




# THE TELLHERGRAM

An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication



Fall 2009

**PRESIDENT – Mariann Curl** (Western Assoc.)

These past two years we have studied and prayed we would be able to step over the edge and come out of our comfort zones. Now we embark on the journey to become, "Women... Destined for God's Purpose". This new two year theme will challenge us to consider the role women have had in the scriptures and to recognize to this day women are called to fulfill God's purpose. "It is God who is at work in you to will and to act according to his good purpose," (Philippians 2:13) (one of the theme scriptures)

Our program resources will be available throughout the two years of this theme, two per year. Each issue will contain new devotionals, new mission resources, AB GIRLS programs, and new Bible studies. The current issue includes Love Gift and White Cross dedications, Officer Installation, ABW Sunday information, and a weekend retreat idea. The next issue is due out in October 2009, Year 1, Issue B. Additional materials and recommended resources supporting the theme are available on [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org)

Speaking of the website, have you visited there lately? If not, you will notice quite a big change! The site has been updated and it is much easier to find the items you are looking for. The home page now has the list of what is available on the right hand side of the page for you to easily see and click on. I am pleased to tell you, many of the website changes were discussed at our board meeting last year and are reflected in the website updates.

The national conference was held at Lake Williamson in Carlinville, IL this past July. The days were filled with Bible study, singing in praise and worship, presentation of the trip to Nicaragua and Costa Rica by the ladies who traveled there, mission study, crafts, fellowship, making new friends, and much more! I can't begin to tell you how excited the women are to be coming

to Columbus next year, and to join the Ohio women in conference. Mark July 10-15, 2010 on your calendars, and plan to attend more than one day, not just the Ohio Day! Plans are underway for this event and you will hear more when things and people are definite and confirmed. Sheryl Wise is the Ohio conference chair.

I would like to invite you to join us for **Women's Day at the Ohio Annual Gathering on October 15, 2009**. The Board of Managers meeting will begin at 9:00 am, and the luncheon will follow at 11:00. Mary Forbes is the ABW President of the Mohican association, and has planned a wonderful time of fellowship including Ellen Brown as the featured speaker, and Pam Leonard will bless us in music. Registration forms are available at your church. Use the guest registration included in that packet. You can also print one from the [abc-ohio.org](http://abc-ohio.org) website. The home page has the Gathering information and shows where to click to access the form. Registrations are sent to Donna West as noted on the form.

There are several supporting scriptures for our theme, one of which reads, "The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established" (Proverbs 19:21). One of the hardest things for us as human beings to remember is the fact that God is in control. Even though He is constantly reminding us through scripture and events in our lives we may not recognize, our humanity allows us to think we control our destiny. Let us pray, study, and concentrate on how God is leading us to fulfill His purpose.

Blessings,

[marianncurl@hotmail.com](mailto:marianncurl@hotmail.com)

937-652-2485

## SECRETARY – Jerri Wood (Dayton Assoc.)

Greetings of peace and joy!

I would like to introduce myself to you. I am your new State ABW Ministries Secretary. As we begin our new theme: Women...Destined for God's Purpose, my goal is to help you with your communication needs. You can be more effective in your service to your association and local group by communicating with your counterparts. God has a purpose for each of us and we need to be as effective as we can to try and fulfill that task.

A directory of all association officers was given to each association president. I ask that as officers, addresses, or phone numbers change during the year you please relay those changes to me so I can inform the counterparts. Please contact me in one of the following ways: e-mail

([bjwood68@aol.com](mailto:bjwood68@aol.com)), phone (937-293-7225), or mail (1525 Stockton Ave., Dayton, OH 45409).

### Directory changes are:

**Scholarship Chairperson, Marilyn Craig's phone number is 937-424-6271.**

**Historian: Lillie Mae Allen, 3501 Redbluff Dr., West Carrollton, 45449, phone-937-435-1501.**

As secretary of your association or local group, I suggest that you make a list of your officers for distribution (if you have not already). Let me know if I can be of help to you.



## TREASURER – Brenda Donegan (Marion Assoc.)

How important is it to your ABW Ministries group or circle to be credited for funds sent for different projects?

At conference I was approached by some who stated they did not see their association and/or church listed on those sending funds for Love Gift. Dr. Larry Swain and Rev. Dan Taylor and I have also had this conversation as there are different figures reported each year. Some churches are sending funds through their mission treasurer to the ABC/Ohio office and others are sending to their association treasurer who then in turn sends the funds on to me. This is the preferred method for each individual church to send the funds to the association treasurer who then sends them onto the regional ABW Ministries treasurer.

