

Women in the Mission of the Church

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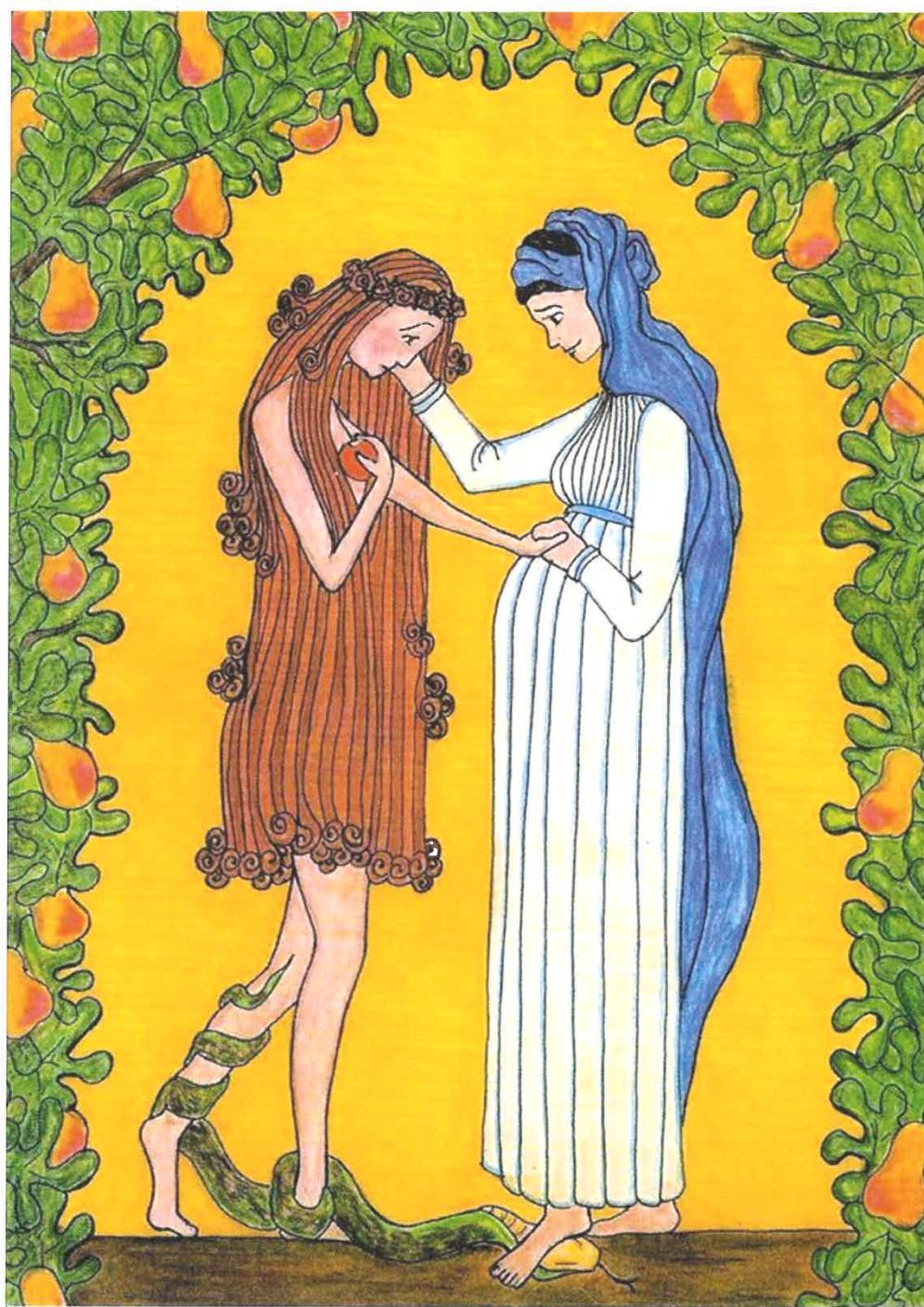


Women's Leadership in the Early Church

The malign Enemy,
who once gained the Fore-mother
as an instrument for sin,
has been put to shame,
worsted by a Woman,
for He who was incarnate of a Virgin,
the Word of the Father,
simple and immutable,
as only He knows,
has undone the curse of Eve and Adam.

-8th century hymn by Kassia,
a female hymnographer

Sister Grace Remington, *Mary and Eve*, →
Crayon and Pencil, 2003.





