with them—helping, guiding, and protecting them.

Dear Lord, we have faith and trust in You. We know that nothing is impossible for You. We pray that You might hear the voices raised to You for help, we pray that You comprehend the unsaid words of the women too tired to speak. We know that You will hear our prayers and earnest supplications. We make our fervent plea in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*D.A. Tressler,
Chairperson and Director
Somerville School
Lott Carey Baptist Mission in India
New Delhi, India*

Photo: Indu Kant, Pixabay



Day 15 *Italy: John 1:5*



od our Savior and Rescuer, we know You are the light; the real, concrete light of our lives. The light we experience every day in our journey on this earth. We know You are the transcendent light that can shine in darkness; that illuminates the souls and that leads us nearer to You. How grateful we are to have such a light at our side to conquer darkness.

But gratitude is not enough.

How many girls are missing in the darkness of violence, pain, and sorrow? How many women are missing in the darkness of shallow lives and fruitless relationships? How many young, beautiful lives are missing in the waves of dark fate and uncertain future? How many lives are missing on the shores of Lampedusa? How many mothers are missing on the ships that are denied a safe port? How many daughters are missing in the idle bureaucracy of our governments? How many?

Their names are in our newspapers every morning. Their names are broadcast every evening on our news. Deep darkness swallows them and their stories long before they reach our eyes and ears. Too many.

How many need Your light to be found? Too many.

God, we pray that You rescue them all. God, be their light so they can find a way out of darkness. Lord, shine in their lives so they can see a bright future and a luminous shelter.

Help us, Lord, to become torchbearers. Help us to be the light of the world the way You want us to be. Help us keep our eyes and ears open so that we can find those missing in the many in the darkness of this world. Help us see them and hear them. Eventually, hand in hand, we will pray . . . reunited.

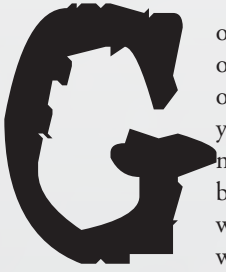
Susanna Chiarenzi
Member, Preacher
Christian Evangelical Baptist Union
of Italy
Milan, Italy

Photo: Andrea Piacquadio, Pexels





Day 16 *Jamaica: Psalm 107:13–14*



God is a deliverer and redeemer of all who cry out for our sisters of Jamaica. We cry out for the young girls and women whose names we may never know, but whose names, whose fears, whose faces, whose traumas, and whose futures God knows and

counts precious.

God, we ask You to meet our sisters in their distress and save them. God, bring them out of their hidden and heavy places. Break the chains that have enslaved them, that have stolen them from their homes and their hopes, and that have weighed them down in despair.

Deliver these Your Daughters to safety, to healing, to restoration, and to good care. God, tear down the systems that exchange female bodies for silver pieces and that benefit those who turn a blind eye. Reveal the governments, groups, and godforsaken spirits that participate and profit from these heinous, sinful acts.

Those who have been enslaved by sin's abusive grip as captors or by humanity's gross misconduct as missing captives need to know that Your power and deliverance are true.

May God open the eyes, ears, hearts, finances, and safe lands of those in position to bring deliverance to our Sisters. May God end the grip of the greedy and graceless from receiving benefits from hostages. Our God is both gracious and vengeful, great in power and willing to punish those who count themselves as God's enemies.

