

TellHerGram

An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication

President—Mariann Curl (Western Assoc.)

Spring 2009

For a few days I have pondered about what to share with you in this article, and one theme keeps coming to mind. God is in control!

I am in the midst of packing to leave for a mission trip to Romania tomorrow, and find myself worrying about forgetting to pack something or leave a chore undone at home. But why should I worry? God is in control!

Concern crossed my mind about the timing of this trip, with the worries about sufficient finances in the present economy. Would we have enough food to pass on to the people in the villages, and would we have enough socks and other gifts for the children? Why should I worry? God is in control! (By the way, God's people were generous and donated substantially to provide for the Romanian families.)

God provides many ways to remind us He is in control. He allows us to be tested with a variety of trials to strengthen our trust and dependence on Him. Our security does not come from our abilities and our "things", but from the trust and faith we have in God. I am anticipating what we will learn and experience with our new upcoming theme materials, "Women...Destined for God's Purpose."

At the recent spring board of manager's meeting, another exciting topic was discussed.

**The National ABWM
Conference will be held in
Columbus next year!**

This will be an unusual and wonderful opportunity for the women of Ohio to meet sisters from all over the nation, and to experience the spirit filled worship, Bible study, and fellowship we have heard about from those who have attended. The dates will be in July, and more information will follow this upcoming year.

In addition, God has provided the opportunity for us to combine our Ohio conference with the National conference next year. What an extravaganza! As a board, we agreed we need to provide the autonomy of the Ohio conference within the National event. We will need our time for our annual meeting, displays, etc. The conference committee and the executive committee will have their work cut out for them! Sheryl Wise is the conference chair for that year, and will have much to tell us throughout the next year. I'm sure she will have all our prayers and support.

Now you know why my thoughts keep turning to: God is in control! Interestingly enough, this scripture was on Carol Shannon's devotional e-mail this morning:

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

937-652-2485

Secretary—Maxine McDaniel (Marion Assoc.)

It's time to start planning more fully for 2009-2010. That means for me it's time to do the next Directory. This is my last year to get out the directory, so let's make it a good one. I need to get updated information from each of your societies as to who your officers will be. We want the directories to be as up-to-date as possible and as accurate as possible. Now it's up to you. **Please let me know ASAP who your officers are.** Even if you have no change, I won't know that unless you tell me. I have gotten some of the info now, and need the rest. Last year you were very

good in getting all info to me, but this year let's do even better. Don't call me. I would rather have it in writing; email is good if you want to do it that way. I have a new email which is: maxinemcdaniel@localnet.com. If you would rather write, my address is in last year's directory.



Spring has already "sprung" and I hope you all have a great one.

937-642-1837

Treasurer—Brenda Donegan (Marion Assoc.)

As I write this article, the magnolia tree in my east lawn is bursting with flowers and the most beautiful fragrance. The problem is they don't last too long. One good puff of wind and both flowers and fragrance are gone.

But, American Baptist Women's Ministries are much like the blooms on the magnolia tree. We bud and burst into full bloom as we fulfill God's call for service.

Also as I write this and looking ahead to the calendar, I must remind you that **monies for the state project must reach me by May 15 -- NO EXCEPTIONS!** Between May 15 and Women's Conference, I have a granddaughter graduating in the D.C. area, two nieces and several friends, all local. I also have two weddings I'm coordinating in addition to heading up my high school alumni reunion, writing and conducting a memorial service for deceased residents at my work and conducting the handbell choir for Memorial Day services. I know everyone has extended agendas these days.

Once again, money for the state project is slow coming in. If we intend to make goal, I will need to receive some pretty hefty checks in the next two to three weeks. Also,

just a reminder that Love Gift is also down in giving. And, by the way, does your church mission treasurer send Love Gift through the association treasurer? That's how it should be done. That way each church is recognized for their contributions. Let's make the job of Constance Morrison much easier by following these guidelines. She said at a recent board meeting that her figures and those received from ABC-USA never coincide -- that's how we can help her.

Let me leave you with this quotation by an unknown author: "Outstanding leaders appeal to the hearts of their followers, not their minds."