Photini (the
Samaritan
Woman) at
Jacob's Well

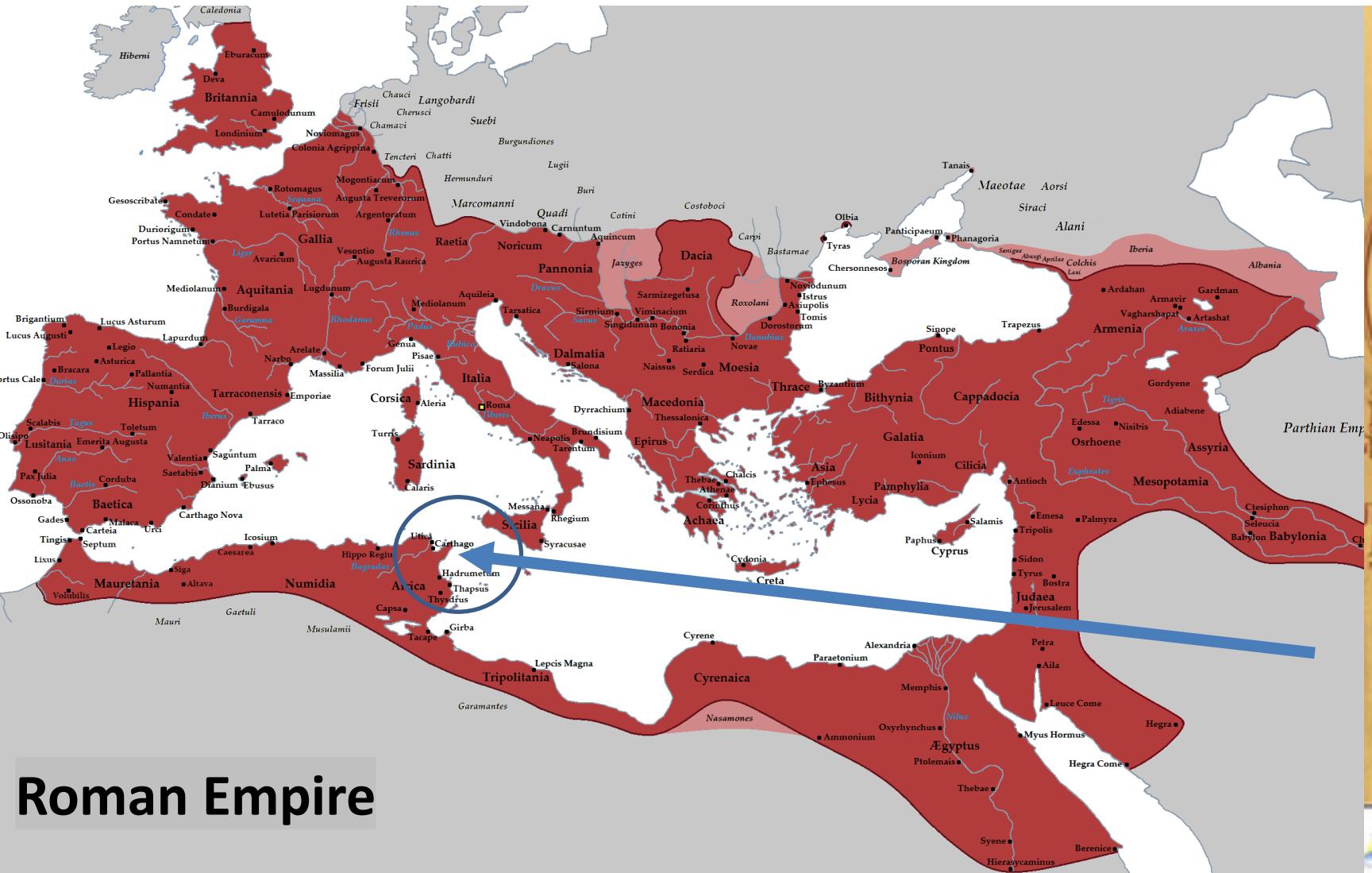


Christ in the
House of
Martha and
Mary,
Vermeer,
17th century

NT Examples of Women's Leadership



Martyrs: Perpetua and Felicitas (203 AD)



