

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## *From the President's Desk*

September 2008

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### “Come to the Edge...and Beyond!”

“God said, ‘Come to the edge.’ ‘No,’ we replied, ‘we will fall.’  
God said, ‘Come to the edge.’ ‘No,’ we said, ‘we will fall.’  
Finally, we came to the edge and God pushed us...and we flew!”

-G. Appollinaire



Are you soaring on wings like eagles as we were challenged to do at our Spring Conference at Bucknell? “those who wait on the Lord...will soar on wings like eagles!” (Isa. 40:31)

Having just returned from 10 days at our **ABWM National Conference at Green Lake**, I do feel as if I have been soaring. What an awesome blessing it has been to be a part of this conference and the National ABWM Board that preceded it! We were challenged repeatedly to go *beyond the edge* to where God is calling us. Six of our PA/DE region officers attended (see picture). It was such a blessing to fellowship with women from our region as well as women from all over the US, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica. We heard from missionaries Karen Smith of the New Life Center in Thailand and Mylinda Bates of Costa Rica encouraging us to continue our efforts with breaking the chains of human slavery around the world.

Our “**Break the Chains**” national total as of July 31 is **\$183,988.03**, meaning we are well on our way to our 2 year goal of \$250,000. Thanks, ladies, for giving almost \$18,000 towards BTC. PA/DE was one of the top regions with our **White Cross** gifts which totaled more than \$57,000 worth of items and money donated. I praise God for your generosity! Check out the website at [www.abc-whitecross.org](http://www.abc-whitecross.org)

After meeting Mylinda Bates and two ladies from Costa Rica, I'm getting very excited about the upcoming **Mission Encounter trip** which takes place in Feb. I plan to be one of the 15 traveling to

Nicaragua and Costa Rica to see first hand what our Break the Chains gifts and White Cross donations are doing to help in these areas.

**Lake Williamson Conference Center**, Carlinville, IL, will be the site of our **2009 ABWM Conference, July 25-31**. **AB G.I.R.L.S.** will be meeting with us again during this week. They had originally made other arrangements as the only available date with Green Lake was in August. Many of our girls and teachers start school in early August, leaving them out of this wonderful event. Cost for 6 days w/all meals is only \$350 for women in double rooms.

**National Support needs your help!** We need you to become a **Vital Partner!** If only 60 women would agree to give \$10/mo. to National Support, we could eliminate our deficit. You can even have it withdrawn automatically from your bank-no checks to remember! Go to [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org) to get more information on how you can give.



Please keep the Conference Planning Committee in prayer as we meet Sept. 19-21 at Camp Hebron to plan next year's conference at Bucknell, June 5-7.

I hope to see many of you at **Women's Day, Friday, Oct. 24, in Altoona**. **Ray Schellinger of Deborah's House in Mexico** will be one of our speakers. He isn't listed in the flyer that you will receive from ABCOPAD, but we have since learned that he can come. More info inside.

SUE



## A MESSAGE FROM MARK (Mark Mahserjian-Smith)

Perhaps you have heard it said., “What a difference a day makes.” In the last few weeks there has been significant progress made on the ABCOPAD Habitat Build. From a simple groundbreaking ceremony on June 4th, the build site has been transformed from a grass covered yard to a full fledged construction zone.

During the week of July 14th, a backhoe and skid steerer went to work excavating the foundation. Within a week, the basement was dug and preparations were made for the foundation. At the end of the week, the footer



was poured and blocks were delivered to the build site.

Despite heavy thunderstorms moving through the area, block layers began laying the foundation. Within a day the corners of the foundation were set and half a foundation wall was in place. With many more sunny days in the weather forecast, the foundation should be complete by August 4th, clearing the way for construction teams to arrive and begin building the house.

Since April, over \$16,000.00 has been raised through donations to the ABCOPAD Habitat Build. Also, the month of August has been well staffed with volunteers eager to begin Construction. Construction will officially



start on August 4th.