Brenda Donegan
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740-386-3053

(Note: I no longer have a landline. Verizon and I could not come to an agreement as to how much having it in the home was worth. We've gone completely wireless).

Personal Development—Joyce Crislip (Akron Assoc.)

HE KNEW -- BUT HE DID IT ANYWAY

Oh, the LOVE! God knew when He created Adam and Eve that they would sin. But He did it anyway.

He knew when He took the Israelites out of Egypt and gave them the Promised Land that they would sin time after time after time... But, He did it anyway.

God knew Jesus would be crucified and rejected. But, He did it anyway.

Oh, the LOVE that God has showered on mankind. The undeserved grace and mercy He

shows us every day. God loves you. God loves me. We don't deserve His love; indeed, we are not even capable of comprehending it. But, He did it anyway.

What are we doing to show God that we love Him? He wants us to worship and serve Him -- every day. Walk closer to Him beginning today. Tell God that you love him. Then, show him by your actions, whatever service you can do. Praise God! Thank you, God.

Smile, God loves you!

330-769-3343

Church & Community—Billie Thomas (Western Assoc.)

Spring is coming! My crocuses are blooming; the tulips and daffodils are raising their foliage out of the ground, and the robins are busy getting ready for their families. I talked to my cousin in Mississippi and she said that the dogwood and azaleas are in full bloom. This is a beautiful time in the south. Spring is my favorite season of the year. It reminds me of the new life that our Lord gives, and it is the time of the resurrection. How appropriate!

I trust that all of you have made out your reports for the year of all the wonderful things that you have done for our Jesus. The deadline is coming soon. She will then send them to me.

I'm glad for the later Women's Conference this year, since I will be having cataract surgery the first two Wednesdays in May. I've

May 1st is the deadline for
Association Church & Community
Coordinators to get their
reports to me.

been told that I will have to wait a month before I can get reading glasses.

I do not have any recent pictures from any of you, yet. There is still time.

This will be my last newsletter, since I will be leaving this office to my successor in June. May God bless you all and fill you with His wonderful grace and joy.

937-339-5796

Conference—Kathleen Hughes & Stephanie House (Akron Assoc.)

See attached memo and registration form.

330-762-8313

AB Girls—Aline Davis (Columbus Assoc.)

See attached flyer.

614-274-7817



Mission & Service—Judy Douglas (Trumbull Assoc.)

Happy Spring, I hope the appearance of daffodils and hyacinths will make every one do a little dance to celebrate the passing of a long hard winter. I'm getting the itch to get out and plant but it is way too early for that.

I hope everyone is still working on their fund raising for Break the Chains. We only have a little over two months to get our money in to Brenda Donegan. The national goal for Break The Chains is \$250,000 for two years and according to their web site, they have raised \$238, 857.33. If we make our goal of \$20,000, that will put them over the top. According to Brenda, we have almost \$4,000. Every church did such a fantastic job last year and I hope we are going to do the same for this year.



In June the Biennial will be held in Pasadena, California. American Baptist women have a special opportunity to support the White Cross effort as well as help with a Church World Service project. They are going to have a mission fair where they will assemble 1,500 Church World Service Kits. Funding is needed for this project. It is estimated they will need \$50,000 dollars to accomplish this goal. If your church or ABWM would like to donate, send you check made payable to ABCUSA and mail to ABWUSA office of Travel and Conference planning and send to Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

Hope to see you in June at the conference where we will announce our new state project for next year.

330-584-5888

Spiritual Growth Retreat—Janet Wion (Zanesville Assoc.)

Spring is here and the warm weather is so great. So anxious to start planning flowers, hear the birds sing, and enjoy all the beauty God has to offer us with the new beginning of spring.

Enclosed you will find the 2009 Spiritual Retreat brochure with the registration. You may copy it or if your church does not have a copier, call me (740-342-4628) and I will send brochures to you. The missionary has not been confirmed yet and planning on a "How To Do Scrap Booking" session. Look forward to seeing you there.

HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN

First, you come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses ...

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

Peace of Mind, Peace of Heart, Peace of Soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash grumbling & Squash selfishness.

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

Lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be kind, Lettuce be patient, Lettuce really love one another.