Since my church is one who does not follow this, let me use them as an example: Joy Circle in my church receives Love Gift at each meeting. Our treasurer turns it in to the ABW Ministries treasurer who then gives it to the church mission treasurer. The mission treasurer sends it on to ABC/Ohio and Grand Prairie ends up with a big fat 0 (Zero). The entire process has caused some animated discussions which the group is hoping will come to an end with this year's reporting.

So I guess the moral of the story is this: Just how important is it to get credit for submitted funds? Is there any value to either method? Or are we just creatures of habit and resistant to change?

Change is happening everywhere -- in the church, the workplace and in schools. Everyone is trying to do more with less yet remain efficient in doing it. If changes come your way, give them a try. It may not be done the way you like it, but upper management may see it as the better way - - sometimes they're right and sometimes they're wrong.

This summer my husband and I and our best friends, Michael and Judy, traveled to Alaska -- a trip that had been 10 years in the making. (For those wondering how Jim did with his illnesses, he was sick two days out of 17, so did pretty good). One of my favorite sites was to watch the glaciers as the falling snow cupped and then tumbled into the ocean. This "white thunder" as the Alaskans call it, represented constant change in the formation of the glaciers. My second favorite was the thick, lush flowers grown there. With 22 hours of daylight and a quick mist of rain and fog each morning it appeared they

got just the right amount of nourishment to bloom so profusely.

We can be like those flowers if we can be open to change and learn to grow through our daily walk with the Lord; be compassionate to those about us and those with pressing needs whether financial or spiritual; and not afraid to take that big leap of faith that all will work for good. If it doesn't, don't gloat and boast -- just drink in more water from the Word and put God first in all situations.

As a reminder, Joyce Crislip is no longer treasurer. To avoid longer delays in checks clearing, please send them directly to me, Brenda Donegan,

611 Park Ave., Box 436, Prospect, OH 43342. The most important part of the address is the box number. Please be sure it is on the address. If not it may travel awhile before it finally lands back in Prospect. I had a conference registration that arrived July 10. It had been to New Jersey, South Dakota and Missouri before arriving to me.

Let me leave you with this quotation by Mary H. Waldrip: "Just when you think you've graduated from the school of experience, someone thinks up a new course."

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – Joyce Crislip (Akron Assoc.)

"WOMEN...destined for God's purpose"

Hi! Everybody! Hey! God gave us a great summer in my part of Ohio -- not too hot; not too cool. Most days were just right! I hope yours was comfortable, too. My porch glider was my favorite spot, a place to read, to meditate and just to enjoy being outside listening to the sounds of the birds and the kids playing around the neighborhood. As a retired teacher, I have always really cherished summer vacation.

Now, we're refreshed and it's time to knuckle down and get back to work! We have a new national theme and we must begin to think about how we can develop it; how we can truly be "women...destined for God's purpose."

Do you know? God has been working in you your entire life; preparing you for His purpose. That purpose can be fulfilled if you will allow it to happen. Sadly, it won't if you aren't listening to His call. So, listen!

Is there a dream in your heart that hasn't happened yet? Maybe you've had an idea but you've been afraid to act on it. Or, perhaps it's just a vague feeling about something you wish you could help make happen -- at your church, in your community, with your family - something that will give glory to God.

Pray about it now. Pray about it often; every day. Ask God to show you how to begin. "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according

to His purpose." (Philippians 2:13 NIV)

Now is the time to begin to make that dream a reality. "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for [you] ..." (Psalm 138:8a NIV)

Get started, Gal! Time's a wastin'!! Start looking for your destiny!

\* \* \* \* \*

Additional information (I got this from the Leader's Reader, page 2 bottom):

"SheReads: A Book Club for Women"

September/October Featured Selections

[Anytime, Anywhere: Sharing Faith Jesus Style](#) by William L. Turner

[Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection](#) edited by Ella Pearson Mitchell and Valerie Bridgeman Davis

[Pioneer Preachers in Paradise: The Legacies of George Liele, Prince Williams and Thomas Paul in Jamaica, the Bahamas and Haiti](#) by Alfred Lane Pugh

[12 Steps to Congregational Transformation: A Practical Guide for Leaders](#) by David C. Laubach

Do we have a Literature Chairperson? I don't want to take anyone else's job. If you have space, please add these book selections. I haven't read them, so can't comment about them.

Thanks and Smiles,

oksmilegodlovesyou@juno.com

330-769-3343



### ANOTHER NOTE FROM JOYCE ~

I must tell you about the mistake I made with the bookstore at Conference. I copied the price of the Program Covers wrong. I wrote \$5.95 instead of \$5.25. This meant I over-charged by \$.70 for each pack of covers. I have set aside money to reimburse the ladies who over paid. Please let me know by mail, e-mail, phone or at the next ABWM meeting. I didn't discover the error until I was repacking the leftover material to send back to Judson Press.

