



THE TELLHERGRAM

An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication

Winter 2009

President—Mariann Curl (Western Assoc.)

By the time we read this issue of the Tell-HerGram, we will be well into 2009. This new year brings with it many concerns of the nation's financial well being, as well as our own personal financial circumstances. One thing we can be certain of is God's consistent presence in the midst of these uncertain times. He is the owner of everything, and we are called to be faithful stewards of all He has given us. Let's revisit some of the scriptures He has provided to enable us to be better stewards.

Joshua 1:9 - "I command you to be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord God is with you wherever you go."

Colossians 1:16 - "All things have been created by Him and for Him."

I Corinthians 4:1-2 Tells us that we are to be "faithful in every aspect."

Matthew 6:21 - "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Hebrews 13:5 - "Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have..."

Deuteronomy 28:43-44 - "The alien who is among you shall rise above you higher and higher, but you will go down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he shall be the head and you will be the tail."

There are many scriptures dealing with money and finances in the Bible — more than 2,000. I encourage you to search out and study these scriptures to help you in this time of financial concern. There are also several scriptural seminars and study programs available, such as

Crown Ministries. Check out your church library, ask your pastor, check the internet, and listen to Christian radio for further information. Many of the programs have these points of advice in common:

- * Do not get into long term debt.
- * If you use a credit card, pay it off monthly.
- * If you have not begun to save, do so now. Even if it is a little every week.
- * Do not save money by skimping on your tithe.
- * Do not spend what you don't have.
- * Make sure you have a budget plan.

I don't begin to profess any expertise in money management, but my wish is this information would prompt you to pray for good stewardship. Let God lead you in using good judgment about your giving back to Him; and if you have a problem, you would use this information to begin to pursue a remedy for your situation.

Our churches, missionaries, and Women's Ministries still continue to rely on our giving and support in order to continue spreading the word of God. Join me in continued prayer to God that we will be good caretakers of the gifts and resources He has provided.

Blessings in this
New Year,
Mariann Curl

marianncurl@
hotmail.com

937-652-2485

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Secretary—Maxine McDaniel (Marion Assoc.)

Trust you have all had a blessed Christmas and are eagerly looking forward to this great new year of 2009.

As we meet the upcoming challenges, may we meet them with enthusiasm and a newer dedication. As we know, All Things are Possible. That means me as well as you. The first thing I need to let you know is that I have a new email address.



Treasurer—Brenda Donegan (Marion Assoc.)

As I write this article, we are ushering in a new year, so let me send best wishes to all for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year as you each serve the Lord in various ministries as He has called you.

The year 2008 was a tough year for many economically -- including American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio. Giving is down in all funds. I know in my work place, we've had three severe cuts of personnel and are currently down to the barebones. Our newsroom staff went from 20 to 12 in a matter of four months.

Workloads have been re-adjusted which means we're doing more with less. As I look at figures, the ABWMO are going to have to do the same in 2009. Board meetings, officers expenses and travel use up a large portion of the budget.

With new age technology, perhaps it is time to begin thinking about conference calls, meetings using Skype or just all officers planning to be online simultaneously and submit reports that way and open for questions or clarifications. We'll see what happens.

Another big concern is the drop in attendance for the annual conference. I've been sitting in on the conference committee meetings and they are being as frugal as possible, yet planning a great conference for June. Start sav-

ing your dollars now so you won't miss this mountaintop experience.

When this change was made, an email was sent to you but it is being repeated here. It is maxinemcdaniel@localnet.com.

If you have made some changes, I would prefer them as an email message or a written note. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

937-642-1837

ing your dollars now so you won't miss this mountaintop experience.

With the changing of the guard in mid-September, came some challenges for me in terms of finding a local financial institution to deposit funds without having to drive an hour or more to reach a bank that would accept our deposits. Working with John Marshall from the Credit Union, we now have an agreement with a local credit union in Marion and I am in the process of having a new deposit stamp made. I began making deposits there Jan. 5th. So, if you've been looking for your check to clear and it hasn't, it should soon.

