
A Room with a View: Gaining a Global Perspective

MOPS WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKER, CINDY DAWSON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL WOMEN

By: **Cindy Dawson, Global Women**

I am excited to meet with you this Friday, though I admit I'm a bit nervous to gather with a group who is focusing on "cleaning our houses." I can assure you that I was not invited to share any clever cleaning tips!

My plan is to share some stories of amazing women I have met through my work with Global Women. We'll take a trip to several countries (no passport required!) that will help us imagine a bit what it's like to be a young, poor woman living in remote areas of the world, with little hope and few opportunities to improve her life or the life of her family. We'll also be encouraged to hear how their life stories are changing for the better!

We'll visit Myanmar and meet Naw Paw Gaw, a woman who says God didn't give her children of her own. Yet, she has many daughters and nieces because she has found orphaned and vulnerable girls, provided job-skill training, and helped them find jobs. She has also become family to them.

We'll visit Nepal to meet Sangte and some of the women enrolled in the sewing schools she has organized throughout the country. In Nepal, many believe that if you were born a woman, you must have been very bad in your previous life, so you deserve to carry the heavy burdens, to be mistreated, and you do not deserve to have money spent on you for education or learning new skills!

We will make a stop in Haiti, where women die when they deliver their babies because of lack of adequate medical care. I'm sure some of the discussion will resonate with all of you young mothers! Don't worry; there is joy hearing about a program that is training birthing attendants so moms and babies have a better chance to survive!

We'll also make quick stops in Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and learn about some women who are offering restoration and rehabilitation to young women who have been trafficked. These women who have come through amazing tragedies will truly inspire!

Yes, we're going to hear about some difficult situations facing women in the world, but don't be depressed before you arrive! I do hope through my stories you'll see how God is alive and working on behalf of these women, using amazing Christian women who are leading programs that are changing their lives!

I'll see you Friday! Wear your travel clothes!

A little about Global Women:

Global Women is a 501(c)3 ecumenical missions movement headquartered in Greater Birmingham, Alabama, with an international reach. Their vision is a world where every woman is empowered by the love of God, valued by her community, and equipped to fulfill her unique purpose. The ministry of Global Women (GW) is conducted worldwide in partnership with indigenous Christian women leaders and women called to serve outside their native country.

Global Women and our ministry partners are involved with Christian women's leadership, preventing human trafficking and restoring victims, micro-enterprise, as well as health and social services. We are at work in many areas of the world as well as in the United States.

Visit them online at: WWW.GLOBALWOMENGO.ORG

A Global World by: Susie Reeder

Since my children were born across the world in Vietnam, it is natural for my family to think globally. We are always looking at the map to see where Vietnam is located and they have watched me travel to Kenya, Haiti, Moldova and many other places. From the time I took a group of youth to Kenya in 1999, I have felt that it was so important to help our children and youth have a global view so they will make a difference in the world. Although I am grateful to grow up in a free world, I have learned that our neighbor is not just here where we live, but across the world. We also learn from those we think we are going to help. I have learned about true generosity from those who have nothing, but are willing to give so much. My daughter Hannah was fortunate to travel with me to Myanmar in 2012. The one thing that sticks in her mind from that trip was after our 2 hour worship service, the children were served a piece of bread and juice, while we were taken to another room to have a full meal. She felt bad, knowing we were given so much when they had so little. What a gift to experience generosity first hand. I've also learned that all the things I "have" keep me from giving my all in worship to God. I have seen children want to learn so much; they would do anything to get to go to school.

So how do we teach our children about their neighbor across the world? Well, obviously, not everyone can take their child on an international mission trip, but we can start by teaching our children to be compassionate. And we teach our children to be compassionate by modeling it for them. Involve your children in acts of compassion. Colossians 3:12-14 says "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kind-

ness, humility, gentleness and patience." Find ways to involve your children in acts of kindness. Let them help you make cookies for the firefighters; take some canned food to Operation Blessing; sponsor a family at Christmas; or buy a gift for a family or child in another country through a gift catalog. And one of the best things is to sponsor a child to go to school in a developing country. Buy a globe or a world map and teach your children about where your sponsored child lives and let them write them a letter. Teach them to live with open hands and open hearts. And remember, they're watching you!

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Colossians 3: 12-14

If you're interested in sponsoring a child, Snyder offers 2 programs, one in Haiti, and one in Nairobi, Kenya. For more information, contact Susie @ 910-484-3191

Check your Schedule!

January 18-

Global Women Luncheon at Snyder

January 25-MOPS Night Out

February 7- Moms Morning In

February 20-Noah's Art Play date

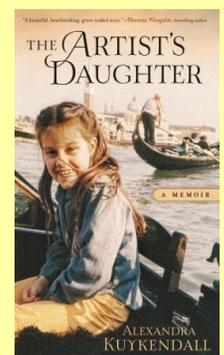
February 21-Regular MOPS Meeting

Please join us each Wednesday in February at 9:30am in the Chapel for a book study featuring

The Artist's Daughter: a memoir by

Alexandra Kuykendall.

The Artist's Daughter Book Study



To sign up, please call the church office. Books can be purchased through the church for \$5.00 For more information, please contact Kellie Ross at kellie@rossitservices.com.

Childcare is available, but you must sign up by Sunday, January

Not Too Busy to Care by: Kellie Ross

I'm a busy mom, and I don't make a point of watching the news every day. When the t.v. is on at our house you're likely to see parades of princesses, talking trains and singing mermaids in lieu of global news coverage, and I'm alright with that. Being "informed" these days means knowing when I don't have to make a lunch for Hannah because it's pizza day. That's okay though, this is my life now but it wasn't always like this and it won't always be.

