

## **Organization: Woman of the Bible: Naamah, wife of Noah**

Patience and vision. As organization chairperson, these are two attributes that are needed over and over again. The new annual report survey certainly tested both these virtues. And, this is why I chose to study Noah's wife. **Who is she?** Noah's wife is *unnamed* in the Christian Bible as are her heroic daughters-in-law, the wives of Shem, Ham and Japheth. However, the Hebrew Bible in Genesis 4:22 identifies her as Naamah, daughter of Lamech. Jewish traditions associate her with singing, and gathering the plant life for the ark. Naamah and her 3 daughters-in-law are direct descendants of Cain. Naamah's story has 3 distinct tests: 1. **A test of faith:** in her God and in her husband; 2. **A test of courage:** collecting the necessary animals and plants that would save them from whatever was coming, and to keep steadfast to her task until all was ready. She, Noah, the family and the collections were sealed within the Ark, fear-filled but faith-filled that God would keep them safe; and 3. **A test of endurance:** The time spent on the Ark followed by starting over. The four women of Noah's family faced a desolate world. Everything was destroyed. There was no home to return to, no neighbours to share the grief, no familiar customs to observe! Had Naamah given in, succumbed to the disaster and refused to go on, God's plan would not have succeeded. Naamah and her daughters-in-law were great heroines, and their names should have been recorded in our sacred book.

In a sense, our work as organization chairpersons is very much like that of Naamah. We are often called upon to have faith in what others have envisioned, to have patience in the trials and errors of new ways, to have courage to teach and implement new ideas, new methods, and to have the strength to carry on through the hardships to come to the end of a task. Naamah showed her true value, for women can endure pain and misfortune better than men. God has seen to that.

I chose Noah's wife, Naamah because she was a team leader, a teacher, a comforter, a gatherer; she led her family into the new world, giving them the skills necessary to bring the world to a new light. We do that too! God is watching and looking after you, even when it seems you are alone so **TRUST IN GOD, NO MATTER WHAT COMES.** If we are irresponsible and live only for today, we *will* be wiped out. **LOOK AFTER THE EARTH. EVEN ONE PERSON OR ONE FAMILY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** Never think you are unimportant in God's plan.

I urge each of you to become an unsung heroine, just like Noah's wife, Naamah. With FAITH all things are possible, Courage, is easy when you have faith, and Endurance, bring your strength to the end.

Madame President, this concludes my report.