

## THE COMMUNICATOR

### ***From the Desk of the President***

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*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion**, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”* Colossians 3:12 NIV

“Imagine having to earn \$500-\$800 a day. Imagine that if you didn’t you’d be beaten or your family threatened with death. What if you are only twelve? A 12-year-old girl!”  
Sharon Fields McCormick, Atlanta, GA

Having heard many stories of girls/women held in bondage by human trafficking around the world, Sharon’s comment might not carry the shock it once would have to AB Women. However, this particular instance is taking place in Atlanta, GA, only 100 miles from where I grew up. Atlanta is a hub for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the U.S. Some are runaways. Some are kidnapped. “Within 48 hours, 80% of runaways will be recruited into the industry. God is calling Baptist women to protect, rescue and speak out for them.”

(from NABWU, The Tie, 2010; see also [www.nabwu.org](http://www.nabwu.org))

AB Women’s Ministries is at the forefront of speaking out for these girls and thousands more like them around the world through our efforts with “Break the Chains.” You have given graciously and generously to assist our missionaries in stopping this dreadful slavery. It seems that in educating our women about these needs, we are discovering more and more women who are oppressed worldwide. How can we help them?

At age 13, **Mahabouba** was sold to a 60-year-old man to be his second wife. When she was 7 months pregnant, she was able to run back to her home village in Ethiopia where an uncle took her in. Unable to afford a midwife, she attempted to deliver the baby by herself. Due to her small size, she ended up in obstructed labor. Seven days later, she was found unconscious and help was summoned. The baby was dead and due to

decay, she no longer had control of her bladder or bowels and was unable to walk. Her family feared she was cursed and put her out to be eaten by wild animals. She literally crawled to a nearby village where she found a missionary who saved her life and was able to get her to the Fistula Hospital where girls with similar problems can be assisted. In Mahabouba’s case, she learned to walk again, but she had to settle for a colostomy. Girls like Mahabouba who have fistulas are modern-day lepers. However, she has stayed on at the hospital and has achieved the position of senior nurses’ aide. Thank God for those with compassion who have helped her and thousands of others. Mahabouba’s story is told in the book Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn. The book was a gift to me and all the other state/region presidents of AB Women’s Ministries and National ABWM officers, and we’ve been discussing it online.



Our National ABWM has begun a new emphasis, “Break the Chains and Stop the Pain,” with a goal to raise \$250,000 over the next 2 years. I would encourage you to get your own copy of the book, Half the Sky. I feel we’ve only scratched the surface in helping women who are oppressed. This book has certainly changed the way I think in regards to women in poverty. For many girls, poverty and lack of education keep them powerless and oppressed for their entire lives. Be alert for more forthcoming details on this project.

**Did you know** that ABWM was represented at the UN Commission on the Status of Women UNCSW, by four of our national leaders (including one teen)? I’ve been reading some of their reports on our Big Tent ABWM group and it’s very informative. To find out more, go to [www.intheirshoespodcast.org](http://www.intheirshoespodcast.org) Podcasts are so easy to receive now that even I can do it!! Just go to the website, scroll down past the notes, and click on “listen.” How hard is that? Make sure your speakers are turned on!

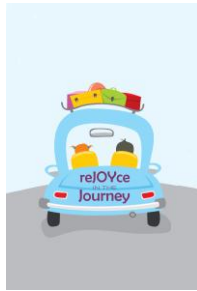
“**The Gathering Place**” is a social group for any women of faith using Big Tent, an online community. This is hosted by AB Women’s Ministries. It will have subgroups around topics that interest women, giving you a place to make new friends while talking about things you enjoy. Join today! Go to [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org) and click on “The Gathering Place.”



