

GATHER  
TRUE



Online Conference  
May 22-23, 2020



Gather Women is pleased to welcome you to our first national online gathering  
- **TRUE Conference**



Thank you to Compassion, Operation Christmas Child and all of our speakers, participants, interns and volunteers! We believe in the sovereignty of God over our nation, and the opportunity to transform Canada through the voices and presence of women from coast to coast.



## **Girls across our nation and beyond!**

Thank you for choosing to join us for two days as we lean in to whatever is True. Has everything changed as much in your world as it has in mine? Even our expectation that we would always be able to gather in person has been challenged. We realize what a privilege that was! But what an opportunity in our now to gather here...online...like this!

God spoke to us early this year to host our national gathering online, even before the world changed before our eyes. So we believe this is a God-ordained conference - and we know that you were meant to be part of it! We see you. We love you. You are valued. And you are belong here.

Can I encourage you to embrace what is True in this season, and believe with everything you have that Truth is represented in the person of Jesus Christ? He never changes, His presence never leaves us, and His words remain the only True anchor we have in the midst of uncertainty.

We don't know what lies ahead but we do know that our lives are based on a True Story - and that God has authored it and it will end well for us. Do you believe it? In the meantime, stay strong, stay focused and stay True! Let us Gather.

Cathie Ostapchuk  
Lead Catalyst, Gather Women



# GATHER

**Gather Women exists to be a catalyst for women of Canada to connect, equip and mobilize so they can influence their world for Jesus Christ.**

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## **OUR VISION**

For there to be a culture of support from coast to coast amongst our sisters in Christ, regardless of their denomination, generation, culture or geography, that includes the one, the few and the many.

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## **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

- We embrace the truth that centered on Jesus Christ, we are stronger together.
  - We believe in the value of the local church and the importance of women being gathered in so that they can go back out and continue to put their faith into action.
  - We believe in the value of the whole body of Christ; both female and male.
  - We desire to see the voices of women everywhere represented in equal value and strength in all kingdom conversations taking place across our nation and beyond.
  - We desire to see the presence of women everywhere in equal value and strength in every area of influence including the local church.
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## **What would it look like if Canadian Christian women were stronger together through a connected infrastructure coast to coast?**

GATHER is an invitation. To tell the CANADIAN story. To champion a culture of support as we walk out our callings: unified and diverse. To connect us all regionally and nationally through a robust network on the ground and online. God is stirring in us the desire for a uniquely Canadian expression of His heart for us. **Let us Gather.**



# GATHER

## **GATHER WOMEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Kim Blackaby**

Board Chair

Teacher, women's Bible study teacher, writer, speaker and ministry leader, Langley, BC

### **Elo Claire Odogbo**

Board Treasurer

MBA, CPA, Certified Life Breakthrough Coach, Christian Career and Business Coach

### **Akua Carmichael**

Board Secretary

Lawyer, Senior Associate at Dale & Lessmann LLP.

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## **GATHER WOMEN BOARD OF REFERENCE**

### **Alana Walker Carpenter**

CEO Intriciti

### **Stacey Campbell**

Executive Director Prison Fellowship Canada

### **Angie Draskovic**

CEO Yonge Street Mission

### **Doreen Harvey**

MBA, HR Consultant

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### **Cathie Ostapchuk**

Co-Founder and Lead Catalyst, Gather Women



Finally  
brothers & sisters  
whatever is true  
whatever is noble  
whatever is right,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable—  
if anything is  
excellent or praiseworthy,  
think about  
such things.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Jordan Stothers, Northern Eyre Co.

Northern  
Eyre Co.

[northerneyreco@gmail.com](mailto:northerneyreco@gmail.com)  
[northerneyreco.etsy.com](https://www.northerneyreco.etsy.com)



# 6 WAYS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS EVENT

## ACT LIKE THIS IS A REAL CONFERENCE

Respond to the speakers, keep your energy up! You've committed time and money to this day and to get the most out of it you need to push yourself outside your comfort zone and be in it... even if it feels slightly weird to talk to someone on a screen.

## GET YOUR QUARANTINE CREW IN ON THE GROWTH

Include your parents, partners, roommates (or anyone else who are social-distancing with) to join you in this experience. After all, the best part about every conference is being able to debrief all of the things you learned with your squad.