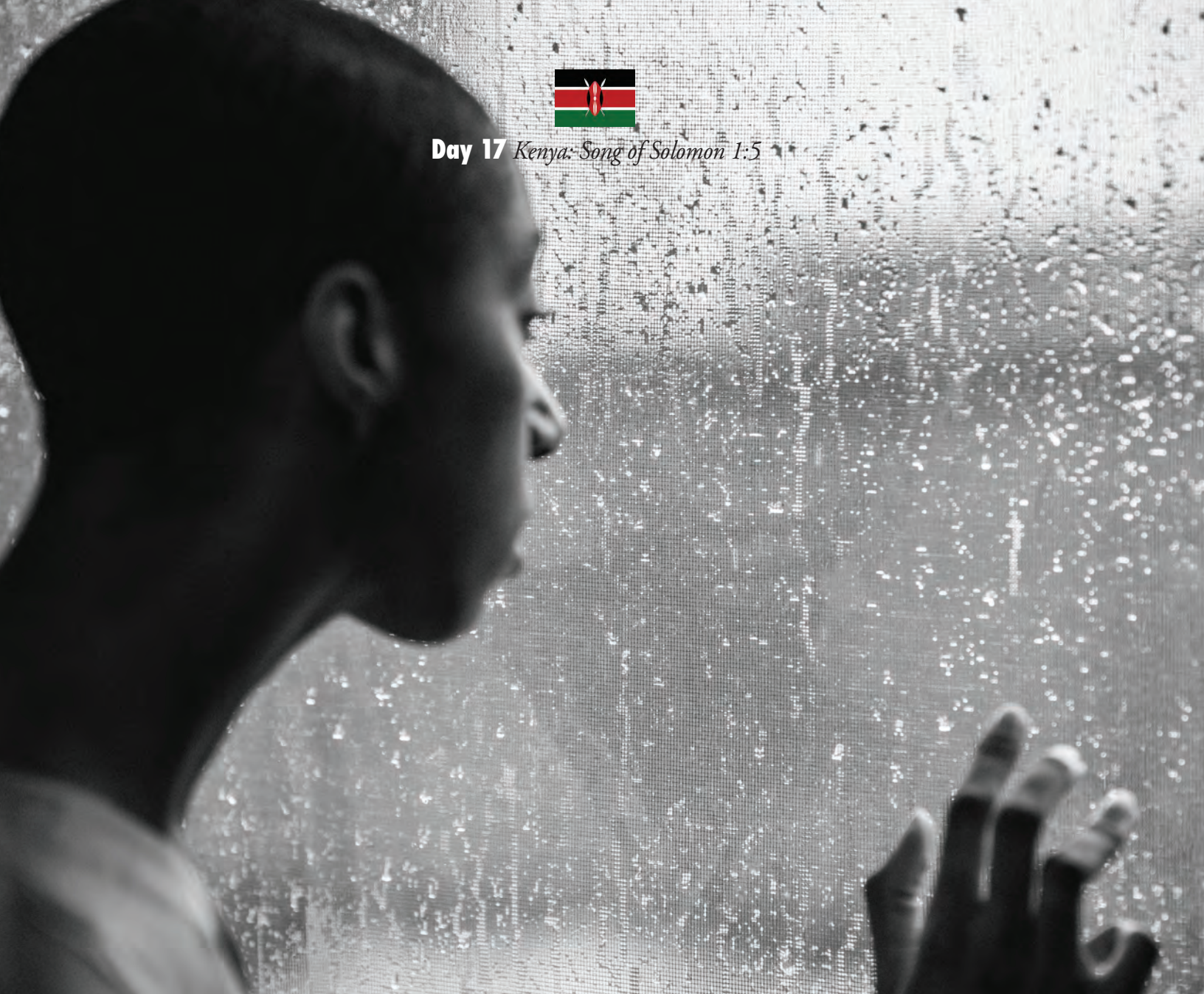
From the shadows of death, Lord, bring life and light to these, Your children. From the terror and trouble, God, bring back our sisters to their homes. We need You God. They need You God. Remember our cries and bring blessings to our sisters.

*Rev. Robin Kay Monk Self
Associate Minister
Bates Memorial Baptist Church
Marriage & Family Therapy Specialist
Louisville Seminary Counseling Center
Louisville, Kentucky*

Photo: Eze Joshua, Pexels



Day 17 *Kenya: Song of Solomon 1:5*



Iwould love to be in a world where people can accomplish a lot and live life to the fullest without being restricted because of gender, language, physical ability, social and economic class, race and color, or other factors none of us had a choice in.

Lord, You created us all unique:

In Your hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind (Job 12:10). You made from one man every nation of humankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.

In You we live and move and have our being. We are indeed Your offspring (Acts 17:26-28).

Save Your own, Lord.

Save humanity.

Save those who are suffering.

Save us, Lord.

*Rev. Dawn Gikandi
Institutional Minister
Presbyterian Church of East Africa
Nairobi, Kenya*

Photo: Klaus Nielsen, Pexels



Day 18 Liberia: Micah 6:8



M

ost merciful and compassionate God, with grateful hearts we pause to say thank You. Thank You for all that You have done, all that You are doing and all that You will do.

According to Your word, You have called us and given us the authority to set the captives free and restore peace to the broken-hearted. Your word encourages us to do what

is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with You. Just as we are, we pause to petition You with grateful hearts on behalf of our sisters and kids who are continuously being victims of every form of violence; and for those who have gone missing.

Every day in the local news and on social media we hear of missing women and girls, some found dead in the streets or communities. Some bodies have been found with their parts extracted for reasons best known to the kidnappers and killers. Some of the victims are held as hostages for the sake of getting ransoms from their parents or caregivers.

Our all-powerful God, we ask for Your mercy and intervention. Wherever the missing sisters and kids are, we pray for their protection

and reunification with their families. As the families await the return of their relatives who had gone missing, we pray that their faith in You will not waiver; that they will stand firm in their confidence in You.

Scripture reminds us to ask and we will receive; to seek and we will find; and to knock and doors will be open to us. We are also encouraged in scripture to ask with faith; and to trust not in our own understanding, but to acknowledge You in all our ways. You are acknowledged as the only One who can bring the issue of missing women and girls to an everlasting end. Thus, we have come to You for Your intervention. Please hear us and bring our sisters and kids back home; please release them from the hands of the evil forces.

We choose to trust You because those who trust in You are firm like Mount Zion. As the mountains surround Jerusalem so You surround Your people. As we glorify You we say thank You.

*Rev. Monen Jacquelynn Duoe
Associate Pastor
Effort Baptist Church
Paynesville, Liberia*

Photo: Robert Ruggiero, Pixabay



Day 19 *Jeremiah 23:24*



reat and awesome God, You loves and care deeply about the people You created in Your image and likeness—regardless of race, ethnicity, color, class, and gender. You are concerned about every one of us, so much so that You keep Your eyes on each of us. Your word reminds us in Jeremiah 23:24 that there is no secret place we can hide from You. No matter

where we are, we are never out of Your sight.