Desert Mothers & Scholars



Women's Leadership in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

~300 - ~1500



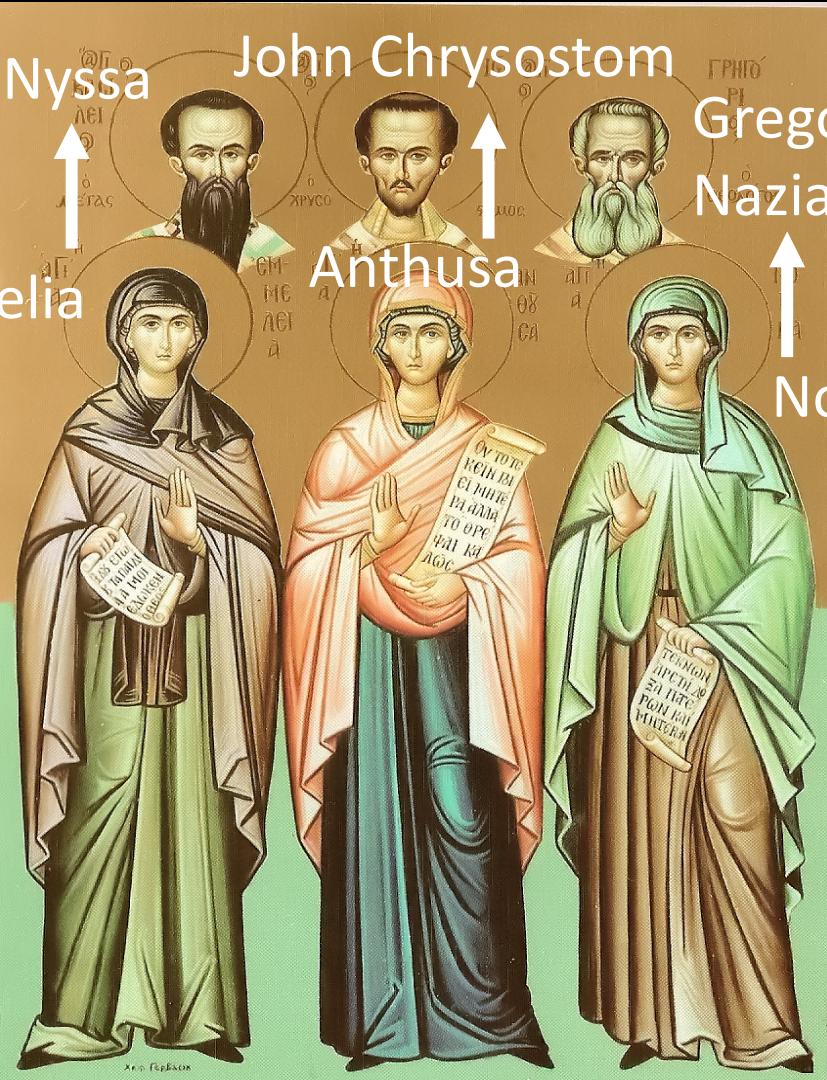
Mothers and Sisters (4th century)



Macrina

Gregory of Nyssa

Emmelia



Gregory of Nazianzus

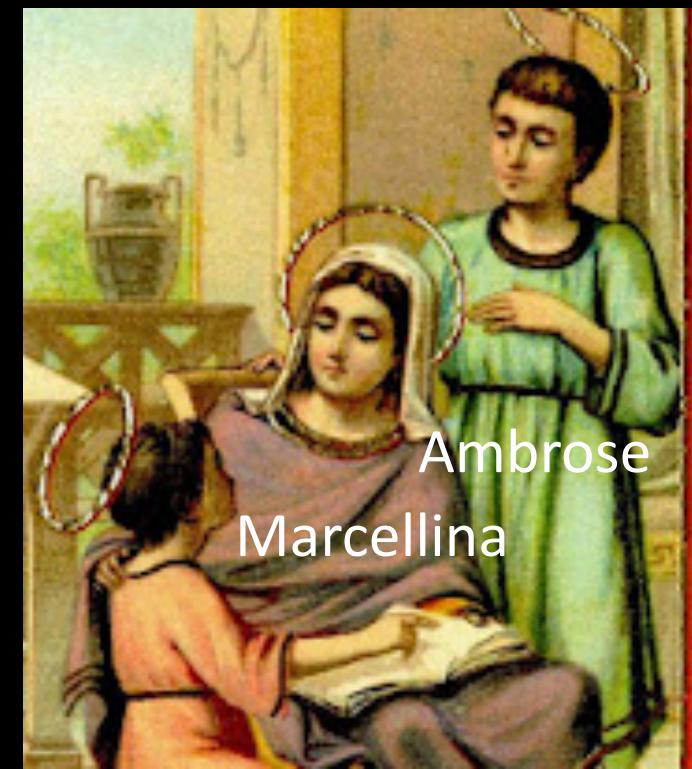
Anthusa

Nonna



Monica
(b.331)

