

Educating, encouraging and equipping women to learn, pray, listen, grow and give

Beyond Knowledge

by Susie Pek, global director

In March, many countries around the world pause to celebrate women on International Women's Day. In different regions, media outlets, churches, companies and organizations launch awareness campaigns highlighting women's challenges.

One recurring issue is access to education. According to UNESCO, in 2024 women represented nearly two-thirds of the 739 million illiterate adults worldwide – that's 466 million people who can't use this essential tool for learning and lifetime success! This staggering number reminds us of our desire for girls and women everywhere to read, write and develop critical thinking. Above all, we long for them to be able to read God's love letter to humanity for themselves.

As a teacher, I know how priceless knowledge is. Watching someone unlock the beautiful world of reading – joining letters, speaking words aloud and grasping their meaning – is unforgettable. Yet there is something even more precious than knowledge: wisdom. Dictionary.com defines knowledge as "acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation." Wisdom, however, is the ability to discern and judge properly what is true or right. In other words, wisdom is knowing how to rightfully apply knowledge. King Solomon understood its value – wisdom was the one thing he asked of the Lord.

Here in my part of the world, one of the most common questions asked in March is: Who is the woman that inspires you the most? For me, that's not an easy question, because every woman carries remarkable qualities that spark admiration. I'm continually amazed by the richness and diversity of their lives – there is so much wisdom in this variety.

At the same time, some women leave a deeper mark on our lives and even on society. The beauty is that they often don't realize how much they inspire others. They simply live authentically, and their legacy endures. That's the case with Abigail, whose story is told in 1 Samuel 25.

Abigail endured a difficult marriage to Nabal, a harsh man, yet she never became like him. She understood clearly that she was not him and did not need to act as he did. When Nabal repaid King David's kindness with insults and ingratitude, David became furious and planned immediate revenge – nothing less than the destruction of Nabal and his household.

Upon hearing of David's plan, Abigail chose to intervene. She sent food to David and his men, humbly acknowledged her husband's wrongdoing, and asked forgiveness on his behalf. With wisdom and diplomacy, she opened David's eyes to the injustice he was about to commit against innocent people. David listened, thanked God for Abigail's life and recognized her as God's instrument to keep him from sin.

In this brief account, we meet a woman who is beautiful, intelligent, discerning, approachable, wise, humble, honest, pure, a peacemaker and deeply sensitive to others. In short, Abigail was wise.

As we pray for opportunities for girls and women to receive education, will you also join us in asking the Lord to grant them wisdom? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Prov. 9:10).

It's a joy and honor to walk this journey with you!

MARCH 2026 Prayer for women in the Americas

1. As you protect and restore **Bolivian** women suffering from domestic violence, Lord, provide them safe places where they can experience your healing, transforming love. (Ps. 147:3)
2. Father, fill the leaders of **Bonaire** with your wisdom, love, integrity and compassion for its people so that peace and unity may reign among its communities. (Matt. 5:9)
3. God, please strengthen, support and guide young **Brazilian** single mothers and their children whose fathers are not involved in their children's education or providing support for them. (Isa. 41:10)
4. Grant **Canadian** women wisdom and boldness to share Christ at work, in schools and in their neighborhoods. May their lives match their message. (Acts 4:29)
5. Raise up **Chilean** women, Lord, to serve with love and humility in their churches, homes and workplaces. May they live out the gospel as agents of reconciliation and compassion. (2 Cor. 5:20)
6. Merciful God, provide employment for women in the **Dominican Republic** so they can earn a living for themselves and their families. (Ps. 90:17)
7. Father, be the rock of refuge for the women of **Honduras**, protecting them from violence, insecurity and economic challenges. (Ps. 46:1)
8. Father, bring spiritual change to the hearts and minds of the men in **Mexico** who are committing physical and psychological violence toward the women in their lives. (Ezek. 36:26)
9. Lord, may marriages and families in **Paraguay** be restored and strengthened according to biblical principles. May families choose love and respect for one another. (1 Pet. 4:8)
10. May our teams be granted permits to work in **Uruguay's** women's prisons, God. May your gospel set the inmates' hearts free to reintegrate into society with dignity. (Luke 4:18)
11. Young adult **U.S.** women are disengaging from faith and its practices and lack meaningful support from adults in their lives. May mature Christian women provide them intergenerational discipleship. (Ps. 78:4)
12. Grant the women of **Venezuela** renewed strength, Lord, in the midst of their country's difficult circumstances. Sustain your children with peace and perseverance. (Gal. 6:9)
13. To **Bolivian** women serving in the church and community, Lord, grant wisdom, unity and courage to share the gospel as they support women in need. (2 Tim. 1:7)
14. Lord, protect the families on **Bonaire**, especially their vulnerable children, with your love and security so their future may be filled with hope. (Ps. 91:1-2)
15. God, may women living in rural areas of **Brazil** have access to quality health services and medical treatment. (Jer. 30:17)
16. Father, would you call a new generation of **Canadian** women into church ministry and missions. May the church intentionally disciple and mentor them. (Matt. 28:19-20)
17. Lord, may mothers in the **Dominican Republic** give their children the attention, care and discipline they need and raise them according to your ways. (Ps. 32:8)
18. Lord, raise up volunteers in **Mexico** to help our team there. Provide for their needs and give them creativity as they bring the hope of Jesus to the women of this nation. (1 Pet. 4:10)
19. Praise God that **Paraguay's** prisons are no longer mixed gender, protecting women from sexual abuse. May the female inmates be treated fairly and with dignity. (Heb. 13:3)
20. Father, help women in **Uruguay** to resist turning to drugs to escape problems and social pressure. Rescue them from addiction and guide them to find freedom in you. (2 Cor. 12:9)
21. Lord, guide the **U.S.** church to provide community and help for stressed parents who need healing so they can support their children facing mental-health struggles. (Gal. 6:2)
22. Lord, strengthen **Bolivian** women spiritually and emotionally, sustaining them in the midst of family, economic and social challenges so their hope is renewed each day. (Rom. 15:13)
23. Guide the authorities on **Bonaire**, Lord, giving them discernment to establish justice, economic stability and quality education for the island's people. (Prov. 2:6)
24. As women in **Brazil** face increasing femicide and violence, Lord, be their protector and healer. Bring heart transformation to the abusers. (2 Thess. 3:3)
25. Lord, may **Canadian** women grow in a deep, personal love for Christ and embrace regular Scripture reading, repentance and obedience to you. (Col. 1:10)
26. Heal the hearts and minds, Father, of victims of domestic abuse in the **Dominican Republic**. Remove the fear and grant them courage to seek help. (Isa. 54:14)
27. Lord, protect and bring healing to women in **Mexico** who are being kidnapped, violated and abused. Comfort the families of women who are missing. (Ps. 91:14-15)
28. May women in **Uruguay** find justice, restoration and liberation from sexual exploitation and trafficking. Raise up the church to rescue and provide healing to these. (Prov. 31:8-9)
29. May older Christian women walk with younger women in the **U.S.** who desire godly relationships but have never seen godly marriages modeled. (Titus 2:3-5)
30. Lord, give wisdom to the **Brazilian** population in casting their votes in the 2026 elections. May the elections be fair and without corruption. (Dan. 2:21)
31. May the women in **Uruguay** suffering psychological violence find comfort, courage and purpose in Christ to overcome their fears and receive direction for their lives. (Ps. 27:1)