Unfortunately, we cannot always say that about us as humans regarding one another. There are individuals who slip out of our view, and we can no longer see them. All across this nation, there are missing women and girls who we can no longer see. African American women and girls are reported missing at a disproportionate rate. In 2020, a quarter of a million women and girls were reported missing—about 40% were African American, even though they are only 13% of the general population. This is no less true in the state of Georgia, in general, and the City of Atlanta, in particular.

The reasons for these statistics are many and complicated. Atlanta is one of the biggest hubs of sex trafficking, and women and girls are literally snatched off the streets or lured into it. Women of color are also disproportionately affected by intimate partner violence, leading to their disappearance.

Families are left to find their missing loved ones on their own, especially when the victims are Black. Law enforcement often seems disinterested, informing families that they must wait 24 to 48 hours to report a person missing. The media does not keep the community informed. They are not as interested in publishing African American women's stories as white women, rendering these women unimportant and invisible. Out of sight, out of mind.

Unfortunately, the church has not been as aware and engaged in this crisis. God, we know that this is not Your will for these women and girls. We know You to be a God of love, compassion, and justice whose desire is for every woman to be treated equitably and fairly. Forgive us, O God, for our indifference. Stir up in us a passion for the cause of justice on behalf of these women.

Let us remember them and give them dignity by calling their names: Debra Ashley, Samarrh Norris, Mary Ann White, Mary Shotwell, Yolanda Louise Brown, and Jennifer Delgado. Let us lift them before You in prayer and tell their stories on social media and in other conspicuous places.

Give us the courage to advocate for greater sensitivity and interest among law enforcement and the media so that time is not wasted in finding and returning these women and girls to their families and homes, safe and whole. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Cynthia L. Hale, M.Div., D.Min.
Senior Pastor
Ray of Hope Christian Church
Decatur, Georgia*

Photo: Ketut Subiyanto, Pexels



Day 20 Malawi: Psalm 46:1-11

G

racious and righteous God: We come to You this day on behalf of the women and girls of Malawi who are missing. O God, we lift our eyes, hearts, and hands to You who made heaven and earth.

We cry out to You, O God, for Your daughters who are missing and have no voice to speak or save themselves.

We pray, heavenly Father, for Your mercy, grace, protection, and rescue. We ask that You shield Your daughters from dangers seen and unseen. Shelter them under the shadow of Your mighty wings.

Lord, we pray for the global community and the church universal which has been silent in this matter and have not given voice to the voiceless. For silence is violence and embodies the injustice, exploitation and murder of these women and girls.

O God, move upon the hearts and minds of government and law enforcement officials. Enable them to be compassionate and see the urgency and need for action. Move by Your Spirit on church leaders to become the voice for the voiceless needed to denounce this injustice.

Lord, our hope is in You. There is nothing too hard for You, a present help in the time of trouble. With You all things are possible because “the Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge” (Psalm 46:7). We pray, trusting in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Dr. Joyce McDonald
Associate Minister
Fountain Baptist Church
Summit, New Jersey*

Photo: Ayojesu Odeleye, Pexels



Day 21 Mozambique: Proverbs 31:25-26



Dear God, bless the women in Mozambique with heavenly might and light, especially those who have gone missing and have left the world's eye. We know God that none of them have left Your eye, so we ask God that You send ministering angels to them for comfort and support. We ask that You also send warring angels to fight on their behalf.

God, You are the voice of the voiceless, the mother of the motherless, and protection to those who lack shelter. Lord God, we invoke Your power and might to deliver African sisters safely home to their communities. We ask, Lord God, that You heal every wound they sustain. Address and apply balm to every wound inflicted. We know with You that nothing is too hard for any fight. Lord, we lean on Your power and might. We trust Your wisdom and grace, and we take this time to pray with sincere hearts and unified spirits for our sisters across the globe, and particularly for the women in Mozambique.

Lord, give the church power to speak out loudly against the crimes committed against these women. Hold us accountable for our silence and guide us into being more responsible for the women in this region. They are our sisters, cousins, aunts, and mothers. They are our neighbors, so teach us how to love ourselves so we can do better at

loving them.

God, we know nothing is impossible in the work and power of Christ Jesus, so we invoke the power of Christ to the eviscerate strongholds and loose peace and strength. We know the perfect peace given at Calvary was also for the women of Mozambique. We know it was done for their safety and to remind them that God is on their side.

Lord, we know we are all a work in progress. As You stretch, change, and deliver us, we ask that Your grace moves the church and world into a place of repentance, so we work to push the church into unity. We need continually speak out against the violence committed against our sisters. Lord, we know You can keep them and deliver them from evil. We ask for protection and courage as the church leads a social justice movement to maintain awareness for their safety.

Lord, we give thanks as You respond in Your power and might, and we thank You, O Lord, for Your mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Rev. Kelly U. Farrow, Ph.D.
Creator and Principal
Circle of Sacred Fire
New York, New York*

Photo: Binti Malu, Pexels



Day 22 Nigeria: 1 Timothy 3:11

(Editor's Note: A recent report sponsored by the Spotlight Initiative, a global effort to end all forms of violence against girls and women, concluded that 31% of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence in Nigeria; that 1 in 6 girls who are sexually abused experienced it at school; and less than 1% (0.9%) of perpetrators of sexual assault are brought to trial, almost none are convicted. Source: <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/topics/gender-based-violence>)

In Nigeria, the most usual form of gender violence is domestic violence—from forced and early marriages to physical, mental, and sexual assaults on women. There are also other forms of violence, such as emotional abuse, abuse of economic rights and cultural practices that allow clitoral mutilation and deprivation of property rights after the husband dies or especially in a case where the woman has no male child.

