

Leader's Reader

May 2008

Getting you the information you need to lead ministries with women and girls!
American Baptist Women's Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2288, info@abwministries.org, www.abwministries.org
American Baptist Women's Ministries—Vital Partners for a Vital Ministry!

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Featured Articles

AB GIRLS National Leadership Team Announces New Members

Abby Reyes, convenor — Abby will be the 2008-09 AB GIRLS NLT Convenor. Abby Reyes is from First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City, Utah. Abby has been on the NLT as the resources coordinator (youth) from 2007-2008. She also serves as president of her church youth group. She's active in her church AB GIRLS ministry as well as in student government, National Honor Society, Health Occupation Students of America, and volleyball.

Molly Dunn, events coordinator (youth) — Molly lives in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church. Molly is active in her church and youth group, as well as American Baptist summer camps and regional AB Women's Ministries and AB GIRLS events.

Casey Howard, resources coordinator (youth) — Casey is from Fremont, Nebraska. She has experience in local AB GIRLS leadership as convenor and spiritual leader. She has participated in a school-to-career internship at her church (First Baptist Church) with the youth pastor.

Jasmine Turner, spiritual development coordinator (youth) — Jasmine is from Richmond, Virginia. Jasmine serves as the chaplain of her youth usher board, as well as serving on the youth leadership council and in the dance/movement ministry of her church, Riverview Baptist Church.

Rev. Jackie Saxon, appointed spiritual development coordinator (adult) — Jackie has been a Bible study leader at the National Gathering for Girls two different years. She has co-directed the National Youth Gatherings (National Ministries, ABCUSA) several times, including *More than a Week*, the National Youth Gathering scheduled for July 2008. Jackie serves as admissions counselor and recruiter at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, and is a member of Church of the Savior, Cedar Park, Texas. (Jackie is beginning a three-year term on the team.)

Staying Connected: A Conference-call Ministry

Are you feeling disconnected in ministry with others in leadership? Here's an answer to your prayers... **Staying Connected: A Conference-call Ministry** will be launched on Friday, June 20, 2008.

Join Florene LeBlanc, *national coordinator of Young Adult Women's Ministries* and Minister Carol W. Shannon, *national coordinator of Church and Community Ministries*. Our **first session** will be a "meet & greet" with a discussion about Psalm 34:1. *Please have your Bible available.*

Mark your calendars for this exciting new endeavor!

"Staying Connected" Conference Call

Friday, June 20, 2008

Time: 9:15 PM Eastern Standard Time

Call Number: (712) 432-1690 (*Please call-in a few minutes before*)

Access Code Number: 644787#

(Please note that long distance charges may apply to callers; however the phone call can be free if you have an unlimited calling plan or free nights and weekends.)

Future Sessions: How am I communicating God's vision? What is biblical leadership?

Officer Articles **(Click on the officer's name to view photo!)**

Thoughts from President Terri Simpkins

By national president [Terri Simpkins](mailto:terrisimp@aol.com), terrisimp@aol.com

Over the last several years—decades, even—American Baptist International Ministries (IM) has seen support for missions shift from a centralized mission board that supports all the international missionaries of the ABC to more individualized support; i.e., supporters favoring particular missions rather than all missions. Because of this shift, IM has adopted the approach of having a Missionary Partnership Team (MPT) for each missionary.

I am a part of the team that supports Roberta Stephens and the team's job as Roberta's MPT is to look after Roberta's interests and needs so that she won't have to. The MPT takes care of things such as distributing her newsletter *Roberta's Tidbits*, seeing that Roberta is thoroughly supported by prayer, ensuring that she is supported financially, and encouraging opportunities for more personal interchange between her supporters and Roberta.

Serving on her team has been an exciting experience for me and our team. I have known Roberta for many years, so last year when she was on home assignment it seemed natural to say "yes" when she asked if I would be on her team. According to Ruthann Stevenson, Mission Partnership coordinator for International Ministries, as of April 11, 2008, we have close to 400 individuals serving on 51 MPTs at locations all across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

The main task of the MPT is to build a Missionary Partnership Network of individuals, congregations and regions to support the missionary to provide reliable spiritual, emotional and financial support of the missionary or missionary family. The Network is made up of people like you who come alongside missionaries to pray for, participate in, and financially support their ministry. This is similar to the church in Antioch that set apart Barnabas and Saul for ministry in other lands in Acts 13:1-3.