## CONNECT WITH PEOPLE BY USING

#TRUECONFERENCE2020 AND @GATHERWOMEN

Just because we're not all together in person (though, we can't wait for that to happen again!) doesn't mean you can't make new connections. Explore the Gather community and create relationships that will last long past the event.

## DON'T MISS A BEAT

Make sure you have your water and snacks ready to go so you can be fully focused and not miss any of the content.

## DON'T LET THE GROWTH STOP AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE

What happens on conference day is important but not nearly as important as how you begin to incorporate the things you've learned in the weeks following.

## DON'T PASSIVELY LISTEN

You are five times more likely to retain the information you learn if you take notes.

Don't passively listen. Stay focused, jot things down, and keep notes of what stood out to you.



# Friday May 22

## Masterclasses: True Strategies for Navigating the New Now

### **11:00am EST**

TRUE STRATEGIES for Home with Bonnie Pue

TRUE STRATEGIES for Family with Erin Clark

TRUE STRATEGIES for Marriage with Toni Nieuwhof

### **12:40pm**

LUNCH BREAK: Join our Zoom room to chat  
with some of our speakers

### **1:30pm**

TRUE STRATEGIES for the Next and Now Generation with Kaitlyn Cey

TRUE STRATEGIES for the Digital Marketplace and  
Entrepreneurship with Joanna La Fleur

TRUE STRATEGIES for Mental Health: Life Interrupted: A Practical  
Conversation on Gaining Wisdom in the Unexpected  
with Dr. Merry C. Lin & Gillian Shields

### **3:15pm**

LIVE PANEL: STRATEGIES for Leading through Crisis to a New  
Normal led by Shaila Visser with Alana Walker Carpenter and  
Angela Doell

TRUE STRATEGIES for Purpose with Vanessa Hoyes

### **4:25pm**

Masterclasses End and Dinner Break





# Session 1: TRUE Courage

**FRIDAY MAY 22 | 7:00-10:00pm EST**

TRUE Beginnings with Dagmar Morgan-Sinclair

TRUE Worship with Brooke Nicholls

Finally, sisters ... with Cathie Ostapchuk

TRUE Masterpiece: You're Made to be a Masterpiece

with Nadia Marychurch

TRUE Significance: YOLO and other lies about money

with Joanna La Fleur

TRUE Significance: #Facts with Meisha Watson

TRUE Significance: Alyssa Esparaz, and Zion Tesfaye

TRUE Discipleship with our friends from Samaritan's Purse

TRUE North with Kim Blackaby

## Saturday May 23,

### Session 2: TRUE Destiny

**11:00am-12:20pm EST**

TRUE Worship with Blessing Asebiode

TRUE Calling with Anne Miranda

TRUE Worship: Evergreen by Kenzie Korzan

TRUE Breakthrough: Broken Crayons with Julie Davidson

TRUE Compassion with our friends from Compassion Canada

## Session 3: TRUE Freedom

**12:30-1:30pm EST**

What's TRUE in Me with the Gather Women Interns

TRUE Worship with Lauren Funk

TRUE Freedom with Danielle Strickland

**1:30pm**

Join us for our live interactive zoom room with some of our speakers!!