NO GARDEN IS COMPLETE WITHOUT TURNIPS:

Turnip for meetings on time, Turnip for service on time, Turnip to help one another on time.

TO CONCLUDE, OUR GARDEN MUST HAVE THYME:

Thyme for each other, Thyme for family and Thyme for friends.

Water freely with PATIENCE and CULTIVATE with LOVE. There is much FRUIT in your Garden because you REAP what you SOW.

LOVE simply. LOVE generously. CARE deeply. SPEAK kindly. Leave the rest to God.

LIVE WELL—LAUGH OFTEN—LOVE MUCH

Care & Share—Barb Rockwell (Mohican Assoc.)

It's hard to believe the ABW Ministries Conference is just around the corner. I hope you are planning to come and bring your Care & Share. Our participants are counting on you to help replenish their supplies, to relieve the stress for parents, to bring joy to faces and hearts of boys and girls and let needy people see Jesus in us!

I pray the Lord will bless you and urge you to bring many items for Care & Share. **Please have your reports to me by July**

15, 2009. It is very important for us to have this report. The ABW Ministries appreciate your sacrifice, love and concern.

"Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives." Titus 3:14

740-397-2748

White Cross—Fay Bostic (Columbus Assoc.)

Happy Spring, to all of you. Yes, I know it's not 75 degrees but at least there is no snow. It's time to start weeding, clearing the yard, emptying the garage, preparing for the warm weather. May we prepare ourselves also with a new outlook on the work of the Lord? "Let each of us look out not only for our own interests, but also for the interest of others." Philippians 2:4 With each sunny day there is a promise of more. **Just a reminder of Local White Cross Reports are due May 15, 2009: and, Area Association White Cross Reports are due May 30, 2009.** Once those have been completed you may take a DEEP BREATH. Some of you have more than one report to do, bring some one on board to help and train. Please let the ladies know if they were not able to complete everything. It's still OK.

Our Overseas Project for 2009-2010 will be BURUNDI AND NICARAGUA. Our OVER-

LAND: Neighborhood Ministries, Dayton Christian Center, Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas Pr. And Tabernacle Baptist Church Utica NY. Contributions to the Philippines (health kits/school kits) will be CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY postage has become to expensive. A word of THANKS AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU WHO WORK SO HARD AND FAITHFUL FOR AMERICAN BAPTIST WHITE CROSS.

Much Love, See you at Conference in June.

614-759-6486

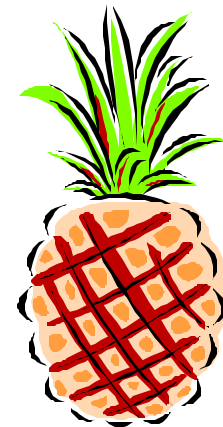
DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 24-2675th Annual ABW of Ohio Conference (see attachment)

July 25-31 National Women's Conference (see page 6)

Sept. 18-19 Spiritual Growth Retreat (see page 4 and attachment)

Oct. 15-17 184th Annual Gathering of ABC Ohio (see website for details)



NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

In Isaiah 43:18b-19a, God says, "... do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"



I really believe that God has brought us to this time of change and "difference" so that we will catch a new, larger vision of what HE wants to do in our lives and in the lives of those we minister to on a daily basis.

Please come to Conference this year with an attitude of expectancy — not just for what the program holds, but, most importantly, for what you will discover in your own personal intimate walk with Jesus Christ.

There really are some exciting things for us at National Women's Conference this year:

- * Fresh insights by sharing worship and workshop experiences with the AB Girls who will meet with us.
- * Unique gatherings for Young Adult Women coordinated by Florene LeBlanc who will lead times of sharing, journaling workshops and a Bible Study (focused on the particular needs of YAW).
- * Soul satisfying Bible teaching from Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins who will explore our new theme scriptures and teach us with the Holy Spirit's power.
- * Uplifting worshipful praise led by our music leader, Ardys Carpenter, who is also a talented pianist! Ardys is from Mattoon, IL. She is a worship leader in her own church and her talents have been recommended by many of the Great Rivers ladies.
- * A variety of Evening Gathering sessions with different leaders, music and presentations. Each event promises to be a blessing!
- * Helpful Officers' Training sessions on Sunday afternoon and the Kollege of Knowledge on Thursday — to increase your wisdom

and leadership capabilities.