How can you be supportive?

- Commit to pray for your missionary or missionary family regularly.
- Write to them; post their picture on your refrigerator and in your church fellowship hall.
- Look for creative opportunities to develop an interactive relationship with your missionary family.
- Support them financially.

So, where do you begin?

- Contact a missionary/missionary family and let them know you would like to be part of their network. Go to the International Ministries website for more information about specific missionaries: www.internationalministries.org.
- Ask your regional staff for suggestions on how to become involved with International Ministries missionaries who are connected with your region.
- Call International Ministries at 800-ABC-3USA and ask for the Mission Partnership office.

It is well worth the effort to reach out to our missionaries in this way and I guarantee that you will be blessed.

On Planning Publicity

By secretary, [Rosalyce Grubbs](mailto:abwgrubbs@verizon.net), abwgrubbs@verizon.net

Often times, as secretary, you will be called upon to handle publicity for your ABWM group. When it comes to sharing guidelines for publicity, I could not communicate more clearly than these suggestions taken from *The Guide to American Baptist Women's Ministries*:

The purpose of publicity is always to generate support for a project, an event, or a cause. It is imperative that your information is complete, concise, and correct.

Posters: Make them as large as possible. Make them as simple as possible. Use eye-catching art and bright colors. Include who, what, when and where.

Bulletin Boards: Think three-dimensionally rather than flat, using yarn, buttons or rope to form letters. Use large graphics and photos to catch attention. Change it frequently to maintain interest.

Displays: Create a mobile by suspending articles using nylon thread or fishing line. Build a kiosk in the church narthex and arrange pictures or posters on all sides. Write messages on balloons and display them.

Invitations: Write invitations with felt-tip pens on blown-up balloons; deflate and mail or distribute. Design invitations to be printed and cut out in an interesting shape. Print the invitation and then cut into several puzzle pieces; mail or distribute in an envelope. Use brightly colored paper.

There is no limit to the possibilities for publicity, so use these ideas to spark your own creative thought. Continually seek new ways to invite women and girls to participate in your programs and activities.

Establishing Our Heritage

By treasurer [Barbara Chicks](mailto:cbchicks@earthlink.net), cbchicks@earthlink.net

I have been thinking about the various ways we can support our organization. Being a Vital Partner and giving on a regular basis is one way. It can be a small amount or a large amount given monthly, quarterly or yearly. It's one way of saying "Thank You" for all the women who have served over the years in AB Women's Ministries. How about giving a special gift in honor, or memory of someone who helped you along the way?

Perhaps one of the easiest and least painful ways to give is to include AB Women's Ministries in your will, designating a tithe, 10%, or some other percentage or a specific amount, to our organization. Talk to your lawyer, or whoever drew up your will, on how to do this. I hope you all have a will, since if you don't your state will decide what happens to your assets.

Do you have money invested in CDs or other interest bearing accounts? You can get a higher interest rate by taking out a Gift Annuity through the American Baptist Foundation, and designating AB Women's Ministries as the recipient. AB Women's Ministries will receive the money after your death, when you don't need it any more. You also get a tax deduction when you take out a Gift Annuity.

AB Women's Ministries recently received \$10,948.43 from a pooled income fund she had established with ABC several years ago. A woman had invested \$5,000 and received income for over 10 years. A Charitable Remainder Trust is a modern equivalent. Again, you also get a tax deduction for part of your investment. For more information, contact the AB Foundation at 1-800-222-3872 extension 2035, or go to their web site at www.americanbaptistfdn.org. They offer several ways you can receive income for the rest of your life or for a certain period of time. It's a great way to receive income and also help AB Women's Ministries.

Report from Chile

By coordinator of Personal Development Ministries [Patti Stratton](mailto:strattons@suscom-maine.net), strattons@suscom-maine.net

Hola! I am honored to bring greetings to you from your Chilean sisters in Christ! Sisters from Central America also send their love and blessing! What an amazing and life-altering time I experienced in Chile. As many of you know, I was privileged to represent you at the ordination of Rev. Margarita Compos, the first woman to be ordained in the Chilean Baptist Federation. I also attended a Women In Ministry conference the week prior to Margarita's ordination. In attendance were women in ministry from Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Canada, and the USA. Two ABC missionaries, Mylinda Bates (Costa Rica) and Magda Aguire (El Salvador) were also present.