Augustine



Ambrose
Marcellina



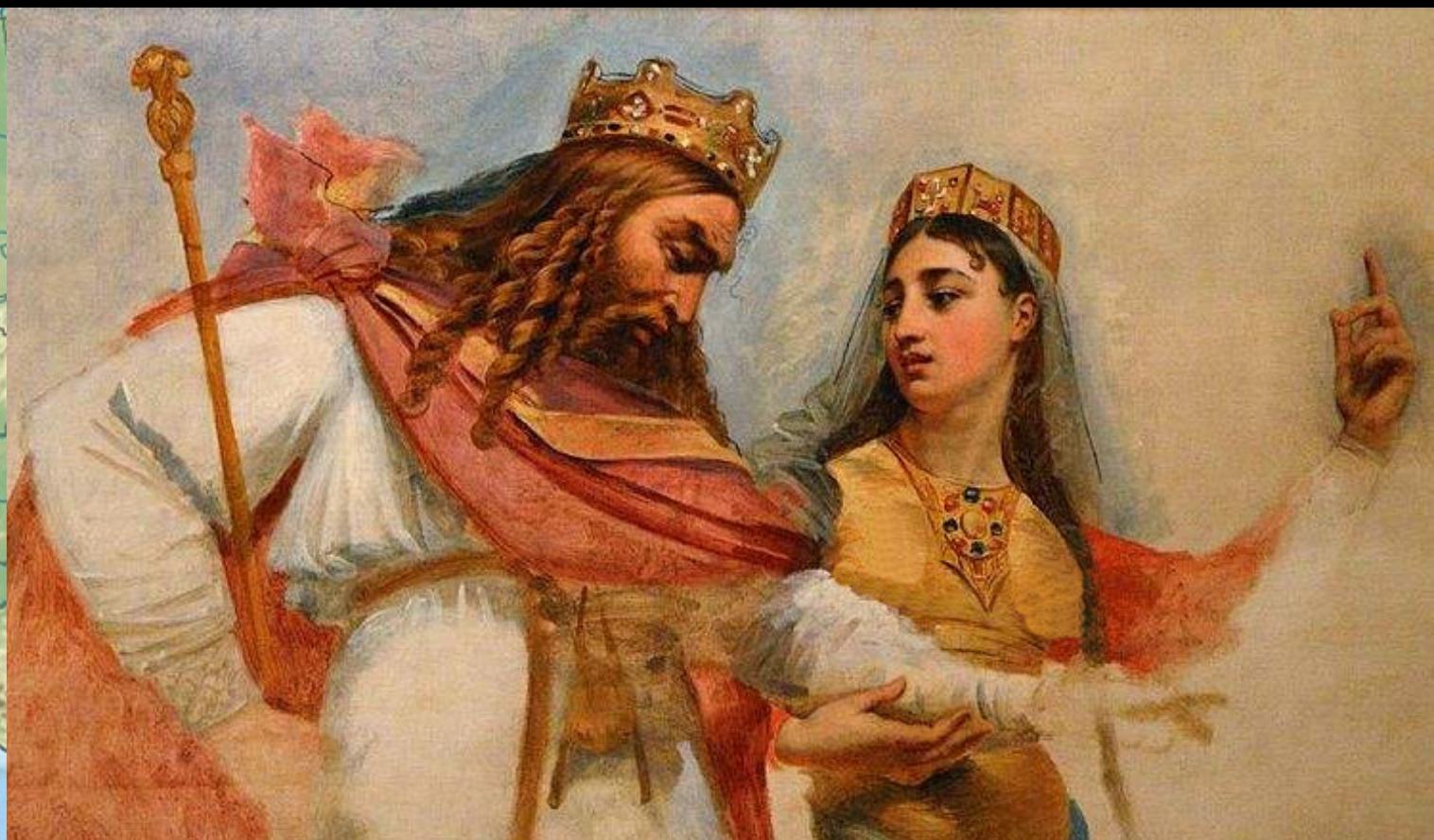
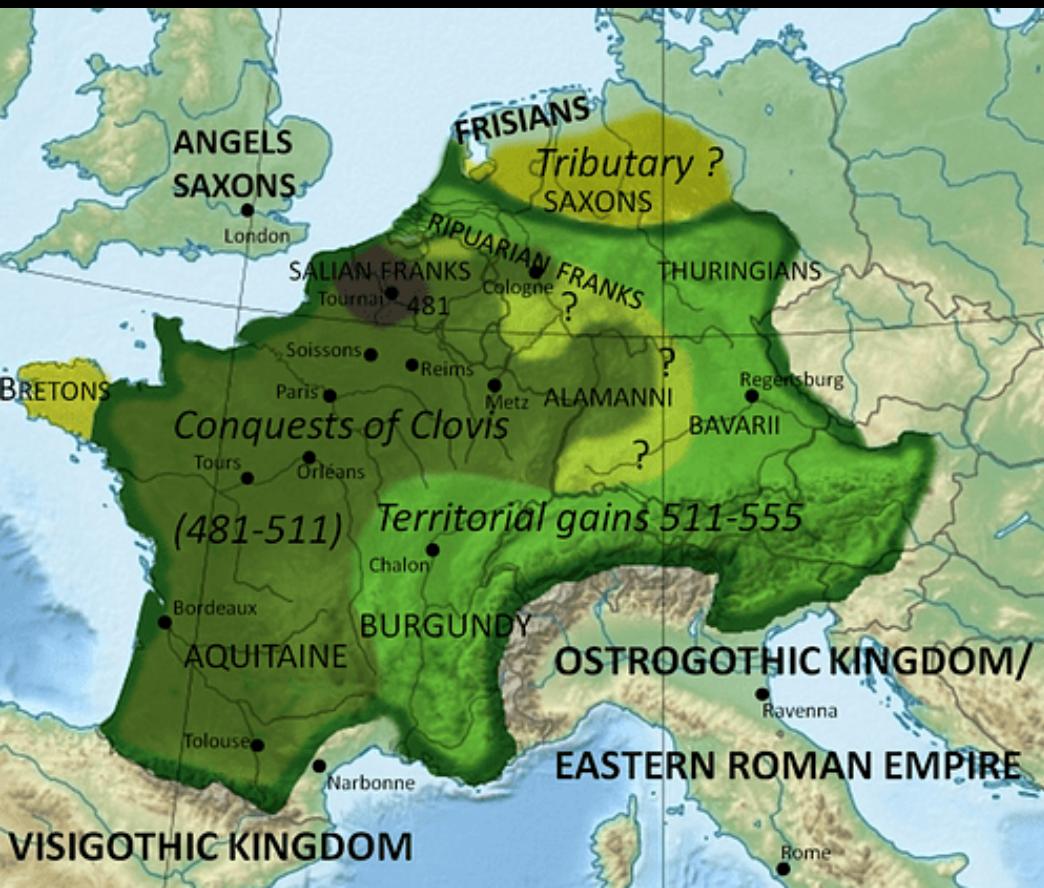
4th
century

