



# Women in the Mission of the Church

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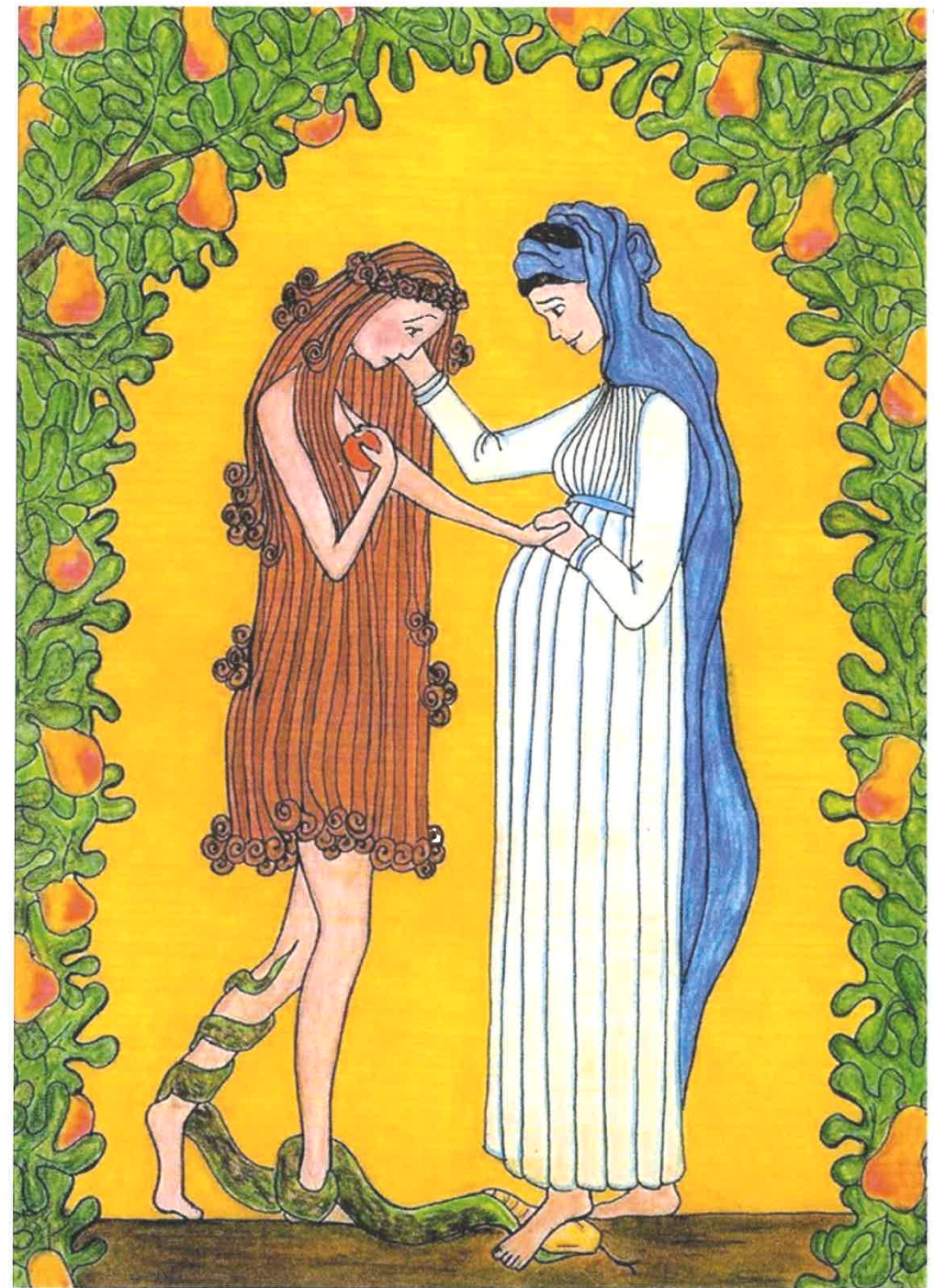
# Women's Leadership in the Early Church



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.