While we have come a long way, we still have many challenges before us. The cost of the project is \$80,000.00. Working with Blair County Habitat For Humanity, ABCOPAD has already committed about \$40,000.00 to purchase the property and cover excavation, foundation and material costs. The challenge will be to raise the additional \$64,000.00 by the end of the year. Also, volunteers will be needed to continue construction through September and October. Very few volunteers have committed to these months.

Throughout scripture, after an individual had a dramatic encounter with God, a monument would be built and the location would be named to remember the experience. The ABCOPAD Biennial this year will take place in Blair County. The theme of the Biennial is, “The Power Of Partnership” and will focus on missions. It is our hope the ABCOPAD Habitat House will be a witness or a monument to the people of Altoona as well as everyone throughout the Region to God’s divine presence and His desire to partner with us. It is our desire that those who see this house would say “Glory to God.”



**Matthew 5:16 (KJV) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

## White Cross and World Relief

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

We're in the middle of a heat wave as I write this, but autumn will be here before we know it, and we will be busy filling our White Cross quotas for 2008-2009.

I'm looking forward to serving as your Region White Cross Coordinator for the next 3 years. I owe a big "THANK YOU" to our previous Region Coordinator, Lois Glading, for dividing up this year's quota and preparing the Association packets. The acceptance slips are beginning to trickle in, and if you are an Association Coordinator, please return your acceptance to me as quickly as possible, either by postal mail or e-mail.

The White Cross Workshop at our Region Conference in June was well attended, and I enjoyed meeting many of you there. It was exciting to learn that 168 churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware worked on White Cross quotas this past year, supported by 2,320 women, men and youth, and that an amazing \$76,823.77 was donated in cash and handmade or purchased items! And those are just the numbers that were reported – several association coordinators noted that they did not receive reports from all their churches, so our numbers are probably even larger than

reported.

One popular activity at Conference this year was the White Cross "Bandage Room," where women dropped in during their free time to tear, sew, and roll bandages. Eighty-nine bandages were rolled during the weekend, and have been delivered to New Windsor for distribution to mission sites. Thanks to the Reading Association for overseeing this special activity!

Our Pennsylvania/Delaware quotas are large again this year, as the need is great in so many ministries:

### International Ministries (Overseas):

Philippines: \$20,000.00, ~~100~~ baby blankets, 100 baby gowns, patchwork pieces (Watch your mail for updates from Beth!!!)

Congo: \$4,200.00, 4000 roller bandages, 100 baby gowns, 100 baby blankets, 100 packages of cotton squares

Bulgaria: \$7,000.00

### National Ministries (Overland):

Baptist Children's Services –  
King of Prussia, PA

Tabernacle Baptist Church –  
Utica, NY

Neighborhood Ministries –  
Youngstown, OH

Dayton Christian Center –  
Dayton, OH

Serving as the White Cross Coordinator for my local ABW is a job I find very fulfilling as it gives me a chance to do "hands-on" ministry and know that the items we handcraft and purchase are going to people who really need and appreciate them. Each year as we send off (or deliver locally) our overland items, I look forward to receiving a note from the recipient letting me know that they arrived safely. Here's the e-mail I received from Baptist Children's Services, King of Prussia, PA, after last year's items were delivered:

*"Thank you very much for your generous donations! We truly appreciate your help. We are moving 30 teenaged boys into a former convent in a few weeks, and I am coordinating outfitting them all with new sheets, bedspreads, towels and toiletries. The White Cross donations helped me to achieve this goal!!!"*

I would love to read the comments you receive from the ministries you send to, and possibly share a few in upcoming Communicator articles. Please feel free to mail or e-mail copies to me.

Thanks so much for all that you donate of your time, prayer, money and handwork for these worthy ministries.