I have to find other ways now. Other ways to teach Hannah that there is more in this world than what she can see. Other ways to feed the part of my soul that begs to make a difference somewhere in this world. See, when I became a mother I became strikingly more aware of the thoughts and feelings of other people-and how actions can make or break them. When I became a mother a piece of me was born deep inside that can feel actual pain for another soul on this planet-and it's everywhere. Know that person that cries at commercials? That's me! Know that person that can cry just by looking at someone else that's crying? That's me too! What a total BEAUTIFUL MESS. So I reached out into my little world to find a place (and a tissue) that I could make a difference by using the time that I did have for good. Here is my short list of places in town that could use your help in big ways and in small ways. Each place will take whatever kind of help that you feel lead to give-they are not picky! If you have a place you volunteer or you know a place that needs help-let me know and I will get the word out! As busy moms searching to make a difference with the resources we are given-this is a good place to start.

1. **Serving Food at Salvation Army Homeless Shelter**– to volunteer, please call 485-8026 (best time to call is between 8am-11am) and ask for the kitchen. Have a few dates in mind when you call!
2. **Fayetteville Animal Protection Society**– Call the office at 864-9040 and find out how you can help!
3. **Fayetteville Urban Ministry**– visit www.fayurbmin.org for tons of volunteer opportunities! Fill out the volunteer application and fax it to 910.483.5116.
4. **Partnership for Children of Cumberland County**– visit ccpfc.org for volunteer opportunities and to fill out volunteer application.
5. **Fayetteville VA Medical Center**- To volunteer, call or visit the VAMC Fayetteville Voluntary Service Office 910-488-2120.
6. **Operation Inasmuch**– Call Deloris at 433-2161.
7. **Fayetteville Habitat for Humanity**– visit www.fayettevillenhabitat.org to fill out the volunteer application.
8. **Fayetteville Arts Council**– visit www.theartscouncil.com to sign up!

If you find yourself still searching for a place to make a difference, call the Snyder office! They always have lots of idea for ways that you can help!

TIME OUT! with the Moppetts

“Rules, rules, rules - all you have are rules, Mo-om!!!” and “No! I do, I do!” are two of the most popular phrases in my home these days. With one newly turned two and one five-and-a-half year old, our lives seem to revolve around the girls’ struggles for independence and our desire to help them learn to live within our household rules. (Some really interesting articles on this topic pop up when you type ‘toddlers and independence versus obedience’ into an internet search.) I believe one of the most important tasks for children to master is following rules and obeying their parents, while understanding why this is important. As parents, it’s our job to find a good balance between maintaining discipline while answering the ‘why’ questions that surely arise as our children seek to understand the rules we have established.

This month’s MOPPETS lesson reminds our children that each day brings them an opportunity to make smart choices and to obey their parents. God asks that we honor our father and mother and when we do this, we honor God. May this New Year bring each of us the resolve to honor God more in our lives – each and every day.



For questions or more information on the Moppetts program contact Holyn Bogert at 254-220-8424 or holyn.bogert@gmail.com

Whether it's Motherhood or Marriage - we can all use some help! By: Patty Salinas

I love this year's theme of a Beautiful Mess, because it helps me take a deep breath and look at the reality of my life and relax, because I am not alone! MOPS is a haven for me to talk to other not-so-perfect moms and know that I am walking this journey with help. Even better, it is so good to know that there are people who have done Motherhood and survived! I love those ladies, the MOPS mentors, those who share how they made it through. I listen very closely when they talk, because I want to hear how they managed to navigate this challenging terrain.

But it's not just Motherhood where I need help--I feel that same brokenness in Marriage at times. It's just not as easy as I expected, it takes A LOT of work and selflessness on my part and, unfortunately, I can be a pretty selfish person! That's why, when someone comes alongside of me to let me know that they have experienced similar things in their marriage, I again breath a sign of relief because I don't feel so alone. Just knowing that helps, and I need to hear the encouragement of another couple pushing me and my husband to be all God wants us to be, no matter how hard it is, or how much time it might take! I want to give that same hope and encouragement to others, too. I know I can offer that support to others, even when my own marriage isn't perfect. In the years we have been married, Joe and I have managed to learn a few things, and if our bumps and bruises can help others avoid some of the pitfalls we have experienced, I want to help! That's why being a mentor is so

important - there are marriages out there that can benefit from having another couple come alongside them and say, "Yeah, this isn't always easy, but God will help you through this and we will walk with you on this journey!!" I look around our MOPS group and I know there are others whose journeys would encourage and support someone else, and I want to ask you to consider being a part of Snyder's Marriage Mentorship Training at the end of February. Attending the training does commit you to be a mentor, but it helps you learn more about how to be a good mentor, which is good to know if you ever get the opportunity to support another couple. The best part about this training is it's like a mini-retreat for you and your husband - where you get to work through ideas and talk about your strengths as individuals and as a couple while you learn to help others with the special and unique God-given story you both have! Snyder will be holding this two-day training event here at the church on evening of **Friday, Feb 28** and the morning of **Saturday, March 1st**. Our church really wants to equip couples to helps others, which is why they are providing childcare both days. I hope you will consider coming to this training--it will be a great opportunity to grow as a couple while you learn to use all that God has done in your life to help others stay strong in their marriage. If you would like to sign up or get more information, please contact Patty Salinas at 845-857-7288 or znomads@yahoo.com. Hope to see you there!

NOTES:

February-
Green Table

Thank you Yellow Table for Breakfast!

March-
Blue Table