## Lunch Break!

**1:50pm**

## Session 4: TRUE Worth

**2:30-3:20pm EST**

TRUE Worship with Brooke Nicholls

TRUE Femininity with Vanessa Hoyes

TRUE Worth with Emma Richardson and Victoria Boettger

## Session 5: Whatever is TRUE

**3:50 - 4:45pm EST**

TRUE Worship with Kenzie Korzan

Whatever is TRUE with Helen Burns

TRUE & Brave with Cheryl Nembhard

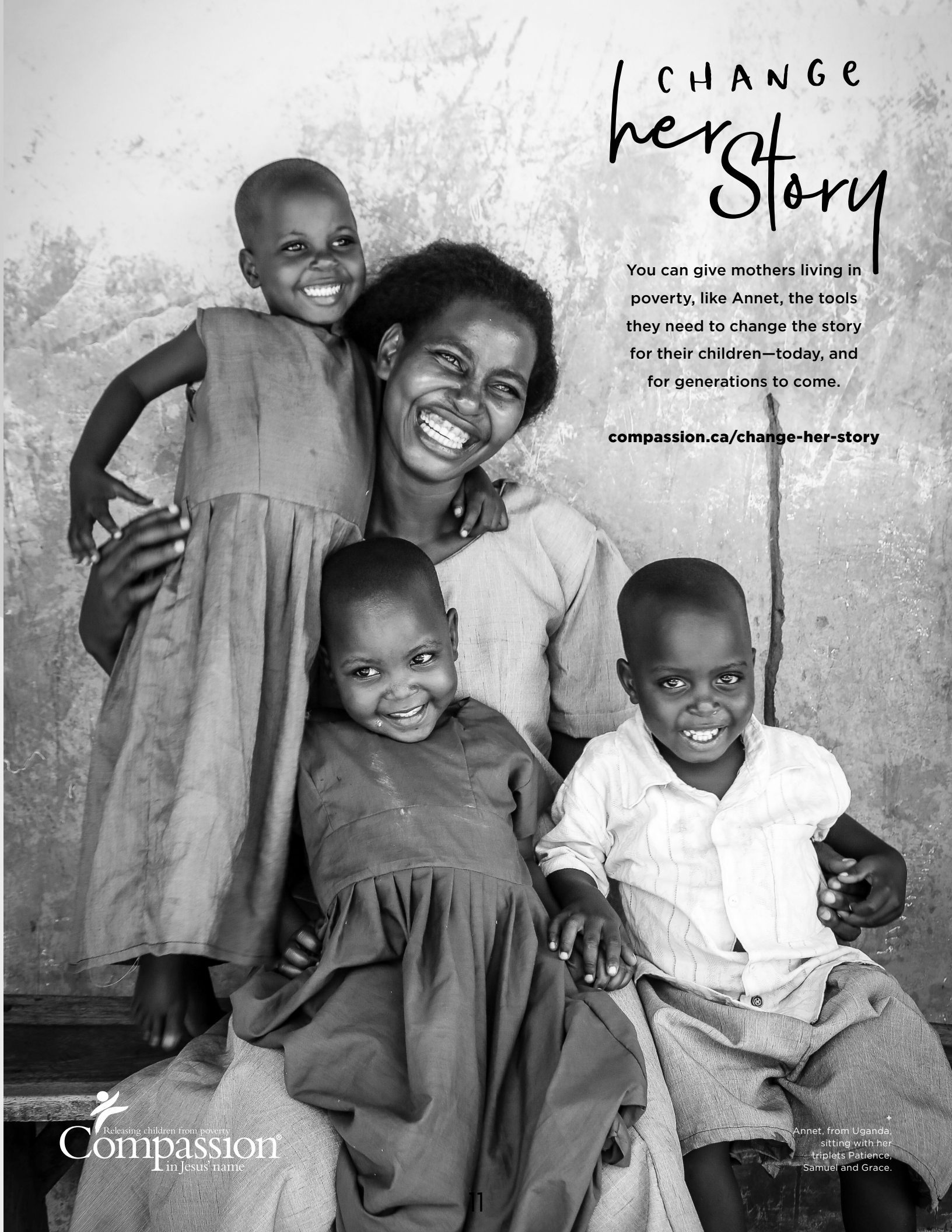
TRUE with Dagmar Morgan-Sinclair

Based on a TRUE Story with Cathie Ostapchuk

# CHANGE her Story

You can give mothers living in poverty, like Annet, the tools they need to change the story for their children—today, and for generations to come.

[compassion.ca/change-her-story](http://compassion.ca/change-her-story)



Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**  
in Jesus' name

Annet, from Uganda,  
sitting with her  
triplets Patience,  
Samuel and Grace.



# MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS | Matthew 28:19

**AFTER RECEIVING Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts** from Samaritan's Purse, many children also participate in our follow-up discipleship program, **The Greatest Journey**. This 12-lesson course teaches boys and girls how to faithfully follow Christ—and share Him with others!

TO LEARN MORE VISIT  
[SAMARITANSPURSE.CA/OCC](http://SAMARITANSPURSE.CA/OCC)



## The Greatest Journey

CHILDREN ENROLLED  
SINCE 2009:

23.3 Million

TEACHERS TRAINED  
SINCE 2009:

1.1 Million

REPORTED  
DECISIONS FOR CHRIST  
SINCE 2009:

11.2 Million

# GATHER VOICES

reclaim. raise. release.