At the end of February, I traveled to Chile with three other women from Maine, one of whom is Rev. Shelia Heneise, retired ABC missionary and current co-pastor of Blue Hill Baptist Church, Blue Hill, Maine, with her husband Steve. Many of you will remember Steve and Shelia as they served in Nicaragua and then Chile. Also, Steve grew up in Haiti where his parents were ABC missionaries for many years.

At the conference we shared together, prayed together, learned together, danced and ate and laughed together. We also cried together and our hearts were bound together as the Spirit of God moved mightily among us. The climax of our week was the ordination service. Rev. Compos is truly a woman of God. With great grace and love she navigated all the twists and turns put before her to follow the call that God has so clearly placed on her life. She is a woman who has

trusted God to make a way when there seemed to be no way—and God did. Many of the women in ministry I met serve under difficult circumstances. Many have little or no support from their male counterparts. Yet they hear the call of God and are willing to step out in faith and answer that call. And God blesses their ministries. I sat with women who epitomize living “on the edge” and they inspired me.

As I was listening to a pastor from El Salvador (by way of Mylinda Bates translating in my ear) I finally and clearly heard the call of God on my life and I am now in the process of applying to Bangor Theological Seminary for the fall semester. There are so many things I would love to share with you! But for now, I ask for your prayers as I begin this new “edge” journey with God. I want to thank you for helping me to go on this life changing adventure with a \$300 scholarship from the Leadership Development Fund. Also, thank you for all of your prayers and support. I am a product of American Baptist Women’s Ministries leadership development. It is *you* who called me out and gave me my first ministry leadership experiences. It is *you* who have raised money to send me to conferences and training events and made it possible for me to experience the world! It is *you* who continues to pray for me and encourage me and love me. Thank *you*!

Broadening Our Perspectives about God!

By Church and Community coordinator [Minister Carol Shannon, specialgemstone@hotmail.com](mailto:specialgemstone@hotmail.com)
At times we can all be guilty of putting limitations on God. We are all guilty at times of putting God in a box. Our boxes can be very tight and restrictive. They do not allow room to grow and expand. We believe the acts that He does must fit into our logical patterns of thinking. The Bible lets us know in Isaiah 55:8-9 “*My thoughts are not your thoughts, or your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*”

There are times when God will choose to confuse the foolish in order to broaden our perspectives about who He really is.

I am reminded of Moses and the burning bush. Moses had never seen God present Himself in this manner before (*Exodus 3:3*). What about when Jesus appeared walking on the water in the middle of a storm? His own disciples thought “He was a ghost”. Again, they had never seen someone walk on water before (*Matthew 14:25-29*). An opportunity for them to broaden their perspectives was given, however Peter was the only one who capitalized on the moment. He walked on water as well. The Bible is filled with so many experiences such as this.

Each of these experiences can be an opportunity to broaden our perspectives about God. It allows us to experience and meet God in new ways. God will use these times to reinforce the fact again that His ways are not our ways. His sovereignty is higher than our limited perception of Him.

Have you been guilty of putting limitations on God? Have you ever judged or dismissed someone who had an experience with God that did not fit into your logical thinking patterns? Are you willing give God the opportunity to move freely in your life?

Women, if we continue to try to fit God in our logical thinking patterns, we may never be able to broaden our perspectives about Him. We will not be able to see Him in new ways—miraculous healings, new opportunities for ministry, and much more. The Bible says *Behold, I will do a new thing – Isaiah 43:19*.

Let’s broaden our perspectives about God: Take Him out of “your” box!

Recommended Books & Resources

Every Woman’s Battle: Discovering God’s Plan for Sexual and Emotional Fulfillment. By Shannon Ethridge

The Enemy Between My Legs. By Stephanie L. Jones. (This book deals with sexual abuse)

Who Moved My Cheese?. By Spencer Johnson. (This book deals with change)

What Happens When Women Say Yes to God? By Lysa Terkeurst

Discerning the Voice of God “How to Recognize When God Speak?” By Priscilla Shirer.

Finally, I would like to say Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls and emails during my recent surgery. I continue to recuperate... Talk about broadening my perspective of God...after my second surgery, my doctor was able to remove my stitches within eight days. Hallelujah, for He is able! I look forward to meeting many of you at this year's National Women's Conference in August. I hope you are all making plans to attend. Please feel free to communicate with me via email and phone. May God continue to bless and keep you in perfect peace!