Even though legislative policies have been put in place on paper, the political will to enact them is not there so on this note it is very important that the church continues to awaken its members to the need and also function as advocates in this area.

Recently, due to the rise of banditry and kidnapping in the country, women are very much affected. Farmlands are being raided by “herdsmen” and bandits and those mostly affected are women and their children. Families who are exposed to this danger become displaced to neighboring communities where they have to live in makeshift camps. This also disrupts the education of their children. The families must now rely on the mercy of non-government relief organizations, which are usually faith-based. In addition, women have a tough time securing financial loan for their economic empowerment because most do not have collateral.

We ask that:

- God heal the women and strengthen their faith—Luke 11:9 & Ephesians 5:18.
- God help these women walk in the light of His word and raise them as pillars in the church and in society—Matthew 18:19.
- God, by His power and miraculous intervention, return abducted women to their homes—Jeremiah 32:17–27.
- God console the families that are involved and touch men to render necessary assistance to them financially, materially, and otherwise—Luke 6:38 & Hebrews 13:3.
- God raise women in our contemporary society like the prophet Deborah, who can contribute economically and politically to the empowerment of all women.
- God strengthen those women to remain firm in their faith.

Rev. Udemé Otoho

Pastor

Ediene Field – Lott Carey Baptist Mission

Ediene Field, Nigeria

Photo: Victor Ace Geoffrey, Pexels



Day 23 Peru: Romans 15:13



O Lord Most High, God of our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in times of trouble, draw nearer to women and girls in Peru. May Your grace and mercy continue to cover them as they are separated from their loved ones. We humbly ask that You watch over each missing woman and young girl that has been abducted and abused through no fault of their own.

The country of Peru has one of highest rates of violence against women in Latin America. Many women are placed in positions of vulnerability based upon socioeconomic situations. Additionally, they are subjected to systems of injustice that foster prejudices and inequalities against women and girls.

During the pandemic more than 900 women and girls were reported missing and feared dead, with limited accountability for the perpetrators. The families have continually requested the police to investigate the disappearance of missing loved ones but have been left with no answers. It appears those in power lack empathy for the missing women and girls.

God, our Creator, we cry out for our missing sisters that are being denied their basic liberty of freedom. We ask that You break the cycle of physical and sexual abuse that women endure at the hands of their partners. God, we pray that a national data registry be created that will

assist in finding missing women and girls. We pray for the families that are anxiously waiting for the safe return of their loved ones. We pray for informants to stand up and share their knowledge of our missing sisters. We pray the for the leadership of Peru that their hearts will be changed and compassion will be extended to all citizens regardless of gender.

God, our Creator, we cry out for Jessie Ortega, Evelyn Ordaya, Marceline Carrasco, Carmen Mendoza, Estefahanny Diaz and her daughters, Tatiana and Yamile, and the countless other women that have been separated from the families. We know that You are a God that is able to return them home safely.

We cry out for the broken homes to be made whole again and that a healing takes place across Peru. We know that You are a God that is able to do all things and we are trusting that our sisters in Peru will be returned home safely. In the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, we do pray.

*Rev. Dr. LaKeeyna Cooper
Director of Missions & Program Engagement
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina*

Photo: Julia Volk, Pexels



Day 24 *Philippines: Deuteronomy 28:7*



We open our hearts, minds, and souls to worship You. Thank You for allowing us, at this moment, to dwell and live in Your presence. I want to thank You, Father God, as we join mind, body, and spirit to just glorify Your holy name. Come be with us, inspire us, and lead us in our time together.

We have victory in the name of Jesus. We have victory and declare that we are winners when we open the Word of God.

Father God in heaven, I thank You for Your grace and mercy. I pray and declare Deuteronomy 28:7—“The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.”

I pray and declare Luke 10:19 when You grant our sisters in the Philippines, the power of the Holy Spirit and give them the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall, by any means, hurt our sisters.

Father, I take confidence in Your word because it says You are the one and only God that will fight for us. At Your command, there are a

host of angels that will go and defend our missing sisters in the Philippines. In the middle of their battles, Lord, just wrap Your arms around them. Comfort and bless them so they know they are not alone. I ask that our sisters will not be shaken nor fearful because You are with them. Any sense of anxiety, guilt, doubt, hopelessness, depression, or anger, Lord anything that may be hindering them in hearing Your voice, I ask that they are stripped of it all.

Father God, I ask that You send the spirit of hope to them that they may begin to manifest their freedom and safe return home. Lord, show our missing sisters and their families that if they continue to keep their eyes on You, they will one day be reunited.

Father God, I pray this prayer and I am trusting and believing in You. To God be the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Angela Liggans
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Missions Program Coordinator
Alexandria, Virginia*

Photo: Yogii Surya Pangestu, Pexels



Day 25 *South Africa: Psalm 23:1*



ord, You are a good shepherd; You are committed to the security and safety of all people, including women and girls, in all spheres of life. You are God who rescues the poor and the helpless.