**Let’s go to Green Lake for National Conference, July 16-22.** Online registration is now available at [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org). Approximate cost with 4 per room is \$505; 3 per room is \$550 which includes registration, room

and board. Scholarships for travel are available through the Green Lake office, [www.glcc.org](http://www.glcc.org) Our region ABWM also provides scholarship funds for anyone wishing to go. Contact Betsy Hale for more info on those funds. It may be a few years before we return to Green Lake for conference so make your plans to go this year.

**reJOYce in the Journey** is the theme for our



region conference at Shippensburg, June 10-12. Come and bring a car-full! Our guest speaker, Lois Olmstead, is a delightful, hilarious, inspirational speaker, with years of experience on the road for Jesus. See details inside this issue.

**I’m grateful beyond words** in trying to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as your president for these last 3 years. I have grown so much in the Lord, stretched in many ways to do things that were outside my expertise (God made it possible!), and loved having the many opportunities to meet and serve with many more of you. The mission encounter tour to Nicaragua and Costa Rica was a thrill and a challenge. Seeing rich American men picking up young prostitutes in Costa Rica is a sight I would like to forget, but it’s indelibly imprinted in my mind. Meeting with prostitutes who are trying to come out of the bondage of this lifestyle gave me a sense of pride in knowing that we as AB Women are doing something to help in this horrible oppression of women. We must remain alert to new ways of stopping this slavery and the many other ways women are oppressed around the world. I will continue to serve with you as we look to our Lord for His leadership. Love and blessings to each of you, Sue

Serving with you for Him,

*Sue Fitzgerald*

## White Cross and World Relief

Beth Arment, 501 Kennett Pike, Chadds Ford, PA 19317, arment2@verizon.net (610) 388-6912



*"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land." Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

Well, we're not quite there yet, but spring is definitely on the way. There's no more snow in our yard, and the daffodils are poking up from the sunniest spots on our lawn.

Chris Marziale has provided an update on **Overseas White Cross** for Pennsylvania/Delaware as of January 31st:

Assigned Request	Amount Received	% Received	Still Needed
China/Myanmar/South Africa	\$13,712.58	43.12%	\$17,487.42
Kits for the Dominican Republic	\$50.00	<b>The overall contributions throughout ABWomen's Ministries total \$150,652.05 (as of February 28).</b>	
Sewing for the Philippines	\$997.00		
Congo Supplies	\$319.00		
Gifts of the Heart	\$2,018.00		

**Deadlines!** Our completion deadline for this year's White Cross is fast approaching – March 31. Remember that Local White Cross reports are due to the Association Coordinator by March 31, and the Association report is due to me by April 30. Please honor these deadlines, as they are crucial to obtaining accurate reports for the year. If you need any additional forms to complete your reports, please call or e-mail me (see phone # and e-mail address above).

Special thanks to the Centre Association for taking on a large portion of an Overland request that was unable to be filled by another association!

**Bandage Rolling at Conference** I hope many of you are planning to attend the Region Conference at Shippensburg in June (see the Conference Coordinator's article for more details). We will again have a "bandage rolling room" which will be open throughout the weekend, or if you would prefer to work in a group setting, sign up for one or more of the bandage rolling workshop sessions. The bandage rolling workshop sessions are also a great opportunity to learn the proper way to prepare the bandages for sending to mission sites.

**Online Resources** Remember that you can view the Region White Cross web page by going to [www.abwmpad.org](http://www.abwmpad.org) and clicking on "White Cross." Please also make a point to visit the National White Cross web page for information and to order free resources for use by your local church or association - <http://www.abc-whitecross.org/>.

Your monetary gifts, handwork, and purchased items are much appreciated by those who receive them.

*Beth Arment*

## Personal Development Ministries

Rev. Wynetta Dukes, 6467 Milton St., Philadelphia, PA 19119, [wdukes123@yahoo.com](mailto:wdukes123@yahoo.com), (215) 549-4531



*"... grow in grace and the knowledge of our Savior,  
Jesus Christ." ~ 2 Peter 3:18*

This is the last season of my term as your Personal Development Coordinator for Pa.-De. Serving you has been challenging and rewarding as we explored "Women Destined for God's Purpose". Thank you for your support. Please keep the incoming Personal Development Coordinator in your prayers.