2008 National Women's Conference

By conference coordinator [Joyce Camp, campjr100@aol.com](mailto:campjr100@aol.com)

Now it is time to **register** for National Women's Conference at Green Lake, WI on **August 9-15!** I am wondering...what makes the conference inspirational and unforgettable for *you*?

Hearing God's Word taught with power by Rev. Regina Pinto-Moura (originally from Brazil) as we explore the theme, "**Come to the Edge...and Beyond!**" and during evening gatherings where a variety of gifted women such as Rev. Dr. Lai Fon Wong will speak...

Singing and worshiping together while Hornrette Washington (from NY) plays the piano and Jan Smith (from KS) leads us in joyful praise...

Sharing with new and old friends in a Response Group each day...

Growing thru a variety of workshops led by women of God such as Thelma Schaller, Minister Carol Shannon, Margie Ogden, Kathy Lien, Alicia Luquin, Jan DeWitt, Patti Stratton, and others...

Meditating during times of solitude and just before Vespers as we are surrounded by the beauty of God's handiwork in nature...

Celebrating the anniversary of the Guild Prayer Tower led by the National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS...

Laughing during the AB GIRLS auction of "Maxi and Mini Totes" and section gatherings...

Taking time for books, crafts, shopping, reuniting with friends, and *much* more...

Come and be inspired! It is thrilling to think of all the things that await us at conference, plus added blessings like the following:

Missionaries — Mylinda Baits, who will bring two guests from Costa Rica; and Karen Smith from Thailand.

New Idea — "Bridging the Gap" is a special track for Young Adult Women led by Florene LeBlanc, national coordinator of Young Adult Women's Ministries. This group will have activities, varied times of discussion and will even cook together one afternoon!

Don't forget—Registration is a two-step process:

1. Make your reservation for house, campsite or room and meals with GLCC by calling 1-920-294-3323 or email guestservices@glcc.org.
2. Send program registration fee of \$125 before June 1 (\$140 after June 1) to:
Barbara Diefenderfer, 140 Lizard Creek Rd., Andreas, PA 18211

NOTE that costs are less this year due to decreased meeting time:

- Roger Williams Inn, \$267 per person, 6 nights (Dbl. Rm.)
- Bauer & Kern, \$297 per person, 6 nights (Dbl. Rm)
- 6 Day Meal Plan, \$164.25 (or \$119.25 without breakfasts)

Honors and Memorials in Conference Program Book

Would you like to honor someone in your area for a job well done or a Godly woman who helped you grow in your relationship with Christ? You can also honor Love Gift or your own AB Women's Ministries group. Here's how: You or your group may write a paragraph (35 words or less) "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" the important person or program. This will be placed in our conference program book for a donation of \$25. A larger gift of \$50 or \$100 will give you ½ page or a whole page to display the message of honor you wish to convey. Last year some chose their

presidents, their mothers, and other outstanding women in their church. Money given will be used toward printing the conference program book.

Write out the statement of honor you wish printed and send with the requested donation (see above) to Barbara Diefenderfer, Conference Registrar, 140 Lizard Creek Road, Andreas, PA, 18211. The deadline for these statements is July 1, 2008.

New Resource in Bloom for Spring

By resources coordinator [Rebecca Davis, hazelcat@charter.net](mailto:Rebecca.Davis@charter.net)

As I come to the end of my term as resource coordinator, I look back over the past three years and marvel at how good God is. I never dreamed what a wonderful experience this would be. Especially the part about getting to know more about all our wonderful material.

As you prepare for your spring/summer rallies, be sure to have plenty of AB Women's Ministries resources available for your women to purchase. As I repeat often (like a broken record), this material is never outdated! It's based on Scripture so it never changes and material written 10 years ago is still viable and fresh.

The *Women of the Word* Bible study series continues to be a best seller; in fact, there are only two of the original three titles still available. Be sure to check out our store for these and other resources that can help your women in their individual or group study.

Now, for the exciting news! As you probably know, new material is ready just in time for the rallies. Check out *Words of Vitality: Biblical Reflections for Women/Palabras de vida: Una recopilación de reflexiones bíblicas para la mujer* (English/Spanish in one volume). These articles were written by some of the finest Christian women it has been my pleasure to meet, and the volume includes thought-provoking questions for reflection. This book is excellent for either individual or group use.