Helena of Constantinople, by Cima da Conegliano



Queen Clotilda (b. 474): Mother of Christian Europe

- Converted her husband Clovis
- Her great-granddaughter also converted her husband to Xty

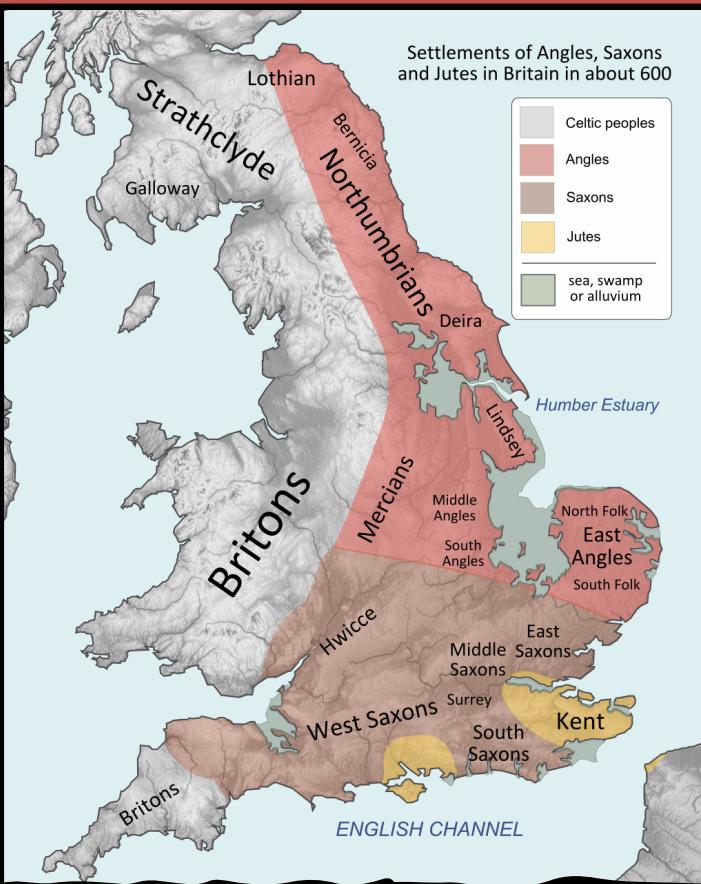




Queen Bertha (b. 539)

- Clotilda's great-granddaughter
- Converted husband Ethelbert





Queen Ethelberga (b. 605)

- Bertha's daughter
- Clotilda's great, great-granddaughter
- Converted husband Edwin



The three orders of medieval society



Contributions of Monks and Nuns to Society



Hildegard (1098-1179)