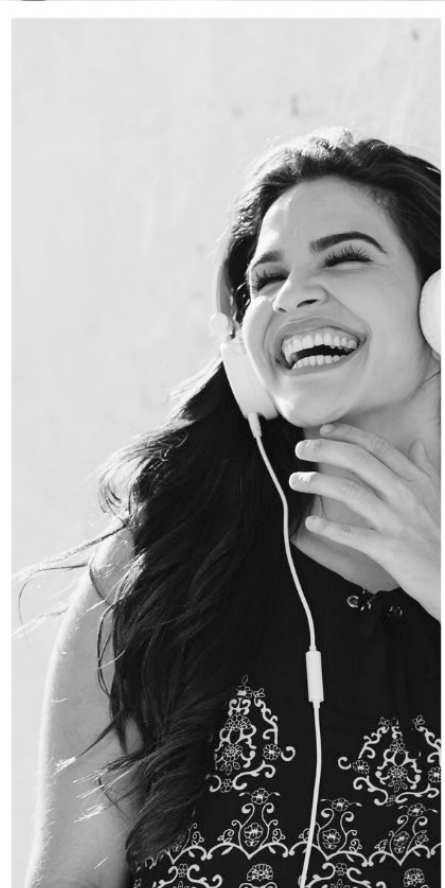
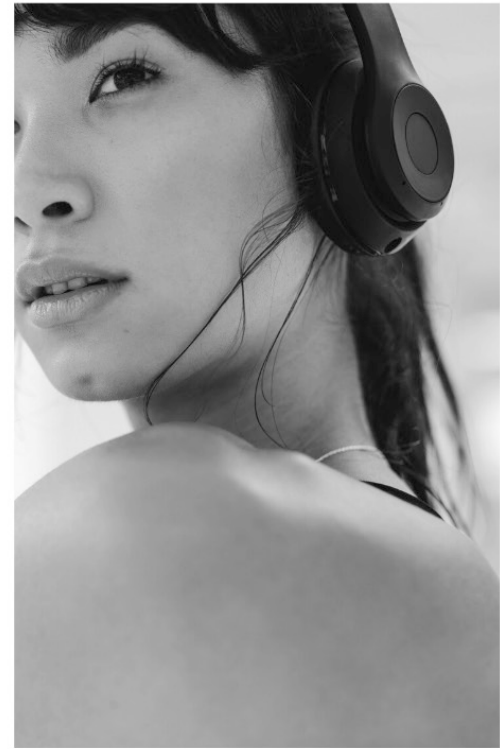
## COMING SOON...

Reclaim, Raise and Release  
your voice to the world!



# herINFLUENCE

podcast

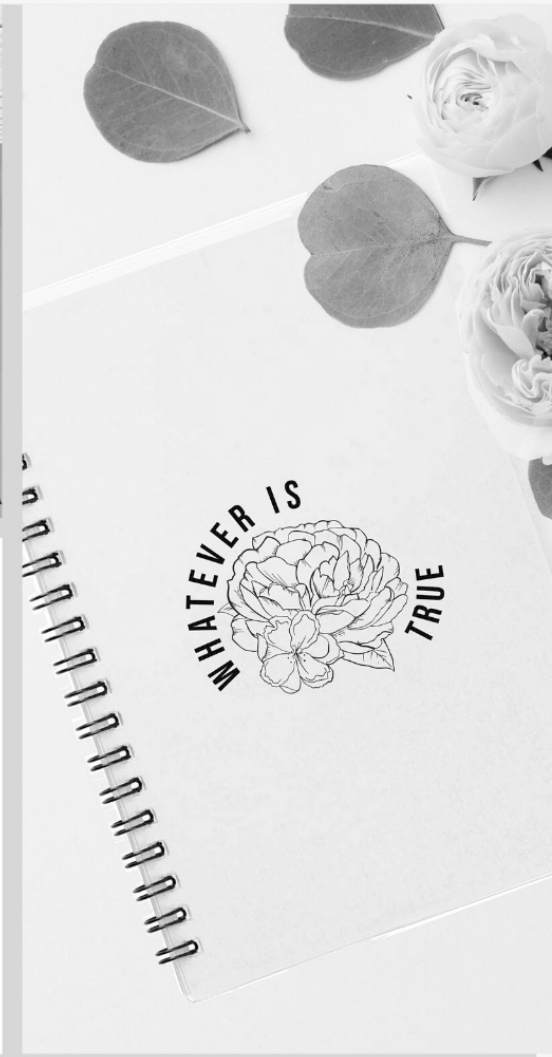


INVITING  
WOMEN  
OF FAITH  
ACROSS THE  
GLOBE TO  
RISE IN HER  
PURPOSE AND  
INFLUENCE  
HER WORLD.