So....as you prepare for the rallies or maybe even a summer Bible study, check out the store on the AB Women's Ministries website (www.abwministries.org/store) and make sure you have plenty of material.

Have a wonderful summer! Hope to see you all at the women's conference in Green Lake.

Updates from the Midwestern Section

By geographic coordinator of the Midwestern Section [Jane Smith, jwsmith2901@juno.com](mailto:jwsmith2901@juno.com)

Throughout the Midwest section, we find that winter is gradually giving way to spring. Along with that activity comes much activity in AB Women's Ministries. The presidents have recently reported on spring board meetings, rallies, retreats and great plans for summer conferences.

Ohio – Mariann Curl, President — Ohio ABWM Conference will be at Heartland Conference Center, North of Columbus on June 5th-7th. The featured speakers are Karen Helton, Bible study leader; Victoria Goff, White Cross co-chairperson; Mark Samuel from Neighborhood Ministries and Robert Bishop from Dayton Christian Center will tell us their experiences with clients involved in trafficking and prostitution. Barbara Duncan, "Drama Queen for the King", will perform with inspirational messages for us.

Nebraska – Vera Duncan, President — The conference committee has finalized plans for the AB Women's Conference to be held at Camp Moses Merrill and Conference Center June 6-8, 2008. National president Teri Simpkins will be our featured speaker. We will hold a secret Box Auction during the conference with the proceeds going to the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Oklahoma. AB GIRLS will be meeting at the same time.

Great Rivers – Ruth Petersen, President — Our conference will be on June 6-8 at the Lake Williamson Conference Center in Carlinville, IL, with Peggy Giocoletto speaking about human trafficking and Scott Coats, missionary from Thailand, as our international missions representative. Elizabeth Landau will also be there. She has spent the last year as an administrative assistant to Lauren Bethell.

Indiana/KY – Charlotte Welling, President — Indiana is having their summer conference on June 6-8 at Franklin College in Franklin, IN. We are very excited to have Joan Brown, Murrow

Indian Children's Home, coming to be our guest missionary and speaker. There will be a musical concert on Saturday evening followed by a Sunday morning worship service. The AB GIRLS will be meeting elsewhere on Franklin College campus for their Gathering.

South Dakota – Nancy Evans, President — We're looking forward to our annual conference at our beautiful camp in the Black Hills on June 6-8.

Michigan – Kay Hoyt, President — Michigan is busy planning our annual conference at Alma College. We have dates set for June 6-8 and have a full program planned!

Mid-America – Dawn Doerr, President — Summer Conference will be held the second weekend in July at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa. Dawn Doerr accompanied Rev. Sandra DeMott Hasenauer on a whirlwind tour during the last weekend of April. They attempted to spend time with each of the five areas as they attended Spring rallies where Sandy spoke on Break the Chains: Slavery the 21st Century.

Central Region – Janie Allen, President — Our Summer Retreat/Conference will be held on June 6-7 at CrossWind Conference Center. Ruth Spencer will be the speaker using "Pruning to Bear Fruit" as the theme. There will be a workshop for young adult women on Saturday morning, along with other options during the weekend. We have appointed a Young Adult Women's Associate for a two-year term and are seeking to reach out to this age group.

Wisconsin – Barbara Jean Sanger, President — I am very excited about this year's conference because our national president Terri Simpson will be with us to bring us messages on the theme "Come to the Edge" and Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century. Dr. Rev Trinetta Mc Cray will be our Bible study leader. We'll learn more about "Children in Poverty" from Rev. Dorian Mendez-Vaz, national coordinator for children's and intergenerational ministries, National Ministries (ABCUSA). Breakout sessions are planned so we can learn about our missionaries, children in poverty, Break the Chains, and mission trips.

Some exciting new ministry opportunities within our churches in the Midwest include after-school intergenerational opportunities, food banks, opportunities to minister with refugees being resettled in our cities, and new interest among women of all ages. The enthusiasm is contagious. The excitement of our national project "Break the Chains" is also very evident in the Midwest as we are learning more about the problem in our own communities and around the world.

Personally, I was blessed by the opportunity to share with the Indiana/KY board at a retreat the week after Easter. I look forward to more opportunities of this nature during my term.