-8<sup>th</sup> century hymn by Kassia,  
a female hymnographer

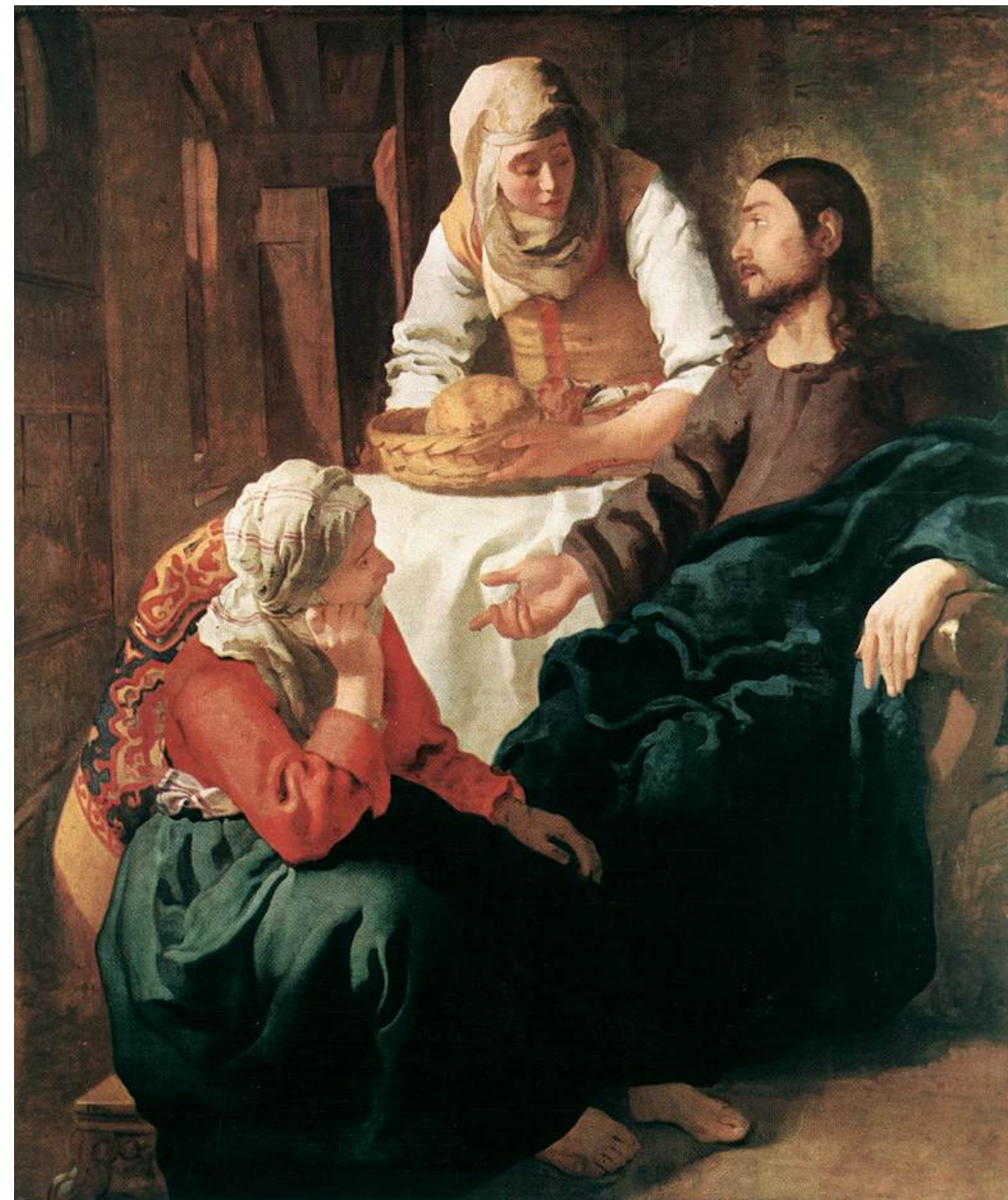
Sister Grace Remington, *Mary and Eve*, →  
Crayon and Pencil, 2003.