* Of course, there will also be the wonderful camaraderie of Christian friends, good food and the delightful Lake Williamson Christian Conference Center to explore. (You'll enjoy the food, the pool with hot tub, walking trails and even a mini-golf course!)

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

National Women's Conference

Carlinville, IL

July 25-31, 2009

INVITE friends to accompany you as we become **"Women ... Destined for God's Purpose"**

REGISTER by downloading forms and information from www.abwministries.org. Click on "Upcoming Events". Send forms and check to Barb Diefenderfer, Registrar. No need to make room reservations—the cost is all-inclusive.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS: Help is available from ABW Ministries. Check our website or contact me (Joyce Camp) for more information. (607-662-0580)

AN INVITATION: 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?

HERE'S HOW: You or your group may write a paragraph (35 words or less) "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" someone dear to you. This will be placed in our Conference Program Book for a donation of \$25.00. A larger gift of \$50.00 or \$100.00 will give you 1/2 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 clearly (typed is best) the "statement of honor" you wish printed and send with the requested donation (see above) to Barbara Diefenderfer, Conference Registrar, 140 Lizard Creek Rd., Andreas, PA 18211.

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Ohio Publication**

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Please note that the subscription year is Fall–Winter–Spring. If you have not paid in the last three issues, please complete the attached form and return it to me.

Remember free copies go to:

All State officers elected and appointed

All Association Presidents

All past State Presidents

330-533-7568



Jesus and Satan

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally, fed up, God said, "THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away. They "moused". They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports. They did every job known to man.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time

was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured and, of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming, "It's gone! It's all gone!" "I lost everything when the power went out!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait!" he screamed. "That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?"

God shrugged and said, "Jesus saves."

TellHerGram Spring 2009 Addendum

LOVE GIFT – CONNI MORRISON (Cleveland Assoc.)

Spring is in the air. Happy Resurrection Day. Thank you for your generous support to Love Gift in 2008.

Too often, this society encourages us to “think big”. If it’s not big and flashy, we don’t have much to offer or worth doing. In the parable of the Mustard Seed, Jesus not only teaches of the Kingdom of Heaven as a Mustard Seed, but tells us to have faith Like a Mustard Seed. A Mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds, however the mustard plant grows to a large size (Mark 4:31-32). Out of one little seed, one small talent, good things cultivate. In looking for the big quantities, we may overlook the small things that can make a difference. Let’s start out this 2009 campaign asking for “pennies”.

I will have 2000 LOVE GIFT boxes available at the June Conference. Get ready to plan a LOVE GIFT PARTY. Everyone in your church will jump at the chance to help shower Love Gift for 2009 with Pennies from Heaven. Our goal is (\$32,000) 10 % over 2008’s total. Last year’s total for Ohio was \$27,746, includes Cleveland). The National 2008 year end total for Love Gift giving was \$695,935 (7.8% less than 2007).

Love Gift is celebrating over 77 years in service to individuals, missionaries and educational opportunities around the world. Why? Because 77 years ago, AB Women decided to let God take control of their lives. Their theme: “To know is to care, to care is to pray, to pray is to give”. Easier said than done, you say. We know that society is experiencing an economic shift and we are overwhelmed with company and major department store closings, endless employees downsizing and an ever increasing unemployment rate. Families are struggling to make ends meet and stay afloat. These are very challenging times. BUT GOD, offers us strength to persevere in the midst of every trial and the GOOD NEWS is that we do not have to buy it. It is Free. Through Prayer (that intimate conversation with our Power Source) God will hear and help us. So let’s PUSH. Pray Until Something Happens. Prayer changes things. We need prayer, we must pray, and we can pray. He always answers prayer. We can not out give God. He will bless our lives as we follow His instructions. Acts 2:44-47 tells us that the early Christians who gave of their substance to God enjoyed gladness, singleness of heart, and favor with all people.

May God continue to bless each of us as we so diligently work to reach the masses. LIFT HIM UP.

Conni Morrison
Cleveland, Ohio
216-991-5390