**I apologize to all who are affected.**

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY – Susan Stotts (Zanesville Assoc.)

Wow! Summer has been charging right along, hasn't it? We're coming up on Fall and then we'll rush right in to the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. What a wonderful time for Church & Community Ministry! Sometimes we need reminded that this ministry includes not only ministry in our communities (neighborhood, town, county), but in our church families. During the upcoming holiday season, there will be many ways to minister to both.

Reach out to shut-ins or church members in nursing homes, maybe with a small Christmas gift. Organize or join a caroling party and/or Hanging of the Greens. How about a birthday party for Jesus with the children of the church? Is your pastor single or married but with no children or family in the area? Invite him/her/them to Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.

What about the community? Patients in nursing homes are often without family and, therefore, Christmas gifts. The nursing home can guide you to a person and their needs. Sometimes that need is simply someone to visit. Salvation Army and Toys for Tots collect toys for children. Food banks and neighborhood centers need help with Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Community Thanksgiving services can be a blessing and a way to connect with others.

The categories in your last year's report can give you ideas: Church Relationships, Holiday Events, Pastor Appreciation, Food Pantries, Homeless Shelters, Hospitals & Nursing Homes, Abuse Centers. Is there an orphanage nearby? Keep your eyes and ears open and many opportunities will present themselves.

The next newsletter will have the report form. For now, just keep a list of all Church and Community activities and take a picture when you can, so we can have a full bulletin board to display for State/National Conference next year. Remember to include activities within your church and community, only. Not items for White Cross, Care & Share or missionary support (unless it's a missionary event in your church).

Oh, yes, I'm the new Coordinator of Church & Community Ministries. I'll try to live up to Billie's good job of giving information and encouragement. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at 740-454-8446 (evenings) or [sstotts@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ssstotts@columbus.rr.com). I'll do my best to give you good answers. Until next time, I pray God's blessing on all you do.

## MISSION AND SERVICE – Judy Douglas (Trumbull Assoc.)



I was at the National conference in July and had a fantastic time. One of the things that was very exciting was learning about Break The Chains and how we were doing. As you know the National goal was \$250,000 and as of July 1<sup>st</sup> we have a total of \$402,234.94! We also took a collection and that came to \$1,800 dollars. The fantastic news for Ohio is, we collected \$38,719.69 for two years. Another amazing fact for Ohio, we are third in giving nationally for Break The Chains. We are behind the Great Rivers Region which is a huge region and PA/DE which is two states giving together. I think Ohio should give a great big PTL to all the women who donated their time and energies to raising money toward Break The Chains. Although Break the Chains as a state project is over, there will be money distributed for year three. I don't know who receives the money for year three but when I find out I will let you know.

**Dayton Christian Center:** We can't sit back and congratulate ourselves because now we have a new state project for 2010. Our goal for DCC is \$20,000. They would like to replace flooring in their

preschool and toddler room; build a bathroom in their toddler room and upgrade their computer lab. They also want to buy some curriculum that will help with their counseling. The curriculum will deal with co-dependency, relapse prevention, untangling relationships, and coping with anger. I am sure Bob Bishop would come and talk to your group or even your church during the next year as we raise money for the center. I have a song to go with the project and if you would like a copy contact me and I will send you the words. Susan Stotts of Zanesville wrote the words. It is too long to put in this article.

**Mission study guide:** The study guide for this year is Costa Rico and Nicaragua. Contact me if you would like a copy. I have three copies so it's first come, first serve.

Soon my three years as Coordinator of Mission and Service will come to an end so I am looking for someone to take my place. If you know someone in your church or association who has a heart for missions, please send me her name.

jdouglas@alliancelink.com

330-584-5888

## CONFERENCE – Sheryl Wise (Zanesville Assoc.)

I am so excited about the opportunity we have to combine our state conference with the national conference which will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, July 10-15, 2010. While it would be great if you could attend the entire week, if you can only attend one day--**our Ohio events will happen on Tuesday, July 13, 2010.** We will begin at 8:45 am with Bible Study and then have time to break into small groups to get to know some of the women who are attending from all over the United States. This is a great opportunity to network and to find out how other American Baptist Women are serving our Lord. After lunch, the women of Ohio will meet together to have our annual business meeting, election/installation of officers, reports on our state project, as well as having a special time with Vir-

ginia Holmstrom, our national executive director and updates from our consultants in National and International Ministries. After dinner we will have an evening session that will be led by our American Baptist GIRLS group. We will finish our evening with a party with all the women and the girls!