Also, please note that all checks should be sent to me and not Joyce Crislip. My address is:

Brenda J. Donegan

611 Park Ave. Box 436

Prospect, OH 43342-9714

(The box number MUST be included in the address. That is a ruling from the postal service and not me.)

As I close, let me leave you with this quotation by Barbara Johnson, noted author and speaker:

"Live for today, but hold your hands open to tomorrow. Anticipate the future and its changes with joy. There is a seed of God's love in every event, every unpleasant situation in which you may find yourself."

bdonegan@columbus.rr.com

740-494-2693



Coordinator of Personal Development—Joyce Crislip (Akron Assoc.)

Happy New Year! I hope you haven't broken those resolutions yet! Did you even make any? I have a suggestion for one that will really help you walk closer to God. Resolve to read the Bible through in 2009!! It's easy if you break it up into 365 bits -- well, you'll have to read a bit extra to catch up if you planned to start January 1st and didn't. Or, you can just start today (the day you read this) and set your goal one year from this day. How do you get started? Well, you can just begin at the beginning -- Genesis -- and read a few chapters daily. Or, look in your devotion book. Most of them have suggested readings on each page. When you finish devotions each day, read the suggested chapters and VOILA!! You'll do

it!! And, you will grow!!! Every time you read a familiar passage, determine to see something new. When you read a passage you've never read before, take time to study it and find a revelation you hadn't discovered before. Allow yourself enough time daily to really think about the reading and let God speak to you through it. You'll grow, I promise! Happy Reading!

Serving with a smile,

oksmilegodlovesyou@gmail.com
330-769-3343



Coordinator of Church and Community—Billie Thomas (Western Assoc.)

Hello, Ladies—

I trust that all of you had a wonderful Christmas, and have started the new year with many blessings and joy. At the start of each New Year, I wonder what the coming year will bring. At my age, I can't help but reflect on the possibility of seeing Jesus in 2009. What a blessing to know that whatever the year brings, God is in control. And He does all things well. Praise His Name!

I hope that all of you Church and Community Coordinators are keeping records and a few pictures of your special Church and Community events. I would like to make a pictorial poster of some of the unusual celebrations in your church or what you have done in your com-

munity. In our church, a few ladies have made quilts for the homeless shelter. Any thing that is done in your church or community is to be reported. By the time you read this, you should have received report forms and a letter from me. If by chance I have missed you, please let me know.

Remember, that Church and Community is different from Care and Share. They are two distinctly different programs. I'm looking forward to getting your reports of all the wonderful ways you serve our precious Lord. Be sure to send the reports to your Association Church and Community Coordinator, and she will then send them to me. The deadline is May 1.

oranbilliethomas@gmail.com

937-339-5796

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 14, 2009 (Sat.) - Board of Managers meeting at Grand Prairie (10 am) Officers: Remember to bring your revisions and updates for the Here's How.

June 25-26, 2009- Ohio ABWM Conference at Heartland Retreat Center; Board of Managers meeting the 24th - NO Executive Board meeting planned at this time.

July 25-31, 2009- National ABWM Conference at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL. Click on the Highlights on the home page of abwministries.org for more information.



Coordinator of Mission and Service—Judy Douglas (Trumbull Assoc.)

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and now we will be getting ready for the new year and thinking about our state project and new ways to raise money so we go over the top both in the state and nationally. Our goal for the state of Ohio is \$20,000. The goal for national is \$250,000 for two years and according to the web site we already have \$219,648.03. This means the goal is in sight and we may even go over which is fantastic.

This year the money raised will go to:

1. **Ghana** to help rescue girls who are given to witchdoctors in false hopes of combating evil spirits.
2. **Italy** to help **Woman-to-Woman** project to empower immigrant women who are trafficked into and through the country and working in prostitution.
3. **Lebanon, Maids in Lebanon:** provide care, advocacy, and freedom to women brought into the country to be maids and who are imprisoned as “illegal”.
4. **Sioux Falls, SD: Be Free Transformed Ministries,** will restore the community by addressing the issue of sexual exploitation in the US and transnational.