[gatherwomen.com/podcast](http://gatherwomen.com/podcast)

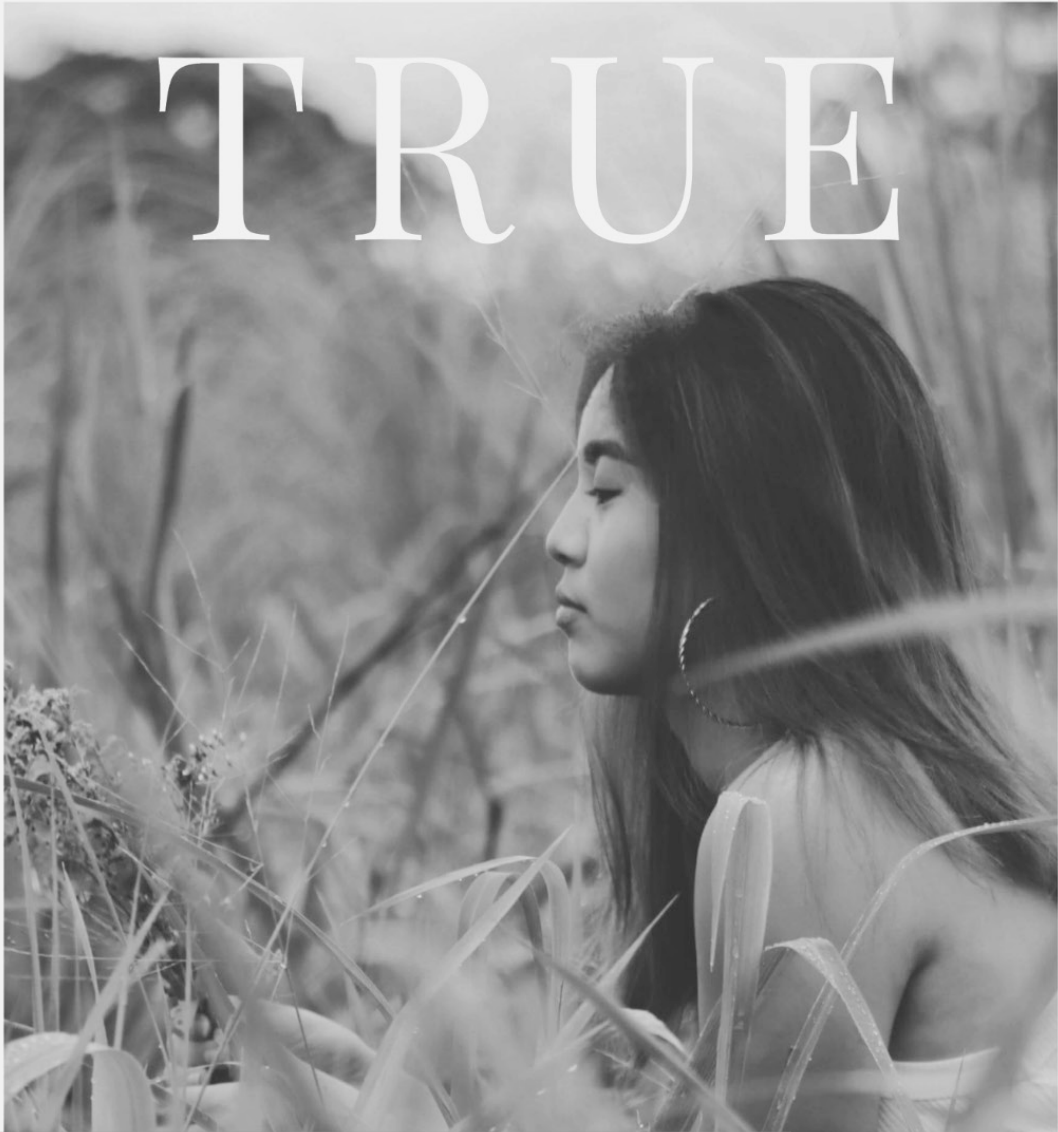
NEW!