I know the big question on everyone's mind is how much? Well, at this point we still don't know. Our national office is continuing to work with the hotel on prices so as soon as I know...you will know. Just keep watching in TellHerGrams and on the website. The website address is [www.abc-ohio.org](http://www.abc-ohio.org). For now, please be in prayer for us as we continue to plan and mark your calendar for July 2010!

wisedoctor@columbus.rr.com

740-453-9385

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT – Janet Wion (Zanesville Assoc.)

### Morning Reflection of God's Beauty

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name..."

#### 1 Chronicles 16:8

I was sitting on my kitchen porch this morning basking in the warm morning sun, so thankful for the beautiful day God had given me. Watching the humming birds come, a mother deer and her two young grazing in the yard, the flowers that had grown so beautiful. The awesome beauty of God's love! I want to share a devotion I received from a friend.

*Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if one stops the car or is walking by, one will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.*

*Listening, one will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, one will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her bridle is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.*

*As one stands and watches these two friends, one sees how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to*

*where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray.*

*Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.*

*Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by God and those whom he places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see God.*

**Prayer:** God, We can see the beauty of you in each sunrise and sunset. Help us to hold and guide others. Take our hand, hold us tight as we walk each day with you. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.

The Spiritual Growth Retreat was September 18th and 19th, 2009 with Rev. Karen Helton as our Retreat leader, Sharon Cassady was with us this year as our Missionary Speaker. Great music with Sheryl Wise and Nancy Hynds, Barbara Duncan was back this year, Aline Davis was with us this year with scrap booking. We had a wonderful fun time together as:

**"Women... Destined for God's Purpose."**

janwion@gmail.com

740-342-4628

## CARE AND SHARE – Barbara Rockwell (Mohican Assoc.)

Thank you so much for all the articles you brought for Care and Share at the conference.

Thanks for making smiles for mom's with new clothes for their baby or school child. Craft supplies and a new toothbrush for camp, dental cleanser for a brighter smile, jeans and shirts for someone working at the race track, for Bibles, Bible dictionaries, commentaries for our friends in other countries.

How many smiles did you create? Your new Care and Share list is in the TellHerGram.

Make some new smiles!

740-397-2748



## LOVE GIFT – Conni Morrison (Cleveland Assoc.)

Hi, Summer has come and gone, I pray you had a blessed and happy one.

It is time to get to work on our Pennies From Heaven project to increase our Love Gift giving this year by 10 %. Don't forget to pass out your Love Gift boxes asking for donations of all coins or change. We want to make our total \$32,000 this year. We can do it. Remember...

A bell is no bell until you ring it  
A song is no song until you sing it  
And love in your heart  
Wasn't put there to stay  
Love isn't love  
Until you give it away.

kaicon@aol.com

216-991-5390

## WHITE CROSS – Fay Bostic (Columbus Assoc.)

Greetings to all in the name of JESUS, from ABWM White Cross --

Summer is slowly leaving, and fall will come shortly. My favorite time of year.

Just recently received a certified mail that cost \$6.15 to send to me. Not knowing what it might be, I hurried off to the Post Office. The complete packet from one of our associations was returned stating they were sorry there are only three churches in their group. My heart sank, as I tried to reach the person who sent it but was unsuccessful. I ended up calling the President of that association and speaking with her. I found out they have no idea what was asked to be given from the State of Ohio from International Ministries in Valley Forge, PA.

So here goes:

### **2009-2010 REQUEST**

#### Overseas Purchase Plan

Burundi \$6,000

Nicaragua \$15,900 -- TOTAL \$21,900

3,000 Roller Bandages

100 Baby Gowns

100 Baby Blankets

100 Cotton Squares (50) per pkg.

50 Health Kits \$4.00 each

50 School Kits \$3.00 each

### Overland

PRIMERA CAGUAS P.R.

DAYTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, UTICA NY

Also our State Project is to raise \$20,000 for the Dayton Christian Center for repairs. I wondered as I spoke, how many other PRESIDENTS have no knowledge of what we are being asked to DO.

As I remember, in His Word, states where there are two or three gathered together in His name He will be in the midst. It's up to you. Faith in God is the solution for everything.

Much Love to all of you. In His will,

faybostic@yahoo.com

614-759-6486

## Scholarship Chair—Marilyn Craig (Dayton Assoc.)



We have four scholarship students for this year. They have each received \$2,000 toward this fall's tuition. It is all because of the generosity of the American Baptist Women of Ohio! Ladies, you've done a wonderful job of supporting our young seminary students.