Mystics

- Hadewijch (1200-1248)
 - Flemish (Belgian)
 - Leader of a beguine community (fewer rules than nuns)



Obstacles faced by beguines and nuns

- Seen as more sinful
- Accused of tempting men
- Forced to stay cloistered
- Dependent on men for sacraments





Luther, the former monk, married a former nun & revolutionized marriage



Women's Leadership Since the Reformation (1600—present)

Preachers (17th – 20th century)



Susanna
Wesley
(b. 1669)



Phoebe
Palmer
(b. 1807)



Amanda
Berry-Smith
(b. 1837)

Aimee Semple
McPherson (b. 1890)



Ida B. Wells
(anti-lynching)

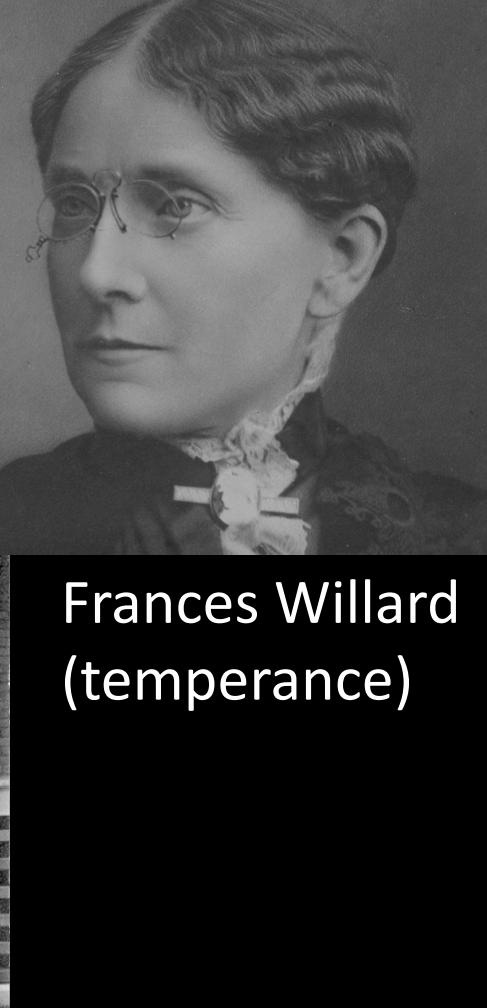


Elizabeth Fry
(prison reform)

Social Justice Activists (19th century)



deaconesses



Frances Willard
(temperance)