We lift up all women and girls in South Africa's nine provinces who are missing, taken against their will. The Bible says You are God and You see all things, know all things. Nothing is hidden from You. We pray that you locate those who are missing, Lord; touch those who have information regarding their whereabouts to be moved and share the information.

May the works of their kidnapers be frustrated. Please allow the women and girls to be found and returned home safely. According to 1 John 5:14 NIV, "This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

We are praying Lord and we know they will return home safely. We

declare, in Jesus' name, that they will come home. This is what the Lord says in Jeremiah 31:16–17 NIV: "Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded . . . They will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your descendants . . . Your children will return to their own land."

We continue to pray for Naledi Robina Ramobo, 20; Ciliya Rasebote, 40; Tinyiko Angel Mashimbye, 32; Miracle Eunice Gafane, 18; Eliabeth van der Merwe, 37; and Hlamalani Chauke, 17. Amen.

*Pastor Sylvia Thantsha
President, Women's Department
Baptist Convention of South Africa
Zuurbekom, South Africa*

Photo: Eze Joshua, Pexels



Day 26 *2 Chronicles 16:9*



Dear All-Seeing and All-Knowing God: We lift our eyes to You, standing on the promise in Your Word that Your eyes search the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are loyal to You (2 Chronicles 16:9). As intercessors, we lift our voices to heaven asking on behalf of three missing persons in the State of New Jersey—Dulce Maria Alavez, 8; Sierra S. Thomas, 40; and Bernadine Gunner, 65.

We ask that You uncover and reveal information to law enforcement officials about their whereabouts, which could breathe new life into their cold cases. Please open the eyes and ears of those who are searching so that they might find answers and evidence that would ease the anxiety of the families and loved ones of our dear sisters Dulce, Sierra, and Bernadine.

The abduction of women and girls is a global crisis about which few seem to care. Sadly, when those abducted are Black and Brown, human concern diminishes drastically. We thank and praise You for being a God Who has made us all fearfully and wonderfully and Who will not allow anyone or anything to separate us from Your love, (Psalm 139:14

and Romans 8:35–39).

Children are the most beautiful blessing that You give. Dulce is younger than Jesus was when He was missing from His parents. Since we know that You are not a respecter of persons, we are praying that Dulce's parents will be able to celebrate a reunion with her.

Sierra is middle-aged. Bernadine is a senior citizen. Yet, all three are Your precious daughters. Their varied ages bear witness to the fact that gendered violence knows no age. We pray fervently that You will comfort and keep everyone who is missing a loved one.

Please help Lott Carey's Women In Service Everywhere (WISE) shine such a bright light on the almost hidden tragedy of missing women and girls that the appropriate resources are allocated to address this global issue. In the all-sufficient name of Jesus, we thank You for hearing our petitions on behalf of our missing sisters. Amen.

*Dr. Carol Lynn Patterson
Associate Pastor
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
Somerset, New Jersey*

Photo: Ltza Summer, Pexels



Day 27 *South Sudan: Job 5:15–16*



O God of light and mercy, we come before Your throne of grace as a declaration of our readiness to be Your light in the world. We present to You all the people whose lives we have been a part of and whose journeys have influenced us. You demonstrate to us through Jesus Christ how to deal with violence and how to turn it into justice and peace.

Father God, we are grateful for our lives as women of faith and, more so, women called towards a higher degree of compassion on behalf of our beloved women and girls of color.

Sovereign God, Your grace knows no bounds and so we cry out to You to heal our world. We pray that You enlighten minds and end primitive, harmful gendered norms and practices in our churches and societies that subject vulnerable females of color to constant violence and jeopardy.

We pray that profound and long-lasting change would guarantee the safety of indigenous women and refugee women who have been adversely affected by extreme violence. We pray for their strength in these oppressive times.

Lord, we bring before You the girls and women who are missing from their homes, those that have been separated from their loved ones, those that are being held captive against their will, and those that are living in unimaginable conditions of suffering and pain. We proclaim and decree that Your mighty hand deliver the oppressed from the

clutches of the evil one. We pray, Lord, for divine providence over the lives of these missing women and girls, that Your grace will be upon them wherever they are, and that Your mercies will guide them in the wake of their rescue.

We pray that effective choices and efforts be made by governments and other relevant authorities around the world to secure the safe return and rehabilitation of missing women and girls who have endured and survived traumatic circumstances. We pray that institutions bring about redress to their recovery process and help victims of trauma receive justice by bringing cases against offenders. We pray that opening counseling centers will receive traumatized victims and help them find a way out of poverty.

O Lord, Your intention for creation was for Your sons and daughters to live in love, peace, and harmony. Father God, we pray that You restore this purpose in our world today. Jehovah Nissi, we petition for Your strength as we stand in the gap to overcome this precipice of oppression. Be our shield and defender. We ask these things, Lord, with thanksgiving in our hearts. Amen.

*Rev. Florence Cheruiyot
Women's Patron
Lott Carey Baptist Ministries
Kericho, Kenya*

Photo: Fauzan Muzakky, Pexels



Day 28 Sweden: 2 Corinthians 1:3



Where are you, dear sister?

What has happened to you, dear sister?