# Gather Merch



Journals, Sweatshirts, Verse Art & More!

[gatherwomen.com/gather-shop](https://gatherwomen.com/gather-shop)



# TRUE CURRICULUM

Now available at:  
[gatherwomen.com](http://gatherwomen.com)

*GATHER*





# VENDORS



# GATHER VOICES



**Cathie Ostapchuk's** work and ministry as a leadership development trainer, consultant and coach - has led her to work in global non-profit organizations such as World Vision and Compassion, corporate boardrooms, and has taken her across Canada, Africa and Australia. Cathie is committed to raising the profile and presence of Canadian Christian women coast to coast and as the Co-Founder of Gather Women. She believes that cultivating the soil in this nation and gathering, developing and equipping Canadian Christian women will nurture a collective voice a presence that can radically impact our churches, communities and our culture.



**Vanessa Hoyes,** her husband Andrew and four daughters moved from Australia to pioneer Resurgent Church. They carried a God-given promise of a reawakening across Quebec and the French-speaking world. They have dug deep roots and fallen in love with the people of Quebec. She adores the local church in all Her glorious imperfect perfections!



**Danielle Strickland** is currently based in Toronto, Canada. Her aggressive compassion has served people firsthand in countries all over the world. From establishing Justice Departments for The Salvation Army to launching Global anti-trafficking initiatives, to creating new movements to mobilize people towards transformational living. Danielle trains, advocates, and inspires people to live differently. Danielle is the author of 5 books - "The Ultimate Exodus: Finding Freedom From What Enslaves You" and "The Zombie Gospel: The Walking Dead and What it means to be Human." She is host of DJStrickland Podcast, Co-founder of Infinitum, Amplify Peace and Brave Global. Danielle is a mom of 3, wife to @stephencourt and has been affectionately called the "ambassador of fun".



**Anne Miranda** was born and raised in Canada, to a traditional Lebanese family, so she understands the challenges of being first generation Canadian. Anne is passionate about seeing the lives of women transformed by Jesus and loves encouraging others to each their full potential as they advance the kingdom of God in their lives. She directs the women's ministry at Village Church in Surrey, British Columbia. Anne and her husband Carlos have 2 children, Nathaniel and Hannah. She enjoys walks on the beach, cheerleading really loud at her kids sporting events and exploring new cafés.



# GATHER VOICES



**Alyssa Esparaz** a communicator and advocate. She works to inspire and equip the Church to live compassionate lifestyles in her role as Writer and Communicator at Compassion Canada. She is an International Development student at the University of Toronto. Some of Alyssa's favourite things are Raptors basketball, travelling, and eating too much ice cream. Find her online at [alysaesparaz.ca](http://alysaesparaz.ca).



**Brooke Nicholls** is a Worship Leader and Songwriter from Toronto, ON, where she serves as a Staff Worship Leader at Sanctus Church. When she's not at her home Church, she's leading worship at different Churches and Ministries across Canada and beyond. Brooke has been named the Female Vocalist of the Year for the last three years at the Canadian Gospel Music Awards and her new album 'Pursue' is nominated for Christian/Gospel Album of the Year at the 2020 Juno Awards. Brooke is married to her guitar player Steve.



**Victoria Boettger** is one of the Lead Pastors at Slate Church. She is passionate about Jesus, people and the local church! Originally from Sweden, she met her Canadian husband Luke while attending Hillsong College in Sydney, Australia. After 5 years of pastoring in her native Sweden and obtaining a degree in social work, Victoria and her husband moved to Canada to plant Slate Church together with Brandon and Emma



**Cheryl Nembhard** is an award winning Filmmaker, Playwright & Social Advocate who uses her incredible talents in Theatre & Film, to tackle some of the toughest societal topics. Beyond the stage, she's dedicated her life to community service, helping rehabilitate troubled youth, former gang members, ex- drug addicts, rape victims & teenage mothers. In addition to being named one of '100 Women to Watch in Canada', CBC Canada has recognized her as one of '150 Black Women who are making Canada a better place'. Cheryl is Co Host of 'See, Hear, Love', a Christian Womens talk show on YES TV. Life is not perfect, but together we can embrace the journey and carry each other