Ways to Give to Love Gift

By treasurer [Barbara Chicks, cbchicks@earthlink.net](mailto:cbchicks@earthlink.net)

As our thoughts have focused on collecting Love Gift, let us turn now to thinking about being grateful for what we have and how this time of sharing can give meaning to our Love Gift contributions. Yes, the money we put in the boxes is for a reason, but with our own financial status, are we giving as much as we can share? Let us prayerfully thank our Lord for our many blessings and ask Him to bless the gifts given that they may be used in the best way possible.

Individuals

Love Gift Box — This has been the standard, tried and true way to give to Love Gift for over 75 years. Put the Love Gift Box in a prominent place so you won't forget it. When you feel God has blessed you, put in a coin or bill and say a short prayer of thanks for God's love. Place several boxes in various rooms and encourage family members to put in a donation and say a prayer.

"L" and "G" Dollars — Note the letter on the left-hand side of the front of the dollar bill. If it's a "G" or "L", consider it to be a Love Gift Dollar. Put it in your box!

Change — When you get home from the store, put your change in the Love Gift Box. You probably won't even notice the gift and it does add up.

Laundry Money — Any money left in pockets of clothes to be washed goes in the Love Gift Box.

Groups

Tea — In place of your regular meeting, have a tea. Ask the women to dress up as they would for a tea party. Serve tea sandwiches, scones, fruit, and cookies. Have various types of teas so the women can choose. If possible, meet in a garden setting. Either sell tickets or ask for a donation and give the profits to Love Gift. Use hearts for decorations since this is a symbol of love.

Luncheon — “Count Your Calories” Have the food on a table and have a sign by each food item telling how many calories are in that item. The participants help themselves and make a list of what they take and how many calories are included. They add up the total and pay that amount of money for the lunch. Estimate the number of calories, it doesn't need to be exact. The profit goes to Love Gift. Be sure to list that the beverages have zero calories since calories evaporate when poured into a glass!

Raffle — Get the women to donate baskets, purses, or other containers with fun items inside. Sell tickets and have a drawing. People love to win prizes. If you have an artist in your group, have her do a painting. It's fun to have a painting done by someone you know.

Basket — Have a special basket at your meeting, which is prominently displayed. It should be decorated with a Love Gift theme. Be sure to have a prayer at the close of the meeting, dedicating the Love Gift offering.

Bandana in a basket — Place a bandana in a basket, put a drawstring around the top, and use it to collect the Love Gift money.

A special basket — Decorate a basket and use it each time you meet to collect Love Gift. Have it in a prominent place so the women will be sure to see it. Change it occasionally so it doesn't get too routine.

Envelopes — Decorate envelopes with hearts and write “Love Gift” on them. Give them out at one meeting and ask the women to bring them back to the next meeting with their Love Gift offering.

Thankfulness — As each woman puts her offering in a container (basket or Love Gift Box), have her say one way God has blessed her during the last month, or one thing for which she is especially thankful.

Prayer: *Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Love Gifts presented here today. We ask Thy blessings upon them and may they provide help in many ways. Amen.*

Departments

Events

2008 Mission Encounter Tour to Ohio is cancelled

The 2008 AB Women's Ministries Mission Encounter Tour to Ohio has been cancelled. Please be sure to check out the [2009 Mission Encounter to Nicaragua and Costa Rica](#).

Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer

The Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer will be on June 08, 2008. This year's theme is “Be Faithful in Prayer.” For more information, visit <http://www.bwanet.org/default.aspx?pid=107>

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS)

American Baptist congregations traditionally receive the OGHS offering in June. Offering monies provide emergency/disaster relief and funding for development projects in the U.S. and around the world.

<http://www.abc-oghs.org/>

News and Information

Announcement of Annual Meeting

The 57th Annual Meeting of American Baptist Women's Ministries will occur at 1:30 PM on Sunday, August 10, 2008, in Pillsbury Hall at Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin during National Women's Conference. Items of business include the election of officers.