You are silent and deeply missed?

We try to reach you, but you don't answer our calls.

A year later, and you are still missing.

No information available.

No sign of life. Maybe hiding. Maybe something terrible has happened to you. Maybe you have already left the country? No one knows, you are one of the paperless people in the world. You are deeply missed and deeply loved for the one you are. I call you my sister in Christ.

We lift our eyes to You, most gracious Father, the source of our hope and help. You are the maker of heaven and earth.

Lord, we cry out to You on behalf of those persons who are missing and deeply missed.

We, their family and friends, anxiously and patiently await their safe return or news of their whereabouts.

Lord, give the wisdom and courage to our leaders, lawmakers, police, priests, deacons, and anyone who is called to help a woman who is suffering abuse or violence, or who has gone missing.

Lord, rescue us from darkness and fill us with the radiance of Your light.

Amen.

Marianne Ejdersten

Director of Communication

World Council of Churches

Le Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland

Photo: cottonbro studio, Pexels





Day 29 United States of America: Psalm 34:17-18



ord, here we are again, asking You to do what only You can do. Lord, please cover the victims and families of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls of Alaska. This is a deadly plague that has intersectional roots of white supremacy, misogyny, and capitalism. Because the authorities have ignored this crisis, many communities are still vulnerable.

Jehovah Mephalti, the Lord our Deliverer, save these women and girls from domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. Raise communities and advocates that will continue to build awareness and respond to victims with love, patience, and understanding.

Refine the lines of communication between the communities and state agencies so that they work together and not against one another. Lord, send the resources to establish stronger collaborations, improve the investigational process, and reduce the risk of harm.

Empower all Alaskans to take a proactive role in ending this crisis. Assure them that by supporting law enforcement they are advocating for their mother, sister, and daughter. Lord, send Your angels to comfort families who have lost loved ones and give them the strength to continue to fight for justice.

Jehovah Jireh, the Lord will provide, let relentless personnel investigate and hold accountable all those responsible for gendered violence. Lord, touch the heart of the predator and bring them to a consciousness that chastens them to stop, repent, and release their victims. Lord, we place our trust in You. Please protect Your daughters. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

M. Queeni Green
Senior Pastor
Rivers of Life
Freehold, New Jersey

Photo: Mart Production, Pexels



Day 30 Zimbabwe: Luke 1:50



Lord, I humbly come before You and exalt Your name because you are worthy to be praised. You are God during good and bad times. In You we seek refuge, O most high God.

Father, I pray for Your daughters in Zimbabwe. They are living terrible lives, filled with fear; their lives are being sabotaged and terrorized by those with power and authority. Fear has gripped them and they fail to utter even a word in the hands of abusers.

O God, so many women cannot raise their voices. They suffer silently, waiting for your intervention. The world is so wicked that many of your daughters are being sold overseas as sex workers. Some are killed in cold blood for ritual purposes. Father, Your daughters are being raped and impregnated at a tender age by parents and relatives. Incest is rampant and families protect the perpetrators. They all deserve a better life but their lives are cut short and, it seems, justice is always denied.

I plead that You intervene, O God, as you did in the past. You stood for the despised and the afflicted because You are the ultimate judge. You are our comforter and in You we take refuge in the midst of such wickedness. We pray for strength, O God, to speak out and denounce such ill treatments so that girls and women don't suffer in silence.

I know that you did not give us the spirit of fear but of love, courage, and a sound mind. We call upon Your presence during these times of trouble. Let your name be exalted because You are God— yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

*Rev. Revayi Chinodakufa
Academic Dean
The Zimbabwe Theological Seminary
Gweru, Zimbabwe*

Photo: Mehmet Turgut Kirkgoz, Pexels



Day 31 *Ephesians 6:12*



Sovereign God, it seems as if everywhere we turn these chaotic, confusing and conflict-filled days, we are surrounded by cacophonous noises.

- Noises that misuse, confuse, and abuse.
- Noises of hatred and vitriol.
- Noises of venom and violence.
- Noises of distress and despair.
- Noises of hopelessness and helplessness.

We clearly hear words that wound and weary those who are hurting and suffering in this world. Yet, amid the noise is the appalling silence by those in positions of power on behalf of those whose voices are muted because of their gender, race, or sex. God, in Your great mercy, end our silence and speak a word that will help and heal our broken situation.

We long to hear the drumbeat of justice, love, and mercy witnessing for those who are absent from home and community. We seek Your wisdom for women all over the world, young and old who are the most vulnerable in our world.

God, break the silence of patriarchy with Your purpose and presence.

God, break the silence of hierarchy with healing and hope.

God, break the silence of meanness and misogyny with mercy and message.

God break the silence of institutional and systemic evil with eternal love and light.

We need to hear Your voice above the clamorous captivity of preda-

tory institutions and systems that place a low priority on protecting and nurturing the quality of life for women and girls of color considered the least, looked over, and left behind.

We listen and long for Your word that will break through the indifference to doing what is right and necessary in the global community and the church to come swiftly to the aid, defense, and rescue of women and girls of color who are out of place and out of touch, and displaced and dislocated from their families.

We know that our silence is a sin against all of humanity. God forgive us of our sins. The silence penetrates our hearts and we are in deep distress.

