

Women, Poverty and the Micah Challenge

*He has showed you, O people, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God! — Micah 6:8 NIV*

MIMI HADDAD | The memories of child prostitutes on the streets of Bangkok are still swirling in my head. Even as the Lausanne

prayer team walked and prayed through the streets of Thailand, one prostitute begged them to take her home. How can we encounter such suffering without longing to make a difference?

Days after returning from Thailand, I was invited to participate in the Micah Challenge Launch at the United Nations in New York. More than 20 of us gathered in New York City to discuss how we, as Christians, might make a difference; how could we address global poverty—clearly a gender issue.

Considering ways of mobilizing the church on behalf of the poor, is in essence asking churches to relieve the burden primarily of women and children. Women, after all, are the poorest, most abused and oppressed group on earth. I began to wonder if God was speaking to me; to us as a CBE community.

This has been a year of listening to the voices of global Christian leaders and to the voices of global victims. God has clearly called us to join hands with egalitarian leaders around the world by hosting our International Symposium in the UK, participating in the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization, and writing books on equality with Christians from many countries.



From the streets of Thailand to the streets of New York City—CBE contemplates our role in raising awareness about gender and justice issues around the world.

Is God also asking us, as a CBE community, to devote some of our resources to articulating a biblical basis for issues beyond

women's equal service alongside men in church and the home? Could we also speak biblically and prophetically regarding gender and justice?

Our mission is to equip believers with biblical materials that empower the full partnership of men and women. We have expounded the cause of biblical equality through academic materials, popular resources and yearly conferences throughout the Western world. For nearly two decades, CBE has developed biblical materials on

equality for organizations, denominations, churches, families and the academy.

Is God now asking us to consider the call of Scripture to advance gender and justice? What did Jesus mean when he said that when we give food and water and clothing to the needy that we are doing it for him (Matt. 25:31–46)? Is this part of our calling? This is my question to you, the CBE community.

I am eager to hear your thoughts, and most importantly, I covet your prayers as we listen to God and one another in order to make strategic decisions for the future. Please join me, as we prayerfully ask how we might serve Christ, with our eyes on the Scriptures, our hearts open to the Spirit, and our ears listening to the global challenges of the gospel.

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Church Librarians Welcome CBE Resources at National LCLA Convention



JOYCE LIND | CBE hosted a booth at the Lutheran Church Library Conference (LCLA) in Minnetonka, Minnesota, Nov. 4–6, 2004. LCLA is a conference held every other year for church librarians from all over the United States.

Here church librarians attend workshops and general sessions to gain resources and training to help them run their libraries more effectively. They discuss challenges with other librarians and they also support one another professionally.

Erwin John founded the LCLA in 1958. In the beginning only Lutheran churches participated in the convention, but for the last ten years or so the conference has been open to all church libraries. Members voted to change the name of the association, and soon it will be called the National Church Library Association.

Walter Wangerin, Jr. was the keynote speaker at this year's conference. He is a master storyteller and award-winning author of books for adults and children, including *As For Me and My House and Paul—A Novel*. Both books are sold through CBE.

Candy Pettiford also spoke at the conference. An accomplished author and actress, she performs one-woman shows such as "Women of the Bible," a dramatic portrayal of women from biblical times, presented in story and song.

For the second time CBE was invited to have a booth at this conference. Our booth was in a main area of the hotel and we did very well. We sold a record number of books as well as promoted our journals and resources. Librarians from all over the country were excited to add CBE books and other resources to their church libraries. They look forward to our coming to each conference.

Joyce Lind is CBE's Church and Library Liaison. Before coming to CBE, she worked as Membership Secretary for the LCLA. She also serves as Church Librarian at Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.