The past two and a half years have been busy and exciting. I learned to email and make flyers. You received materials uplifting Worship, Spiritual Disciplines, Developing Spiritual Gifts, Compassionate Care, Prayer, Outreach to Others, Personal Devotions, Bible Reading, etc. Currently, I challenge us to read scripture with the specific purpose of identifying **figures** and **shadows** of Jesus as seen in Old Testament texts. In Deuteronomy 29:29, we have an awesome promise of revelation. In the New Testament, we have the glorious fulfillment of His bodily appearance and the joyous hope of His return.

Jesus Himself, enlightened the travelers on the Emmaus Road by revealing His identity in the books of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms (Lk.24:27, 44). Jesus said, "Lo, I come in the volume of the book." (Heb.10:7). Engaging the scriptures with the purpose to know Him intimately and not just to know about Him requires spending personal time in His Word. Then we will be equipped to distinguish Christ from the anti-christs and truth from half truths in the coming years.

Prayer, Journaling and promptings of Holy Spirit will help us read the following books with new eyes and provide a record to review. The challenge is before us. Will you purpose to plunge deeper into God's Word and uncover more truth about Jesus to relate His foreshadowing to His fulfillment in the New Testament and parousia? Your consent promises you comprehending more of God's mind, plans and wisdom. Purposeful reading is like shooting an arrow at a target and hitting the mark.

Numbers, Jonah, Daniel and Zechariah are the Old Testament books for the coming months.

### More About Jesus

~ Eliza E. Hewitt

More about Jesus, let me learn,  
More of His holy will discern,  
Spirit of God, My Teacher be,  
Showing the things of Christ to me.

More about Jesus in His Word,  
Holding communion with my Lord,  
Hearing His voice in every line,  
Making each faithful saying mine.

*"I want to know Christ and the power of His  
resurrection and the sharing of His  
sufferings." Php.3:10*

## Mission and Service

Anna Lee Earnest, 10 Fisher Hollow Rd., Amity, PA 15311, (724) 267-4269, annaleeearnest@yahoo.com



I have been in contact with the other mission and service coordinators in our region.

I sent information regarding our region project this year and information on our Special Interest missionaries. I tried to organize a mission trip to Deborah's House but only a few women responded so we are postponing the trip until this fall. I convinced my former church women's group to donate \$500.00 to the Haiti Cholera Education project.

**Haiti Cholera Ed. Project.** Our National President Barbara Anderson received a proposal for a Health Education & Prevention Project on Cholera disease from ABC Missionary Kihomi Ngwemi and the Women's Association of the Haitian Baptist Convention. The Haitian women's proposal is a plea to AB Women to partner with them to make a difference in the lives of the people of Haiti. The goal is to educate women, families and communities about Cholera prevention. The project would train and send women & men in the Haitian Baptist Churches to be health agents to educate the people about conditions that bring diseases into the community, and teach changes in habits and lifestyle that will help prevent diseases. Our national goal was to raise \$30,000 by Feb. 15. Thus far, over \$35,000 has been raised. It's not too late to contribute to this educational project. Any monies given should be sent to our National AB Women's office at Valley Forge.

**Our Region Project for 2010-11, "Mission Possible,"** is to raise \$15,000 to support ABCOPAD and the Philadelphia region. All

monies given by the Philadelphia association women will be returned to their region. Most states/regions across ABC-USA are in financial crisis right now due to various factors. Our own region has made cutbacks in staff, but we are also making the most of our resources and the future is bright. Your gifts for "Mission Possible" will heighten their ability to help our churches, pastors, student ministries, etc. Thanks in advance for your hard work in reaching our goal!

