

Grapevine


Assisting international women theologians in 2009

There are a number of approaches to encouraging and sustaining diversity within Mennonite Church USA. Mennonite Women USA, a ministry of MC USA, contributes to this process by providing financial assistance for women in Latin America, Asia, and Africa to receive theological education. In 2009, MW USA will contribute a total of \$7000 to assist international women in this way.

New recipients for 2009 are Maria Lidia Roman of Paraguay, Maria Arango of Columbia, and Rachel Bagh of India. Maria Lidia Roman and her husband are full-time students; she is gifted at working with women and children and plans to do this after her studies are completed. Maria Arango has worked with groups of women, youth, and children in drug rehabilitation programs; her goal is to become an ordained pastor in the Mennonite Church. Rachel Bagh says, "God has used me in many ways to introduce conflict mediation skills [learned at the Eastern Mennonite University Summer Peacebuilding Institute in 2001 with support from MW USA] to the seminaries, theological teachers, and women's meetings through my teaching...."

Renewal recipients for the International Women's Fund for 2009 are Albania Molina and Rosario Rosales, both of Honduras; Elizabeth Vado of Nicaragua; Yesenia Avila, Martha Gomez, and Zarai Gonzolia of Colombia; and Esther Barnaba of Tanzania.

MW USA committed \$1500 each year from 2006 to 2009 for the African Anabaptist Women Theologians (AAWT) scholarships. Additional funds for the AAWT were raised by *Les Amies*, a North American women church leaders' giving circle, through the work of fundraising volunteers Cathleen Hockman-Wert and Susan J. Jantzen. This year's AAWT recipients are Lola Bumba, Nathalie Kananga, Mimie Kukendi, and Helen Bradburn (see the November–December 2008 issue of *timbrel*, pp. 15 for photos and more information about these recipients).

Your gifts help MW USA provide resources for women. MW USA is solely supported by contributions from groups and individuals. To give on line: <giving.mennoniteusa.org/categories/4r>. 



Maria Lidia Roman



Maria Arango



Rachel Bagh