# GATHER VOICES



**Kaitlyn Cey** is a passionate joy chaser, beauty hunter and vibrant learner! Kaitlyn is the Sisterhood Pastor at Elim Church in Saskatoon. She believes relationships are the heartbeat of any powerful life, worthwhile cause and thriving community. Kaitlyn is the founder of Inspire YXE, a network that aims to equip youth to overcome challenges and be influencers in their world to make impact for God's Kingdom. Kaitlyn grew up on a farm in rural Saskatchewan and adores the lively sunsets and wild canola fields that paint the prairies as well as learning from diverse people and voices.



**Nadia Marychurch**, alongside her husband Levi, are the Lead Pastors of Liberté City in Canada. In 2018, Levi & Nadia, and their 4 children: Ryder, Mika, Hugo, & Jovie, left their home in New Zealand, where they had served as youth pastors, campus pastors and creative director for 13 years, to move to the capital city of Canada, and pioneer Liberté City. Nadia is creative to the core, having studied fine arts, and is all about seeing people step into the life that God has for them. She is a straight shooting, humorous, & dynamic communicator, with a powerful testimony and a down to earth approach to ministry.



**Meisha Watson** is a director, writer and actor from England. She moved to Canada with her family at the age of 14 with the dream to make it in showbiz. Meisha has now worked in the entertainment industry for 8 years. She has hosted on YTVs the Zone, presented at the Canadian Screen Awards, and interviewed celebrities at WE DAY! As the creator of the hilarious, musically led, biblical teaching variety show for kids 'HEY MEISHA!'; her mission at Crossroads and YES TV is to ensure that all young people know the gift of having a personal relationship with the God of the UNIVERSE!



**Lauren Funk** is a Worship and Service Programming Pastor at Oasis Church in Winnipeg where she plans Sunday services and works alongside her husband, Dustin. She is passionate about making faith relevant to today's culture, and helping individuals grow into fully-devoted followers of Jesus. She loves using all types of music and the arts to help further those efforts. In her spare time, Lauren tries to keep up with her two teenage boys and enjoys being active outdoors.



# GATHER VOICES



**Kim Blackaby**, Christ-follower, pastor's wife, speaker, traveler, school teacher, mom to three great kids and student of God's Word has served in churches both in Canada and Norway. Her experience leading women's ministries during those years instilled in her a passion to help women draw the life-giving water necessary to lead spiritually and emotionally healthy lives. Her motto is "Meet me at the River" (Psalm 46:4-5). Kim continues to lead women's ministries in her church in Langley, BC, and speaks at various women's events, both in Canada and internationally.



Born and raised on the west coast, **Kenzie Korzan's** love of the performing arts was fostered by gracious mentors and teachers from a young age. Her further studies at the Berklee College of Music ignited a passion for creativity in and through the church. This passion led her to Village Church, where she was brought on as Vocal Director in 2016. With the support of her husband Nate, she currently leads the worship teams at Village's Langley South location.



**Julie Davidson** and her husband Caleb are Lead Pastors of myChurch, a thriving local church in Ottawa. Caleb and Julie have four children, Judah, Abbey, Finley and Rowen. Julie is a dynamic communicator and a passionate leader whose heart is to see people released into their God-given purpose and calling. Her prophetic insight and practical, down-to-earth communication style is refreshing, humorous, and insightful. She loves helping people connect to an authentic, alive & active relationship with Jesus that will help you to spring forth into all that God has for you!



**Zion Tesfaye** is a young, joy-filled woman of God, who carries warmth and laughter into every room she enters. Her heart is to see every soul experience that same freedom, as she speaks hope into the hearts of strangers and encourages the next generation to rise into the faithful promises of our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ.



# GATHER VOICES



**Joanna la Fleur** is a speaker, podcaster, tv host, and communications consultant. With business and theology degrees, she has been helping the local church communicate the best news in the world for over 15 years. You can catch her interviews with Christian creatives and communicators on the "Word Made Digital" podcast and her bible teaching on the national tv show, "See Hear Love". Joanna has travelled to 35 countries in search of coffee and calls Toronto her home.