We know that silence in the wake of the injustice, silence that tolerates and condones this culture of escalating violence . . . is a stain upon all of humankind.

Give us the courage, conviction, and commitment to open our mouths and raise our voices until our women and girls are set free from hurt, harm, and danger. Hear our prayer, Sovereign Lord. Amen.

*Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight
Itinerant Preacher/Professor
Smyrna, Georgia*

Lift Our Voices as One

Continued from page 3

innovative new ways to raise awareness and increase advocacy efforts for our sisters, domestically and around the world.

Another way we are committed to ending silence regarding gender-based violence against women is through the Lott Carey Monthly Prayer Call. The tagline emphasis for 2023—“Silence is Not an Option”—reflects our commitment to this cause. Each month one of Lott Carey’s former presidents will provide the morning meditation. The topics will highlight issues impacting women both locally and globally. Our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Emmett L. Dunn, started the year with a morning meditation on gendered racism. A community conversation followed the Lott Carey prayer with the Digital Couch, where Rev. Dunn further expounded on the issue. This format continues throughout 2023.

As the President of Lott Carey, I will conclude the year by providing the morning meditation on the Monthly Prayer Call and participating in the community conversation on the Digital Couch, connecting many of these critical issues. Marrying these two modalities, the Prayer Call with the Digital Couch allows yet another opportunity to increase

our exposure and lift our voices using the tools of technology.

Rosa Parks, an American activist in the civil rights movement, said, “To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try.” Ms. Parks’ example and Solomon’s word to the wise in Proverbs 31:8 carry a potent message to the church, the bride of Christ, the body of believers, and all who find their living and being in relationship with God. It provides directions for all those who love the Lord and are called according to God’s purpose.

The word of God is the blueprint for believers, and God has shown us what is good and right. Discerning the most effective ways to use our voices and choices when seeking, serving, and supporting the least, the last, and the lost is Christ’s cause and our Christian call. Join us as we cry out the names of missing women and girls seeking their safe return while lifting up issues impacting women throughout 2023.

Get engaged. Get equipped. Get empowered. Get involved. Let the church say, “Amen and Amen.”

Dr. Gina M. Stewart is President of Lott Carey and Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

We will not be silent!

Continued from page 3

On Saturday, February 25th, 9 a.m. to noon, we will jumpstart the 31 Days of Prayer with the Kickoff Service held at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey, where Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders is the pastor. Dr. Gina M. Stewart, our esteemed Lott Carey President, will be the guest preacher. Every day in March, we will give voice to missing women and girls by praying and petitioning God for their safe return.

We will not be silent!

On the first day of every month in 2023, the Lott Carey Monthly Prayer Call led by the WISE Administrative Team creates safe, sacred space—free of “Gospel Gaslighting” filled with God’s grace. During that time, the former Presidents of Lott Carey will lead the morning meditations, speaking to a designated issue impacting women locally and globally.

We will not be silent!

On the first Thursday of the month, the community conversation continues with the former Presidents expounding on their topics on the Lott Carey Digital Couch. In January, Rev. Emmett L. Dunn, our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, ushered us into the think tank with a Sunday morning meditation and a Thursday evening discussion on gendered racism. If you missed it, you can catch it on LottCareyTV on YouTube or in the WISE-SALT Facebook group. The list of topics, meditation leaders, and other announcements, will be on all the

Lott Carey social media platforms and the WISE newsletter.

We will not be silent!

On Saturday, May 13th, the Eighteenth Lott Carey Anti-Trafficking Prayer Service and the Second Jumping4Justice “Double Dutch Revival” will be held at Fountain Baptist Church. Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight will be our guest preacher for a time of prayer and praise.

We will not be silent!

Join WISE in October for the three-week Lott Carey Literary Circle and again in November for the one-day Lott Carey MasterClass. Everything happens on Thursdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

We will not be silent!

As we stand in solidarity with women victimized by gender-based violence, stay tuned throughout 2023 for opportunities to create Giving Circles for our Thursdays in Black initiative. We continue to honor the life and legacy of our WISE President Emerita, Rosette Tabb-Graham, with this initiative. Thursdays in Black buttons and T-Shirts are available to increase awareness and promote advocacy generating funds for GBV support services.

Remember, together we are stronger. The wise people of God pray both day and night, acknowledging silence is violence. For the disciples of Christ, silence is never an option.

Dr. Angelita Clifton, is President of Lott Carey WISE (Women In Service Everywhere); Associate Minister at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey; and Guest Editor of the Lott Carey Herald.

JOIN US IN DAILY PRAYER AT 6 A.M. ET

Dial-in: 267-807-9611 | Access Code 172051



LOTT CAREY

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

INTERNATIONAL

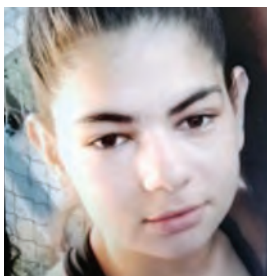


Cobos Chavez Janina Alexandra
Last Seen: Coca Orellana, Ecuador
December 2022

Armed Insurgents Kidnap 50 Women in Burkina Faso

The women were abducted while searching for food in a region that has been under a blockade by extremist groups for nearly a year.

