

Welcome to Year 2 of “more”!

Let’s look at where we began and where we are going, beginning with the **photographic images** chosen for each year:

- Year 1: An open door = a gentle invitation to a life-giving place
- Year 2: A bench + a tree = a quiet strength found

Our **“more” logo** also tells a story. It features the same word in the same font, with one change:

- Year 1: A tendril or vine = potential growth/promise
- Year 2: An oak leaf = established/connected to something strong

Our **Scripture passage** informs our theme:

- Year 1: Focus on “sent to...the poor...the brokenhearted...the captive...prisoners...” with a message of hope = “In Christ, there is more to your story than you can see right now. You are not stuck. You are not alone. You are invited. Find life.”
- Year 2: Focus on “oaks of righteousness” – from vulnerable to strong, less than to more

We chose **our projects for Year 2** (project card) based on the phrase “to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve.” This year our **project video** provides a brief overview of each project. The Alliance Video team was not scheduled to travel to any of these locations this past year, and GCW does not have the budget to send them there, so no “on-camera” video portions from our IW’s are included in this video. If such opportunity presents itself in 2018-2019, we will release additional project videos online throughout 2018-2019. Detailed project summaries are included in the **June 2018 ENGAGE**. This year, we have also provided ten **Stories from the Field**, two from each of the five project ministries, to be shared throughout 2018-2019. Let’s watch the video now.

The **National Project** is one tool in your GCW ministry toolbox. It’s an opportunity for women to engage in prayer and the ministry of giving. It is one resource we provide for your ministry year.

As you begin to consider the **other elements** of your ministry to the women in our Alliance family – retreat speakers, retreat workshops, newsletters – let me give you some ideas as to how you can develop the “more” theme for Year 2.

Key concepts:

- Oaks of righteousness
- A quiet strength
- A place of quiet rest
- Connected
- Planted/Rooted

Related Scripture passages:

- Psalm 1:1-3 – like a tree planted by streams of water
- Jeremiah 17:7-8 – sends out its roots; no worries; never fails to bear fruit
- Psalm 73:21-27 – strength of my heart; good to be near God
- Ephesians 3:14-21 – strengthened, rooted, established...immeasurably more
- Colossians 2:6-7 – rooted in Christ; overflowing with thankfulness

Women in Scripture:

- Ruth & Naomi (widows)
- Esther (orphan)
- Tabitha/Dorcas (ministry to widows) – Acts 9:36-41

Women We Know:

- In our Alliance family
- In our church family
- In our extended family

Other Resources:

- Music Playlist
 - Near to the Heart of God (hymn)
 - Restless – Audrey Assad
 - I Shall Not Want – Audrey Assad
 - Breaking You – Audrey Assad
 - Healer – Kari Jobe
- Books (example: In the Midst – John Stumbo)
 - Pg 30 – Feb 5 – offer what you have, weaknesses and all
 - Pg 40-42, 44, 46 – Feb 6 – permission granted to struggle
 - Pg 48-49 – Feb 8 – honor God and declare His goodness even when I don't understand Him
 - Pg 118-199 – Feb 21 – moving mountains
 - Pg 259 – Mar 16 - scars
- Podcasts (example: From Tree to Shining Tree – Radio Lab)
 - Underground is an intertwining mass of roots like a mat
 - Underground activity is as abundant as what is going on above ground
 - All trees of all species share food
 - Trees share roots; one tree is connected to 47 other trees
 - Biggest/oldest = most highly connected, considered "hubs" in the network
 - "You think they are individuals...but, No! They're all linked to each other."