**Newsflash! Japan staggering with loss.** You may have already been asked by many agencies to give toward this need. Please keep in mind that when you give to Japan through ABC-USA's **One Great Hour of Sharing** (designating your offering for Japan on your church envelope), 100% of your gift goes to Japan. Other agencies use from 10-50% for administrative fees, etc. Please remember to pray for our ABC missionaries serving in Japan right now. They are overwhelmed with the needs and as to how to best meet those needs.

**Missions and Service Ministries Helps** can be found at [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org) When you reach the AB Women's website, go to the menu on the right side of the home page, and scroll down to "Missions and Service Ministries," and click on those words. This will take you to a list of links with a wealth of information, including video clips about the ministries to girls with fistulas in Africa. Don't know what a "fistula" is?? Check it out. As you click on the many items on the "Missions and Service Ministries" page, your eyes will be opened to new ways of ministering to oppressed women and children around the world.

## Love Gift

Eleanor Siegrist, 1331 Logan Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602, (814) 914-1468, [ewsiegrist@gmail.com](mailto:ewsiegrist@gmail.com)

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Recently a young mother of two preschool children was telling me that her husband had given her "the best gift ever". What was this gift? The gift was a DVD with a slide show of family pictures set to a special song. Why was this gift so special? It was a gift of love. He had invested his time and talents to create a special gift for his wife. It spoke of his love for her and for their family.

God has given us His gift of love in sending His Son. This gift cost Him the life of His one and only Son. It was the ultimate expression of His love for us. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB)

Have you received this gift of love? If so, what are you going to do with it? Are you excited to tell others about it, as this young mother was excited to tell me about the gift she received? Are you willing to share God's gift of love with others? One very good way to share God's gift of love with others and especially with many who you will never have the opportunity to meet, is to give generously to love gift.

The Love Gift offering supports missionaries at home and in many countries around the world. It supports ministry to women and girls-- the next generation of leaders in our churches. Through these missionaries and the ministries they lead, God's love is shared in practical, tangible ways with many.

In Jan. & Feb. the women of ABCOPAD have given \$5650.24 to love gift. That is a 7.45% increase over the same period last year. Wouldn't it be great to finish the year 10% ahead of our Love Gift offering from last year?

The women of the Philadelphia region have given \$1398.00. This is a 285% increase from the same period last year. Way to go Philadelphia!!!



## Conference

Cindy Martin, 9345 Palmer Rd., Northeast, PA 16428, (814) 725-1558, [cingmartin@yahoo.com](mailto:cingmartin@yahoo.com)



**Conference 2011**  
**June 10-12, 2011**  
 Shippensburg University,  
 Shippensburg, PA

**Conference Projects:**  
Personal Care Items for  
 the Back-stretch workers  
 and their families of the Philadelphia Race Track.

Box Tops for Education—fill the Cereal Box with  
 all your box tops. These will be sent to the Hopi  
 Mission School.

**2011 Regional Project:**  
 “Mission Possible”: The 2010-2011 Regional  
 Project goal is \$15,000 to support our Regional  
 Ministry here in ABCOPAD and the Philadelphia  
 Area.

**Shopping:**  
 The weekend will offer plenty of shopping—  
 from the Judson bookstore, ABW Ministries  
 material, Logo Items, items from the American  
 Baptist Missionaries and the people they serve,  
 Christian Bookstore and more!!!

**Workshops:**  
 There are plenty of workshops for you to chose  
 from. Crafts, exercise, worship, music, missions,  
 spiritual and so many more....

**AB GIRLS**  
 All girls who will be entering the 7th grade, Fall  
 2011, are encouraged to attend. Workshops and  
 Special Programming just for YOU!!!

**AB Women and Girls: \$135.00**  
 (includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and  
 Conference fees)

Cancellation Fee after June 1, 2011: \$50.00

Contact Cindy Martin ([cingmartin@yahoo.com](mailto:cingmartin@yahoo.com))  
 for additional information /registration material

**Conference Leadership**  
Keynote Speaker—Lois Olmstead  
 Author of several books, a humorist, former talk  
 show host who travels the nation to tell men  
 and women “God Loves Them.”