Photini (the Samaritan Woman) at Jacob's Well



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary, Vermeer, 17<sup>th</sup> century

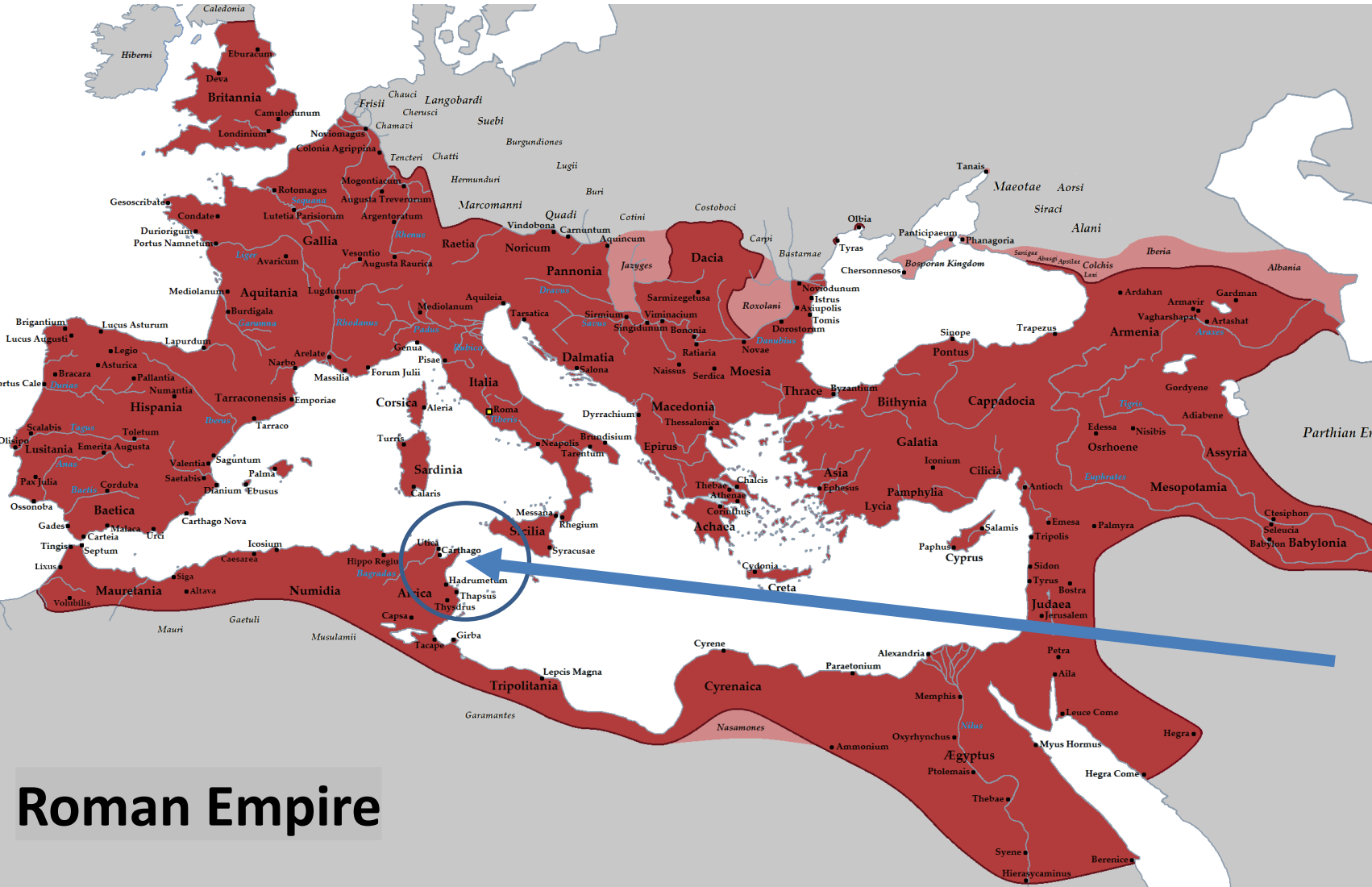


# NT Examples of Women's Leadership





# Martyrs: Perpetua and Felicitas (203 AD)





# Desert Mothers & Scholars





# Women's Leadership in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

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~300 - ~1500





# Mothers and Sisters (4<sup>th</sup> century)



# Macrina

# Gregory of Nyssa

# John Chrysostom

# Gregory of Nazianzus

# Emmelia

# Anthusa

# Nonna



4<sup>th</sup>  
century