They are all eager to speak to your groups. Please contact them.

Additional ways in which you can support them:

- Pray for them
- Send notes or e-mails of encouragement
- Send a birthday card
- Send articles, books, etc. pertinent to their studies or interests
- Bake cookies to send them
- Send small care packages with gift cards to

restaurants, stores, gas stations, etc.

- Send your support money to the scholarship Fund. This is where ABW/OH obtains the resources to send them the scholarship check.
- If you wish to send a student a gift of personal money, it is your choice. Send it directly to the student.

Here are the Association assignments:

Jeffery M. Guttarlamudi - Marion, Toledo, Western, Miami, Clinton, Dayton

Steve Rhodes - Ashtabula, Mohican, North Central, Marietta

Jeremy Taylor - Cambridge, Zanesville, Columbus, Rio Grande, Lawrence

David A. Williams - Trumbull, Zoar, Akron, Cleveland

## **SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS FOR 2009-2010**

Jeffery Makarios Guttarlamudi

Birthday April 22

Single

1211 North Main Street

Findlay, Ohio 45840

Jeff\_mak2004@yahoo.com

Jeffery is attending Winebrenner Theological Seminary enrolled in the Masters of Divinity program. He aspires to return to India and teach fellow Christians to lead Hindu and Muslim believers to Christ. He is originally from Hyerabad, South India. His visa does not allow him to work, but is required to attend school full time. He has a great dependence on your gifts to meet his requirements.

**Steven Anthony Rhodes**

Birthday February 26

Married

443 Sheffield Rd.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45240

[steve.rhodes1@gmail.com](mailto:steve.rhodes1@gmail.com)

937-416-3803

Steve is attending Asbury Theological Seminary in the Masters of Divinity Program. He is employed as Assistant Pastor at Wyoming Baptist Church, Wyoming, OH primarily working with the youth and children's ministries. He feels led to be a pastor and has an interest in counseling.

**Jeremy Taylor**

Birthday June 14

Married: April

8136 Indian Summer Way

Children: Jerusha 4 1/2

Mason, Ohio 45040

Naomi 1 1/2

[jeremytaylor@kenwoodbaptist.org](mailto:jeremytaylor@kenwoodbaptist.org)

513-791-0355

Jeremy is attending Bethel Seminary, pursuing the Transformational Leadership field of study. He has experienced the call to become a youth pastor with a doctorate degree in leadership. He is currently serving as Pastor of Student Ministries at Kenwood Baptist Church in Cincinnati.

**David A. Williams**

Birthday November 5

Married

5038 Alpha Ct.

Columbus, Ohio 43231

[WilberforceD6@yahoo.com](mailto:WilberforceD6@yahoo.com)

614-267-2536 ext. 119

David is attending Ashland Theological Seminary majoring in the Master of Divinity program. He has been called to become a pastor, and is active at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus involved as Director of Membership.



AN AMERICAN BAPTIST  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF  
OHIO PUBLICATION

American Baptist Churches of  
Ohio

136 Galway Drive, N  
Granville, OH 43023

Phone: 740-587-0804

Fax: 740-587-0807

E-mail: [lhoskinson@abc-ohio.org](mailto:lhoskinson@abc-ohio.org)



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[abc-ohio.org](http://abc-ohio.org)**

**and**

**[abwministries.com](http://abwministries.com)**



## PUBLICITY/TELLHERGRAM -

Kris Chismar (Trumbull Assoc.)

*Hi Ladies ~*

*I'm so glad to be able to bring you this edition from your state officers. There is so much wonderful information contained in these few pages. I hope you will be blessed by what you read.*

*Unfortunately, I only have the winter edition before my term is over. If you know Microsoft Publisher or a similar program, I'm sure you would enjoy this position as much as I have. It's fun picking the designs and playing with the fonts. There are only three issues each year for three years! If you are interested, let me know this fall. We can do the winter issue together!*

*[chismar109@yahoo.com](mailto:chismar109@yahoo.com)*

*330-533-7568*

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- October 15th – Women's Day at the Crowne Plaza North, Columbus
- October 15th–17th – 184th Annual Ohio Gathering at the Crowne Plaza North, Columbus
- November 4th – Baptist Women's Day of Prayer (resources available at: [abwministries.org](http://abwministries.org))
- December 5th– Executive Committee & Conference Committee (10 am) Granville Office

### 2010

- March 5th– Church Women United Day of Prayer
- March 13th– ABWM Executive Committee & Conference Committee (9 am)
- ABWM Board of Managers meeting (10 am) - Grand Prairie Baptist Church