Words of Vitality: A Collection of Biblical Reflections for Women/Palabras de vida: Una recopilación de reflexiones bíblicas para la mujer

Words of Vitality...scriptural foundation for daily life. This book contains articles touching a wide variety of topics: from caring for our health to envisioning the future, dealing with fear, and keeping our sense of humor. The women who have written these articles are women just like you: busy with jobs, children, or extended family, committed to Christ, and seeking God's will for their lives. Join them as they explore what the Bible has to tell us about issues we face every day. A wonderful resource for your personal reflection or for a small group ministry, *Words of Vitality* includes discussion questions for each article that will spur deeper thinking and valuable sharing. Order through www.abwministries.org/store, by calling 1-800-4-JUDSON, or using our paper order form. #W4897. \$14.

Christian Community Credit Union Donates \$50 to AB Women's Ministries

When you or your family member joins the Credit Union, AB Women's Ministries receives a \$50 donation!



Benefits of Credit Union Membership:

- Higher rates on savings
- Lower loan rates
- Credit Cards that Give to Missions & Ministries
- Personal service from a financial institution that shares your values
- Supports ABW Ministries

Learn More (link to <http://www.abwministries.org/resources/resource.cfm?ResourceID=177>)

Books Baptist Women Are Reading

You're Wearing That?: Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation by Deborah Tannen. The author's down-to-earth words and anecdotes address the communication between mothers and their teen-age or older daughters. On the New York Times Bestseller List, the book is an interesting read (filled with self-realization chuckles) for any mother or daughter or woman who leads an AB GIRLS group.

Are you reading a good book that you'd like to share with other American Baptist women? Tell us about it, and if we hear about the same book from two or more persons, we'll include it on the list next time. Email info@abwministries.org.

Pictures Needed

Send us pictures of your local event to include on our website scrapbook galley (http://www.abwministries.org/image_gallery/). Send your pictures to info@abwministries.org.

News from International Ministries

By international ministries consultant [Chris Marziale](mailto:chris.marziale@abc-usa.org), chris.marziale@abc-usa.org

Reminder: Mission Encounter Tour to Nicaragua and Costa Rica

AB Women's Ministries and International Ministries are sponsoring a mission encounter tour to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The tour will take place on February 10–24, 2009. The approximate cost of the tour is \$2,300, which includes, roundtrip airline from Miami, Florida, travel throughout Nicaragua and Costa Rica, overnight accommodations, and most entrance fees, food and tips. We'll be learning how the White Cross funds are used, visit missionaries, and much more. To find out more about the tour, visit http://www.abwministries.org/upcoming_events/#abwmtour2. The application deadline is August 20, 2008.

White Cross

We are ready to close out the 2007-08 White Cross year. There is still time for those who have not sent their contributions in for International Ministries. Our goal is \$375,825.00 for the Purchase Plans. As of today we have received: \$232,402.94. Thank you for your support in missions and all you are doing for White Cross.

Mission Service Project Book

The new Mission Service Projects Books (printed in 2008) will be available the first week of May. The Mission Service Project book is a wonderful resource to find mission and service projects suitable for women's groups, girl's groups, men's groups, youth groups, children's ministries, the whole congregation. Download this free resource online http://www.abc-whitecross.org/download_loads.shtml or order the printed book through the AB Women's Ministries website, <http://www.abwministries.org/store/product.cfm?plD=46>.

Mission Study Guide Tool Kit

International Ministries is in the process of putting together a new **Mission Study Guide Tool Kit**. This year it will have a totally different look. The Tool Kit should be available by the National Women's Conference in August. Our theme will focus on Thailand and Myanmar (Burma).

Subscriber Information

Leader's Reader, your source for counterpart information, leadership helps, and news, is distributed by the American Baptist Women's Ministries national office and available at www.abwministries.org. If you know a woman who might enjoy this newsletter, please forward it to her. Encourage her to email info@abwministries.org to receive future issues by email. To be removed from this list, email info@abwministries.org with "Remove from Leader's Reader" in the subject line (no message is necessary).

If your emailed *Leader's Reader* is missing some formatting like bold-faced headings, italics, correct spacing between paragraphs, and so forth, then you may find the website version easier to read and print. Please go to our website at www.abwministries.org and download the *Leader's Reader* (PDF format) to print. You will need Acrobat Reader to use the PDF format; Acrobat Reader is available to download for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

The next *Leader's Reader* will be distributed in July 2008.

If You Have Written Contributions for the Next Leader's Reader

Please send them to Wendy Mertzéis at Wendy.Mertzéis@abc-usa.org. We welcome ideas that worked for you, suggestions for outreach, questions you want answered, any comments you want to share!