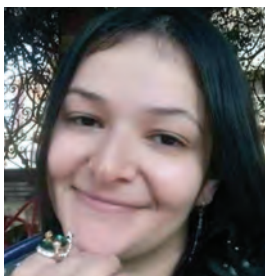
The New York Times, January 16, 2023



Antonia-loanna L.
Last Seen: Athens, Greece
November 2022



Alem Daniael
Last Seen: Dublin, Ireland
October 2020



Christine Lamie
Last Seen: Qalyubia Governorate, Egypt
April 2018



Zanga Percieuse
Last Seen: Athens, Greece
August 2022



Juliene Renard
Last Seen: Montego Bay, Jamaica
December 2022

CNA Insider

Raped, beaten and sold in China: Vietnam's kidnapped young brides

More young girls from Vietnam are ending up in forced marriages in China, where the gender imbalance has created a demand for foreign brides, as Insight discovers.

Channel News Asia.com
December 30, 2022



Ebony Williams
Last Seen: Kingston, Jamaica
November 2022

Lott Carey Herald/Spring 2023

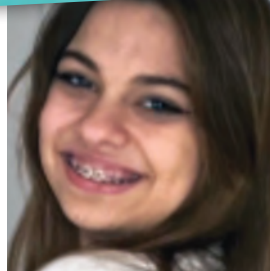
• On the web—navigate to www.fbi.gov/contact-us/international-offices; then scroll to the International Office nearest you.

FBI global coverage includes more than 180 countries, territories and islands with about 250 special agents and support personnel. Its National Crime Information Center says there were 89,637 active missing person records at the end of 2020.

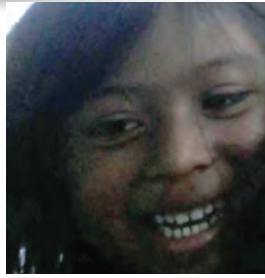
COPTIC SOLIDARITY LAUNCHES URGENT CALL TO END CRIME OF FORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF COPTIC WOMEN IN EGYPT May 11, 2020



Bourguiba Aya
Last Seen: Galatina-Piglia, Italy
November 2022



Nicole Barely
Last Seen: Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland



Litzy Alexjandra Xajap Barillas
Last Seen: Chinautla, Guatemala
October 2022



Rasha Khalif
Last Seen: Qalyubia Governorate, Egypt
April 2018



Issac Princess
Last Seen: Napoli, Italy
July 2022

United Nations | **UN News**
Global perspective Human stories
October 22, 2021

Home | Topics | In depth | Secretary-General

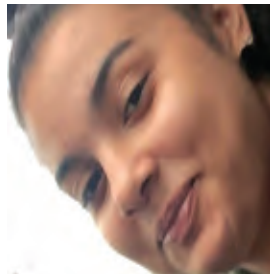
UNICEF sounds alarm over abductions of women and children in Haiti



Amya Ayra Smajlovic
Last Seen: Interlaken, Switzerland
January 2021



Dahlia Thomas
Last Seen: May Pen, Jamaica
December 2022



Lisa Virginia Vidak
Last Seen: Waterford, Ireland
November 2022

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Breaking News

12-year-old Christian girl kidnapped, drugged and forced to marry Muslim man

Staff writer | 15-11-2022 - 22:01:37 | 259

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اردو میں پڑھئے



A Kickoff of 31 Days of Prayer for Missing Women and Girls—Locally and Globally

Join us both in-person and live streamed at 9:00 a.m. ET, Saturday, February 25, 2023, at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey, as we kick off the 31 Days of Prayer for Women's Empowerment. Dr. Gina M. Stewart, Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and President of Lott Carey will be our guest preacher.

Stream the service in the Lott Carey WISE SALT Group on Facebook, Lott Carey TV on YouTube, or the Fountain Baptist live stream at In-person & Streaming on Fountain Baptist Church video.ibm.com/channel/mwwustream

Join us each morning during March at 6 a.m. ET in prayer for Missing Women and Girls. The dial-in number is 267-807-9611. Access Code: 172051. Please consider donating \$31, \$131, \$331 or \$1,031 to support this project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Spring Missions Conference**, March 16–17, 2023, The

Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria and Alfred Street Baptist Church, both Alexandria, Virginia. In-Person.

- **Resurrection Monday Service**, Monday, April 10, 2023. Two locations: Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Washington, District of Columbia (12:00 noon); Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia (7:00 pm). Both services will be held in-person.
- **The 18th Anti-Trafficking Prayer Service** and the **2nd Jumping4Justice Double Dutch Revival** on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey.
- **68th Annual Youth Seminar**, June 24-29, 2023.
- 126th Lott Carey Annual Session, August 14-17, 2023, Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons, 3121 West Gate City Boulevard, Greensboro, North Carolina 27407. Hybrid meeting.
- **Lott Carey Golf Tournament**, August 18, 2023, Grandover Resort & Spa, 1000 Club Road, Greensboro, North Carolina 27407. All are welcome to attend.

#BringBackOurGirls

We must never forget the **276 schoolgirls, age 12-17**, kidnapped in April 2014 when armed terrorists attacked the town of Chibok in Nigeria. Recent news accounts say 163 have escaped or been released; at least 13 have died in captivity; and about 100 are still missing. Pray and advocate for this tragedy to soon be resolved.