**Emma Richardson** is one of the Lead Pastors at Slate Church. She is a gifted communicator and loves to see people come alive in Christ. Emma also spends her time helping people as a psychotherapist and enjoys life in Waterloo, Ontario with her husband Brandon and their three kids. On any given day you'll find her with a toddler on her lap, sitting in workout clothes, with a Bible open on her table.



**Dagmar Morgan** is an educator, writer and spoken word poet. As an internationally published writer and two-time slam poetry champion, Dagmar uses spoken word as a healing mechanism, while providing unique mentorship. She is a strong believer in bringing up the next generation of powerful, faithful art successors. The test of her passion and skill has been here demonstrated ability to coach young poets and artists under her tutelage to champion status! She is working towards a Masters degree in Urban Youth Ministry/Counselling and preparing her first poetry release. Dagmar is Pastor at The Meeting House East Hamilton.



**Helen Burns** is passionate about seeing people realize their full potential as a gift to the world! Along with her husband, John, she co-pastors Relate Church, a thriving family church in the Vancouver area. Helen travels globally teaching on marriage, family and relationships and is a co-host of the TV show Love, Sex + Relationships.



**Erin Clark** is a pastors wife (planted Village Church with her husband Mark in 2010, which has grown into a multi-site church across many cities in Canada), a homeschooling mom of three girls (13, 11 & 9), and all-round person of passion in everything she does! She began homeschooling her girls years ago to give the family grounding amidst the crazy-beautiful chaos of their ministry life and is passionate about helping women flourish in their faith and their everyday lives! She authentically shares her life of ministry, motherhood and homeschooling on Instagram through the lens of humour and joy. Her motto for motherhood is Make Every Moment Count, redeeming the routines of life through fun, and intentional parenting



# GATHER VOICES



**Gillian McShane** is a LifeCoach, Consultant, Speaker and Podcast co-host. Gillian served in Pastoral Ministry at C4 Church (now Sanctus) for close to two decades. She is now using that experience with wit and wisdom to continue to Equip, Encourage and Empower individuals and teams to move toward their full potential. Gillian can be heard on the popular podcast *The Fully Lived Life* with her friend Dr. Merry Lin where they speak about life, love and purpose through the lens of faith and science. In her free time Gillian can be found chasing her grandson, labradors, chocolate and adventures with her tribe. Find Gillian on Instagram, @lifecoachgillian



**Toni Nieuwhof** is an author, speaker and family law mediator, and has spent decades of her professional life practicing law and combining her professional careers of pharmacist and lawyer in leadership roles for hospitals. Her most challenging and rewarding work as a lawyer involved advising and representing people going through the journey of divorce. In her roles as mediator and lawyer, she is a steadfast voice for the well-being of the children involved. Toni co-founded and co-hosts the *Smart Family Podcast* to help people love being home. Toni and her husband, Carey Nieuwhof, are at Connexus Community Church near Barrie, Ontario where they currently reside.



**Bonnie Pue** is a speaker, writer, and podcaster, but most of her time and energy is spent as a homeschooling mother to 5 young sons. She and her husband Bryan have been leaders in their local church community for over a decade, and they recently launched *The Union Movement*, a ministry focused on bringing health in the interconnected areas of sexuality, relationships, family, and church culture. Bonnie lives on the West Coast of British Columbia, and loves getting out on the hiking trails nearby.



**Dr. Merry C. Lin** is an author, speaker and psychologist with over 25 years of clinical experience. A wise counsellor and respected speaker, she can be heard on her popular podcast, *The Fully Lived Life*, with her friend, Coach Gillian, where they speak about life, love and purpose through the lens of faith and science. She also makes regular TV appearances on 700 Club Canada, 100 Huntley Street, A Better Us, and See Hear Love, and her teaching videos are available on RightNow Media. Dr. Merry is the author of *The Fully Lived Life: Rescuing Our Souls from All that Holds Us Back*.



# GATHER

## WHAT WE VALUE

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**We choose ABUNDANCE as a way of life...**  
knowing we have more than we need

**We choose to be BOLD**  
...rather than timid

**We choose to be GENUINE...**  
rather than cloaked in fear and self-preservation

**We choose to be INVITATIONAL...**  
rather than exclusive and isolated

**We choose to value HARMONY...**  
while embracing our diversity





# GATHER

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

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**We believe** in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**We believe** in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**We believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.









# NOTES













# NOTES