5. **Los Angeles, CA: Nightlight USA:** Will train community members to help human trafficking victims and to organize and mobile volunteers to do street outreach to potential victims.

6. **Peoria, IL, Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service:** Empower more Hispanic immigrant women to earn a respectable income through its cottage industry “Matthew 25” scripture-based charm bracelets and to expand marketing efforts for the bracelets.

Let me know of your creative ways of earning money for this year. I know Powell Baptist Church has a large empty water jug with a sign that says, “**Bring Your Change to Break the Chains.**” They will be collecting change for the rest of the time through May.

The Mission Study this year is on Myanmar and Thailand. I have several extra copies if anyone would like one for their group. They are free. Just send me your address.

Please remember in prayer all our missionaries who are living in an area of violence and unrest.

jdouglas@alliancelink.com

330-584-5888

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

Now that you have your 2009 calendars, I trust you have already marked June 24, 25, and 26 as the days for the 75th Annual Ohio Baptist Women’s Conference, to be held again at Heartland Conference and Retreat Center.

For those of you who are traveling with Board members, or who want to have a little more celebration time with other Ohio women, we will again have fellowship around the camp fire on Wednesday evening after the Board meeting. There will be a sing-along and some reminiscing as we share stories we have heard from mothers/grandmothers who attended those early House Parties at Denison University. Blythe Ann Cooper will



be leading us in our Bible study, centered on the theme “Come to the Edge: Step Out in Faith.” Musicians Pam, Blythe Ann, Sheryl and Anne will provide leadership, inspiration, and accompaniment as we sing praises to God.

AB Girls will be meeting at the same time, and will be participating in some of our sessions. We missed the girls last year, and look forward to having them with us again, along with their new leader, Aline Davis.

And we are celebrating our seventy-five years of House Party/Conference. At the Thursday evening session we will have a Power Point presentation of past conferences, special music, and a hymn sing. Then we will party—with games especially designed for AB Women, snacks and beverages (which you will bring!), ice cream and cake, lots of conversation, and table games (which



Coordinators of Conference (continued) ...

you will also bring!).

Workshops will include at least one of our Christian Center directors, "how-to" Power Point, White Cross, officers, and crafts.

We are aware that one of the first questions which comes to mind when you read about conference is "How much will it cost?" Therefore we are including that information in this issue of the TellHerGram to assist you in your planning.

Package 1 (Thurs, Fri): 1 night's lodging, 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, registration fee--\$82.00

Package 2 (Thurs only): 1 lunch, 1 dinner, registration fee--\$41.00

Package 3 (Wed, Thurs, Fri):

(non-Board arriving after dinner): 2 night's

lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, registration fee--\$111.00

Package 4 (Wed, Thurs, Fri) (Board, passengers, anyone else arriving before dinner): 2 night's lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, registration fee--\$121.00

These amounts are based on actual costs of the 2008 conference, to ensure that we will break even financially. No attempt is being made to profit from the conference.

We urge you to start planning now to attend, and also to encourage others to attend this special time of celebration. Seventy-five years is the Diamond Jubilee! We don't promise any diamonds, but we do expect to have a great time of inspiration, fellowship, and fun. Don't miss it!

Coordinator of Retreat—Janet Wion

(Zanesville Assoc.)

Happy New Year! It's just me wishing you all a very happy new year!! I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and have made all your new year resolutions for 2009. I am looking forward to the new year with new excitement for what the Lord has in store for us.

I received this ASAP on the e-mail and wanted to share it with you. Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet; you've no time to spare, but as you hurry and scurry - ASAP ... Always Say A Prayer.

It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear. Slow down and take a breather, ASAP ... Always Say A Prayer.