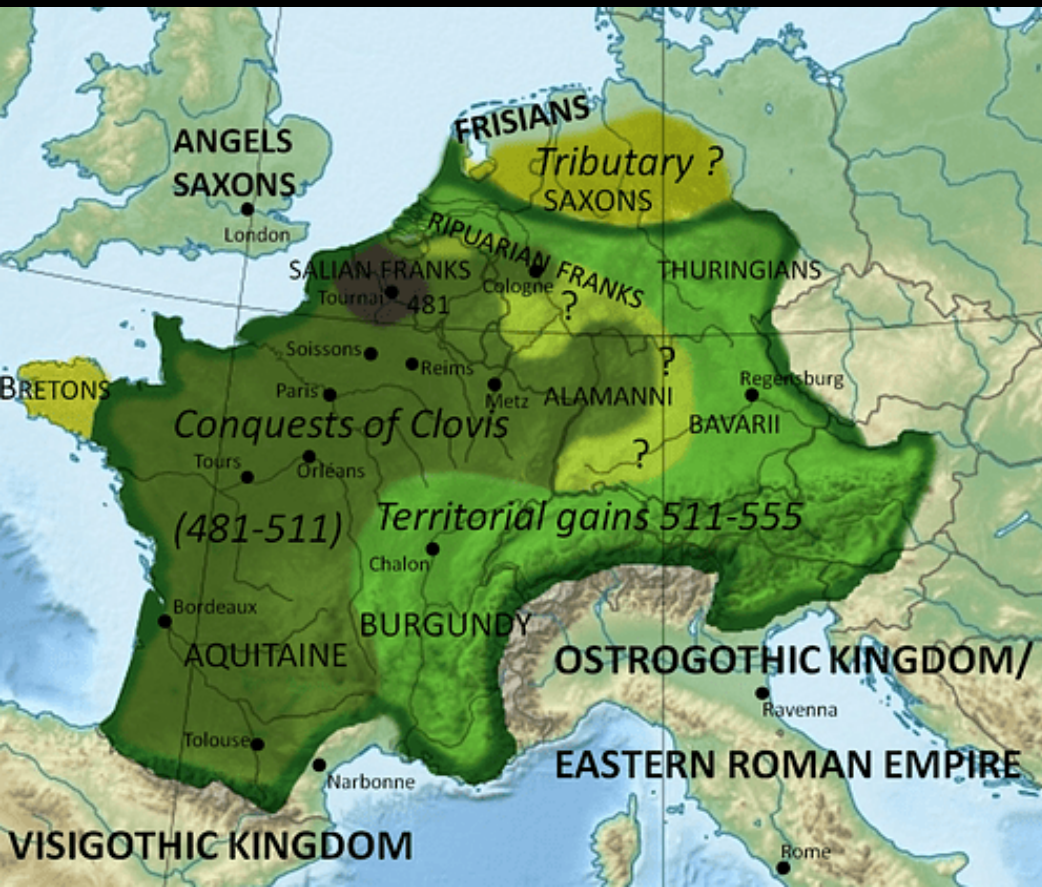
Helena of Constantinople, by Cima da Conegliano





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

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







<http://statues.vanderkrogt.net>

## Queen Bertha (b. 539)

- Clotilda's great-granddaughter
- Converted husband Ethelbert



<http://statues.vanderkrogt.net>





# Queen Ethelberga (b. 605)

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



# The three orders of medieval society



- Those who work
- Those who fight
- Those who pray



# 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 – 20<sup>th</sup> century)



Susanna  
Wesley  
(b. 1669)