Worship Leader—Babette Perednia  
 Come and worship as she leads us in traditional  
 and non-traditional ways!!

Devotion Leader—Rev. Wynetta Dukes  
 Currently serving the Women of PA/DE as Re-  
 gional Coordinator of Personal Development  
 Ministries. Be a part of morning devotions as  
 she leads in a time of worship of our Savior.

Mission Speaker—Marcia Binkley  
 Serves the Burmese and Chin refugees both in  
 the United States and Thailand

Pastor in Residence—Pastor Grace Shirk  
 She is a well -known spiritual retreat leader and  
 a Bible Study Leader . Pastor Grace will be avail-  
 able the entire weekend for prayer/counseling  
 and more.



## Church and Community Ministries

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Happy Spring! As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Lent and Easter, I'd like to highlight some ways churches around our region and our country are showing God's love to people who are in need.

**KAREN Family Update** – Nancy Crookshank from Westgate Baptist Church in Lancaster reports the Tha Lai refugee family from the Karen tribe in Burma, sponsored by her church with help from Calvary Baptist Church in Newark, DE and ABWM of PA/DE is doing well. The father, Tha Lai, is currently working part-time as a dishwasher in a local hotel. In April, he hopes to resume a job he had last year at a golf course and to continue working as a dishwasher, too. Nancy says he's working hard to support his family.

The son, Christian Saw and younger daughter, Snow Bell attend a local high school. Christian Saw is currently a sophomore and is in a Health Education program that will allow him to work in a hospital as an aide after he graduates in two years. The older daughter Htee Bwe is past high school age, so she is in a special program for older refugees. She hopes to get her diploma in June, which will help her in finding a job.

The mother, Keh Paw, had suffered a stroke before she arrived in the US, which affects one side of her body, so she isn't able to work. She is seeing specialists and taking medication to help with some kidney and blood pressure issues. Calvary Baptist Church has provided \$1,000 to help with her medical expenses for use in conjunction with other medical benefits to fund her ongoing care.

Westgate Baptist is working hard to help the family find a three-bedroom home in Lancaster. It's essential that the family remain in the city so that the children can continue to attend school. They also would like to remain close to refugee friends they've made since they came to Lancaster last April. Pray for the family as they continue to make a new life here in Pennsylvania and work to become self-supporting.

**Outflow Evangelism** – In October, we gathered as a region at the Biennial in Altoona, where we learned to Outflow and show God's love to the community. We had opportunities to put into action some of the suggestions from our speaker, including cleaning toilets in bars and returning shopping carts at grocery stores. It was a wonderful, yet humbling experience to serve others. How is your church showing God's love to your community? You can impact your community for God with another member of your church, a small group of people, or by yourself.

**PENNY Project Update** – As of March 11, the Penny Project has collected 4,983,345 of the 14,000,000 penny goal that represents the number of children in America that live in poverty. Look for the Children in Poverty initiative featured in America for Christ offering bulletin inserts this spring.

I pray we all are blessed and are a blessing to others during the Easter season as we serve as God's hands and feet in the world.

## Student Loan

Karol Clement, 3703 Harvard Rd., Erie, PA 16508, (814) 866-2506, JandKClement@neo.rr.com



It is hard to believe that Spring is just around the corner. The students are about to complete their semester and start their summer break. Please remember to keep our students in your prayers as they prepare for their future careers and search for employment. Don't forget to send a thinking of you card or a small gift to let them know that we are praying and thinking of them.

Graduation time is fast approaching for our senior high students. If a student is interested in pursuing a loan, now is a great time to start the loan process. It takes a few months to process the first student loan because of the required references. Students can check out our website for the qualifications/requirements for the student loan. Please remind the students this is a loan and will need to be paid back. The student must be attending or will be attending an accredited post secondary institution full time and be a member of an American Baptist Church of Pennsylvania, Delaware or Philadelphia for at least a year.