*Beth*

## Personal Development Ministries

Rev. Wynetta Dukes—6467 Milton Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119—215-549-4531

“TRUST in the LORD with all thine heart and lean not to thy own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge HIM and He SHALL direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV (capitals are writer’s emphasis)

Hello! I greet each of you with the love of Christ as I begin to walk this new path with each of you as the Personal Development Coordinator for the PA/DE Region. The excitement of being instruments in the Master’s hands for His glory and our edification is almost overwhelming. Thank God that as we place our confidence in Him, as we hope in Christ Jesus, as we depend and rely on Holy Spirit, we know He will guide us through every challenge. Sue Fitzgerald, our new regional President, and I need your prayers.

*The number of people infected with HIV-AIDS in the U.S. is now greater than that of Africa.*

On this warm July evening, I have been reflecting on the wonderful **PA/DE AB Women’s Conference** (On Eagle’s Wings) held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA on June 27-29 chaired by Jennifer Kirk and her committee. Besides meeting women and girls from the region, appreciating the accommodations, and gleaning from the workshops, activities and speakers, I am yet feasting on the lessons and devotions our Bible Study teacher, Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan, shared from the theme, “Come to the Edge... TRUST” (Is. 40:31). Through the lives of Esther, Vashti (Esther 1—5), Deborah and Jael (Judges 4-5), we saw our personal geographical, gender, generational and visceral (gut courage) edges.

Perhaps as you **study** and reflect on the scriptures for these biblical women, you, too, will gain a different view of the edges in your life and courageously move past them.

I recommend for your spiritual growth two excellent devotionals. **Praying the Names of God** and **Praying the Names of Jesus** by Ann Spangler, a bestselling author. These books will inspire you to know God’s **isness** and how to apply His name in

prayer for your family, friends, church, community, national concerns, world issues, etc.

We do not worship the Unknown God, nor false gods, nor handcrafted blind and deaf idols, nor the superficial gods of status, education, wealth, race or nationality. We reverence the mysterious living YAHWEH who by His names revealed His Sovereignty, majesty, compassion, grace, love, power, mercy, will and acts. Scripture challenges us to glory in His holy name, call upon His name, love His name, give thanks unto His name, take refuge in His name, declare His name, etc. In His **excellent** name alone (Ps.8:1; Heb. 1r:4), we are more than conquerors.

**Stewardship** is our expression of love and obedience to God and compassion for others due to His unspeakable gift, JESUS, the Christ,

the One with the Name above all names. He heard the mandatory anguished cry, “Unclean! Unclean!.. It came from those stricken, shunned and secluded from society due to leprosy. Today’s leprosy is **HIV-AIDS**. Silence and ignorance promote its vigorous spread. The number of people infected in the United States is now greater than that of Africa (CNN report). Every one, including you and me, is living with **HIV-AIDS**. We know someone who knows someone who is infected or affected by the malady. Although the US government has fallen short of appropriations to stem the tide of **HIV-AIDS**, the **stewardship** of every Christian requires we use our time, talent and treasure to minister to the least of these.

JESUS had a personal hands-on ministry with lepers. He touched, visited, dined with and healed them. As His stewards and witnesses, we are called to do likewise. You can hinder the spread of this disease by donating to your local **HIV-AIDS** organization, by starting an **HIV-AIDS** awareness ministry in your church, prayer circle, local school, community or by volunteering in an outpatient facility. We are called to step over the edge of fear, complacency or passing the buck and help inform those in our sphere of influence with the love of JESUS.

*Rev. Wynetta Dukes*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Managers Meeting—Camp Hebron, Sept. 21-23  
For all Personal Development Coordinators. You will meet with our National PDC, Pattie Stratton. Contact Diana Shutt, 109 Elgin Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601, Telephone 412 554-2106 or email shuttdh@comcast.net  
Regional Biennial—Women’s Day- “Mission Possible” Jn.14:12-13, Altoona, October 24

### Bible Books of the Month—

new devotional material for each book at <http://www.abwministries.org/resources.cfm?resourceID=726>

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| September: | Obadiah       |
| October:   | 1 Corinthians |
| November:  | 2 Corinthians |
| December:  | Isaiah        |
| January:   | Romans        |