Phoebe  
Palmer  
(b. 1807)



Amanda  
Berry-Smith  
(b. 1837)

Aimee Semple  
McPherson (b. 1890)



# Social Justice Activists (19<sup>th</sup> century)



Ida B. Wells  
(anti-lynching)

Elizabeth Fry  
(prison reform)



deaconesses



Frances Willard  
(temperance)





# Denominational Missionaries



Unnamed Missionary Woman in India



# Women's Sending Boards



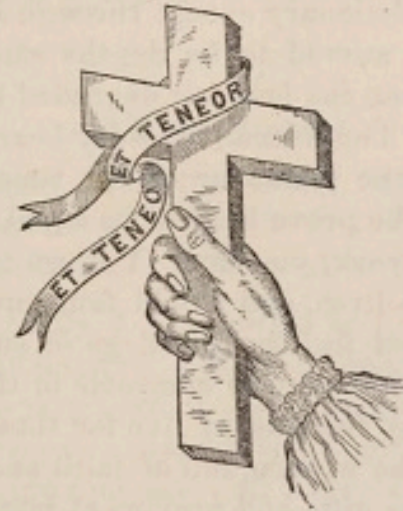
Woman's Home Missionary Society, 39th annual meeting- (1912)



# Woman's Work for Woman

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

## Woman's Work for Woman.



VOL. I.

APRIL, 1871.

No. 1.

### WOMAN'S WORK FOR WOMAN.

WE come to you, dear friends, amid the perfumed buds of spring—spring in the natural world, and among the nations of the earth. The frost-fetters that have barred for centuries the doors of the Orient, are melting one by one. Of many lands it may be said, “Lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard



# 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, Kinkiang.  
Danforth.



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







# 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 (20<sup>th</sup> century)

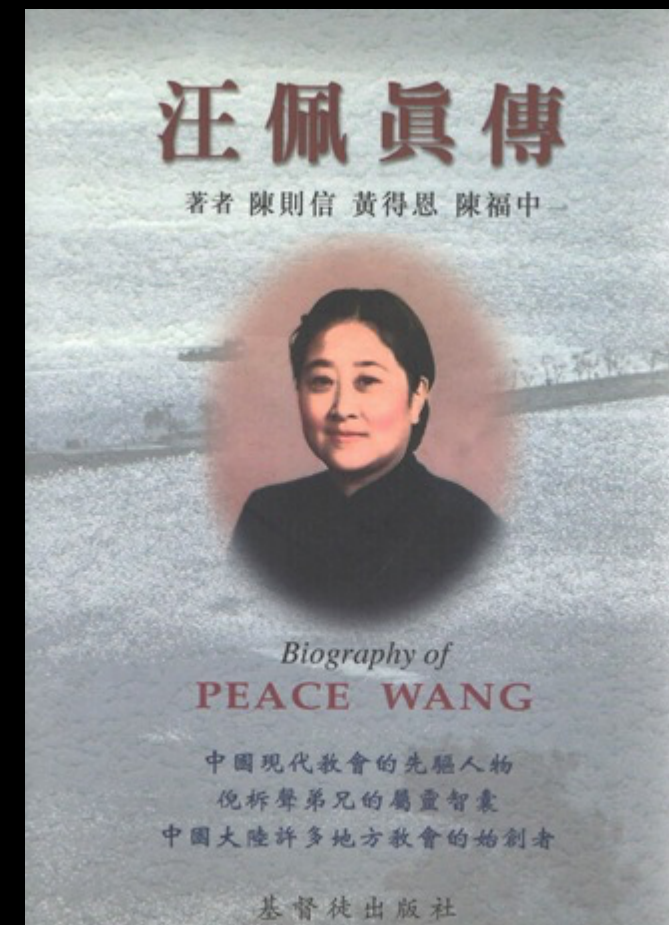
Dora Yu



Christiana Tsai



Peace Wang





# African Evangelists and Church Founders (20<sup>th</sup> century)



Abiodun Akinsowon  
(Nigeria)