I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Regional Board over the last six years. It has been a great blessing and I have met so many great, dedicated women over these years and have appreciated working and fellowshiping with sisters in Christ.

## Ethel Wheeler Enrichment (EWE)

Rieta Boyden, 168 Boyden Rd., Mainesburg, PA 16932, (570) 549-1283, rpboyden@npacc.net



Where do we turn when we see a storm approaching in our life? A storm that we know is too big for us to handle; where do we turn for help? As Christians we all know that the Lord is with us and that He alone can carry us through any storm He has brought us to.

In times such as this we need to be refilled and renewed in His word. That is why the Ethel Wheeler Enrichment Program offers Retreats and Guest Speakers.

Available programs:

**Broken & Spilled Out** presented by Sue MacDonald

**Designer Perfume & Others** written by Wynetta Dukes

**Help! I'm a Martha & Know the Heartbeat of God** developed by Gayle Campbell

**Potpourri of Prayer & Teatime With God** developed by Jean Dunson

**Real Women, Real Leaders, & Spiritual Gifts** by Marilyn Momose

**The Lord is my Shepherd, Putting the Pieces Together, & Ruth & Naomi**, by Thelma Schaller

**Water Walking** by Sue Fitzgerald & Patti Seth

Also, **Mugs & Muffins** by Sue MacDonald is available as a fellowship event, and possibly others.

## 2010 Women's Day Recap

Apryl Crownover-Glunt, 2188 Hollow Rd., Neelyton, PA 17239, (814) 259-3083, [apryllcg@embarqmail.com](mailto:apryllcg@embarqmail.com)

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Biennial at Altoona Pa was a weekend of looking inside yourself and then reaching out to others. Women's Day began with David Ping co-author of **Outflow** speaking to the entire participants of the biennial.

A time of prayer was had over all the Pastors in attendance as well as recognition of their dedication and hard work for the Kingdom.

The women adjourned to a delicious meal and a time of fellowship. After dinner the group came back together for a time of singing with Hornrette Washington. This year the mission speaker was not a missionary but one of our own women who went to Costa Rica in 2009. Noelle Bishop from Centre Association shared her short term mission trip she went on with her 3 oldest children and 49 other people. With power point she brought the Costa Rican people she learned to love and respect to life for the ladies.

Each lady was given a bag earlier in the day full of simple objects and encouraged to give to a stranger and show God's love. We closed in prayer and left to share His love using our bags as a special tool.

The day was a good day and a day that will go down in ABCOPAD history because the whole biennial was full of a lot of firsts. Thank you ABWM for allowing me to serve and be part of a wonderful weekend that I hope will have lasting effects.

*Apryl L. C. Glunt*

## AB GIRLS

Linda Shearer, 327 Center Street Cambridge Springs, PA 16403, [read16403@yahoo.com](mailto:read16403@yahoo.com) 814-398-8576

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This winter has been a long snowy time inside the house. What a wonderful experience to take time and read all of the emails and letters coming in from you! It is very encouraging to hear all about what the AB girls are doing in their groups and what projects you are working on. Keep up the good work!

Interested in starting a new AB GIRLS groups? Order brochures online at [www.abwminstries.org](http://www.abwminstries.org) On the right menu, find "Resources." Then click on "Ministries with Girls" under that.

**Product:** AB GIRLS promotional brochure

**Cat. No.:** W2083

**Price:** \$0.00 (yes, that's free!)

### The different groups of AB Girls

Girls of Joy - Grades 3-5 (Ages 8-10)

Girls of Faith - Grades 6-8 (Ages 11-13)

Young Women of Hope - Grades 9-12 (Ages 14-18)

AB GIRLS Houseparty!!! A new adventure at Camp Ichthus!

**JULY 15-17 2011, Bethlehem Church to host.**