1989

Denominational Missionaries



Unnamed Missionary Woman in India

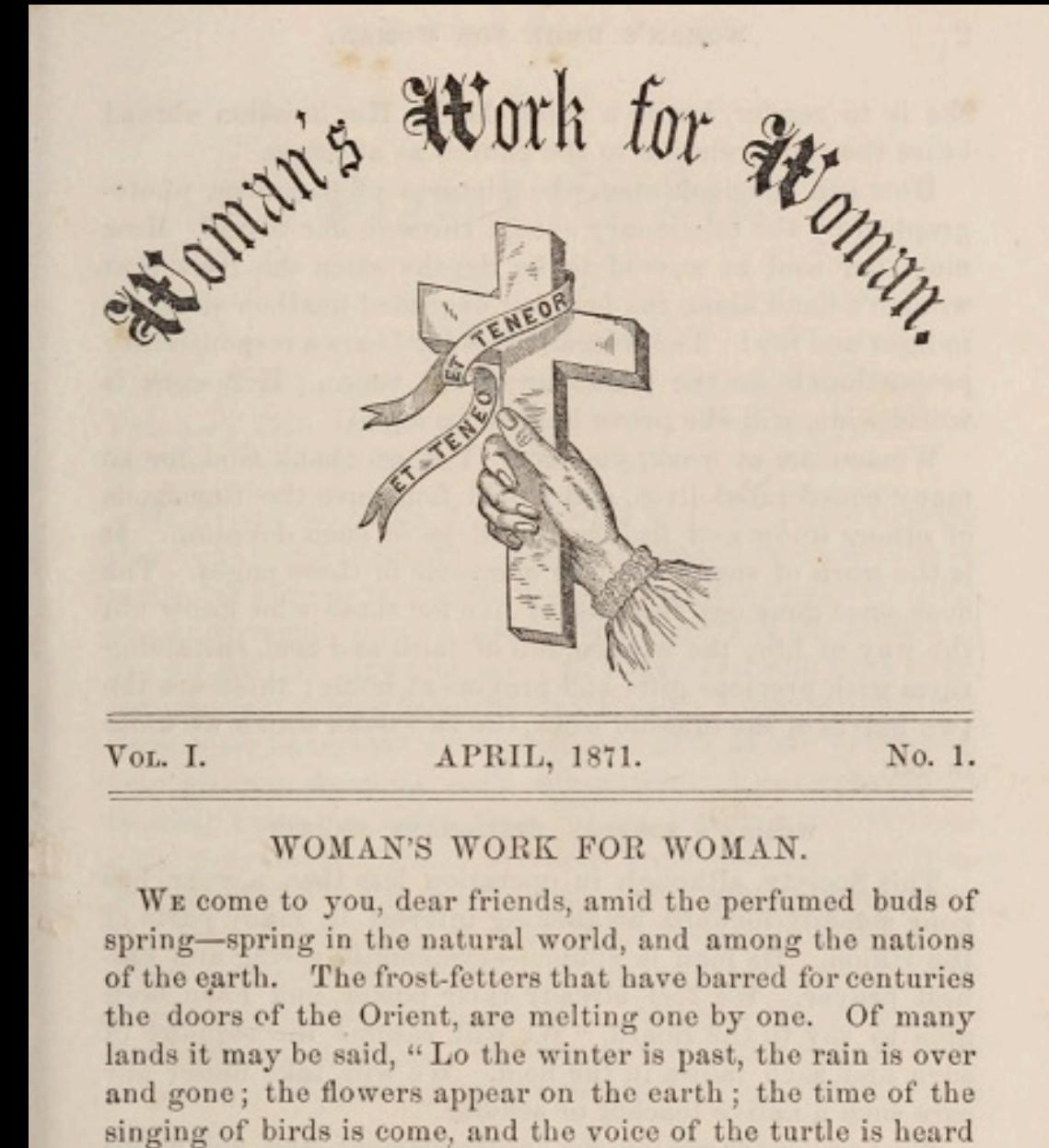
Women's Sending Boards



Woman's Home Missionary Society, 39th annual meeting- (1912)

Woman's Work for Woman

*Reaching secluded
“heathen” women
whom Western men
were forbidden to visit*



Women's Sending Boards

*Glimpses of my
life and work in
India, by Dr. Ida
Scudder*



Dr. Mary Stone (Shi Meiyu) Dr. Ida Kahn (Kang Cheng)



4713 In one of Dr. Stone's wards.
W. F. M. S. Hospital, Kukiang.
Danforth.



89513 Patients waiting to enter
Clinic at Danforth Memorial
Hospital. Kukiang.



Women's Sending Boards



Mary Porter and Maria Brown

Bible Women



Miss Hartwell and Bible women in the Foochow Mission

Faith Missionaries, Evangelists, and Church Founders



Faith Missions



Lammermuir Party, Hudson Taylor, ca. 1866

Chinese Evangelists (20th century)

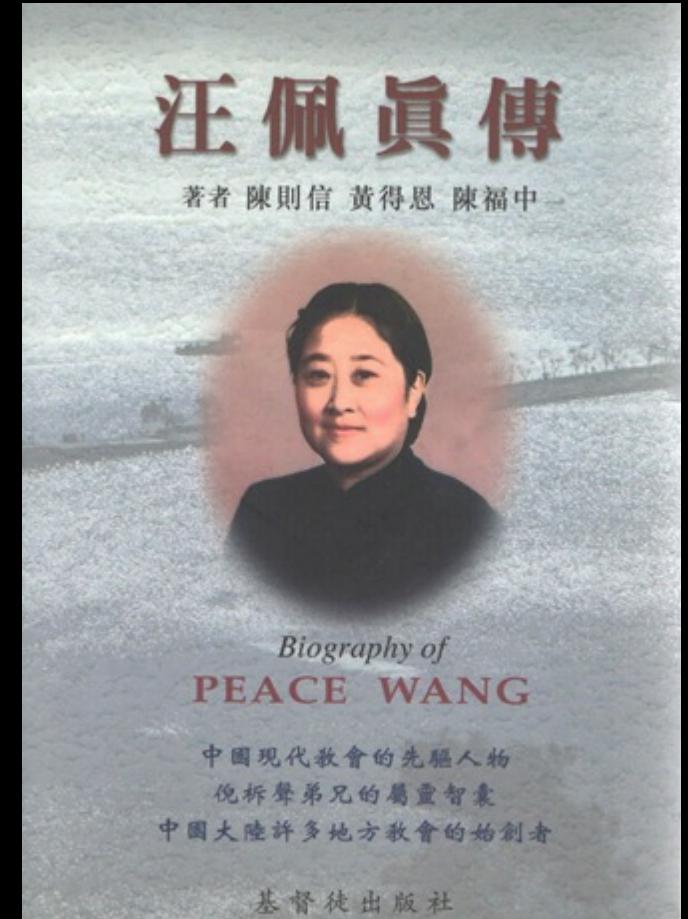
Dora Yu



Christiana Tsai



Peace Wang



African Evangelists and Church Founders (20th century)