Ma Nku (South Africa)

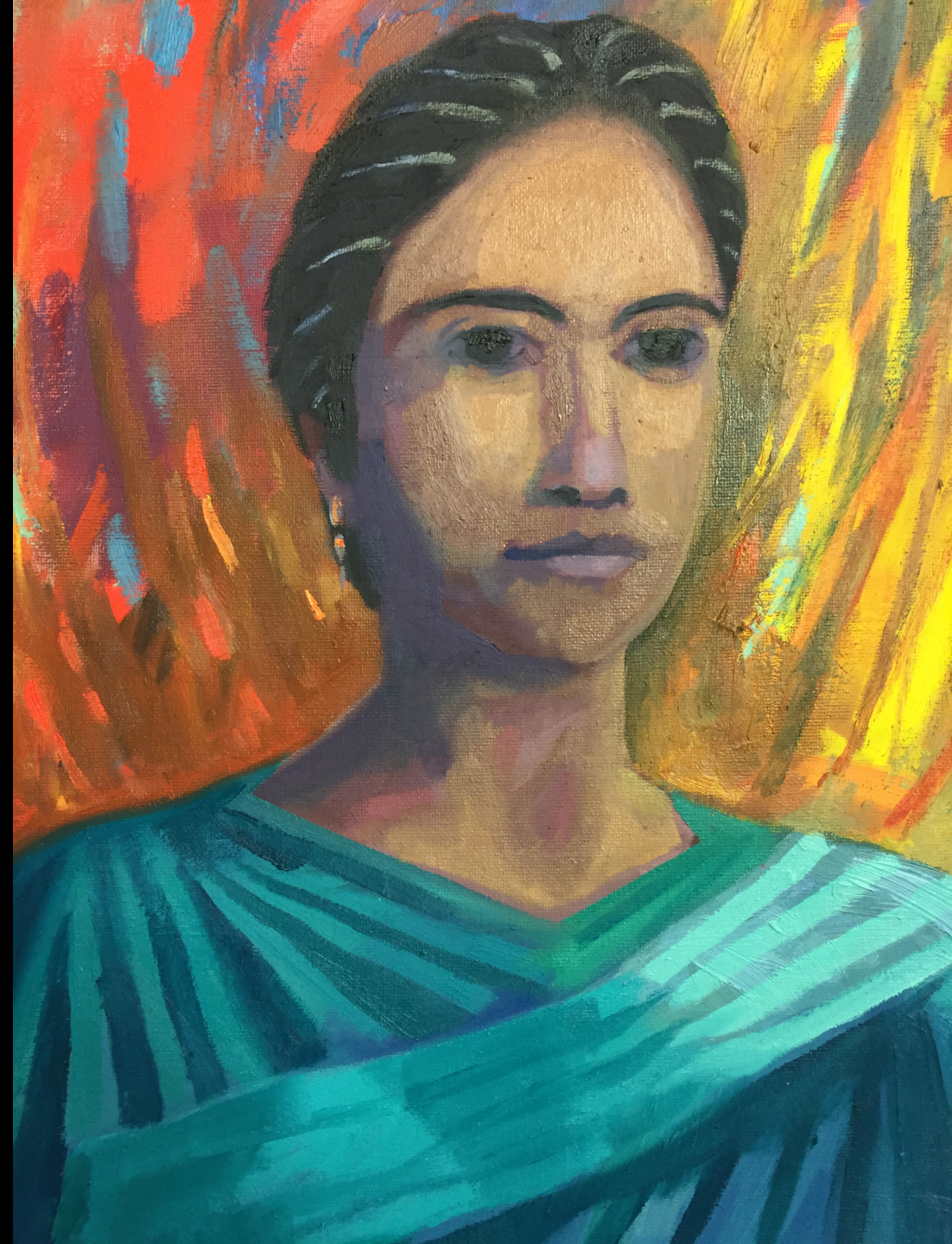


Mai Chaza  
(Zimbabwe)



# 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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