Abiodun Akinsowon
(Nigeria)



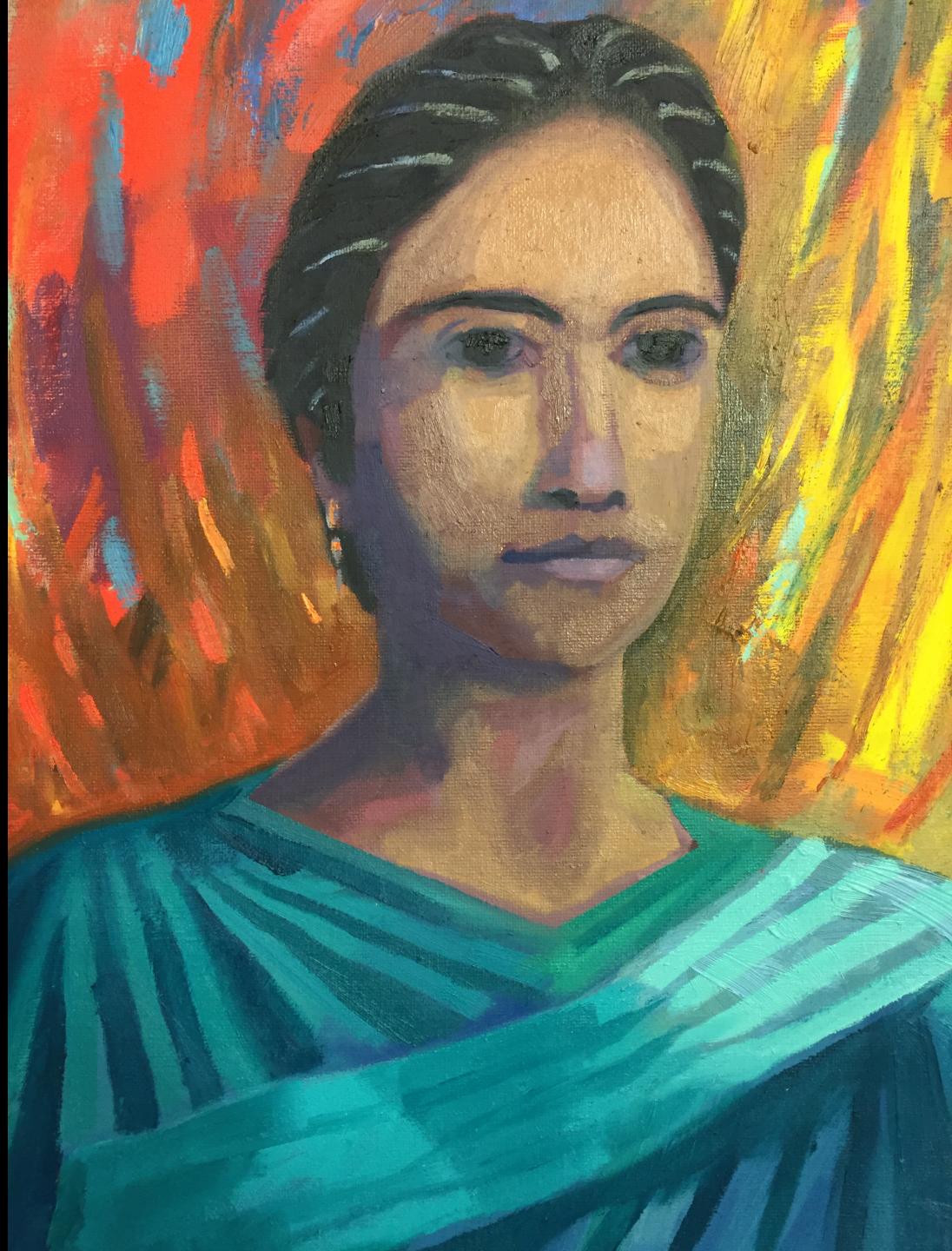
Ma Nku (South Africa)



Mai Chaza
(Zimbabwe)

Lessons Learned

1. Women have contributed to the mission of the church in every era
2. Women contributed to theology
3. Women faced obstacles to ministry in every era
4. Women turned constraints into assets
5. Women have been faithful, even to death
6. Women have followed Jesus' call, not social norms for women



Q&A

Dzubinski, Leanne M., and Anneke H. Stasson. *Women in the Mission of the Church: Their Opportunities and Obstacles Throughout Christian History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/women-in-the-mission-of-the-church/393020>

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