God knows how stressful life is. He wants to ease our cares, and He'll respond to all your needs, ASAP ... Always Say A Prayer.

We need your help in another way: If any of you have in your possession, or know the whereabouts of, any of the old banners, please let us know as soon as possible. Also, if you know where the Historian's old photo albums are, we would like to hear from you right away. Call Kathleen at 330-762-8313 or Stephanie at 330-622-4386.

Happiness keeps You sweet
Trials keep You strong,
Sorrows keep You human
Failures keep You humble
Success keeps You glowing,
But ONLY GOD keeps You going!!

janwion@gmail.com

740-342-4628



Care & Share Chairwoman—Barbara Rockwell (Mohican Assoc.)

A bad economy is the hot topic of conversation. Everyone is affected. It is especially hard on the participants involved in our Care and Share.

Look over the Care and Share list and when you go to the store buy extra paper products, household supplies, personal care items, craft items, school supplies, baby items, etc., and keep them in a box and bring them to women's conference. Used, buy one get one free, look for sales, buy at off season and soon your box will be full!

For the year of 2008, we had 40 of the 125 churches in Ohio giving to Care and Share. I know we had more but this was what was reported. We totaled \$15,048.68 in 2008, \$20,557.89 in 2007, and \$23,293.08 in 2006. When you understand how the blessings of sharing changes lives, our own lives are never the same. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have" (Hebrews 13:16)

lrockwell@embarqmail.com

740-397-2748



Love Gift Chairwoman—Conni Morrison (Cleveland Assoc.)

Happy New Year. Wishing you happiness and peace in the new year.

With your support so far in 2008, our total was \$21,668 and \$2,171 for Cleveland which gives a total for Ohio of \$23,839 as of the end of October. I am confident that we will hit the \$30,000 mark by the end of December 2008.

Part 2 Continued

Jesus talked about "faith the size of a mustard seed" in Matthew 17:20. And Paul spoke of faith large enough to "remove mountains" in 1 Corinthians 13:2. Paul also said if we have that much faith, but have no love, we are nothing. In the last part of this Love Chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, Paul wrote about the growing Christian who gives up childish ways and becomes mature. In the trio of important things that endure, he mentions faith first, hope second and love third but added. "The greatest of these is love" then Chapter 14 begins with these words, "pursue love".

A gift of love is one which is chosen with thoughtfulness and care. It is chosen with the needs, and interests of the recipient in mind. A gift

of love is one into which we put a little of ourselves to be shared with another person. Love gifts are more than just pulling out a dollar bill because someone is passing an offering plate. Love Gift involves taking time out of a busy day to thank God and think of others by putting a gift—large or small—in the Love Gift box. In this way, we are sending our brothers and sisters in Christ a bit of ourselves. We are sending them our love.

How often have you heard someone say "it does not matter what I give, it is so small that it won't count at all". My influence is only a drop in the bucket; well, don't be too sure about that drop in the bucket. It all depends on what the drop is and what is already in the bucket.

For example:

- * One little drop of water falling into a bucket of acid may cause an explosion.
- * One drop of germ culture may change the contents of the bucket in a few hours.
- * A speck of yeast introduced into the dough will leaven the entire mixture.
- * One drop of disinfectant may neutralize a whole bucket of poisonous materials.

So a drop in the bucket can be of great significance!!!!



Love Gift (continued) -

The story of Love Gift remains unfinished. By giving to Love Gift, American Baptist Women play a vital role in the continuing work of American Baptist Churches in the world. And the best is yet to come.

As I reported in the last article, a good way to increase our totals is to start gleaning. Start using the Love Gift boxes to save pennies. Give at least 100 people in your church a box to save their change or to give pennies or change they have stored in a drawer or vase somewhere in their home. We must go back to basics, since we are in hard times now. That is what our ancestors did and they did a lot with just saving pennies or dimes or quarters, etc. So I am asking you to do the gleaning project for 2009 in your church, not just your circle. Give each member a box or jar or

something to bring the change back to church. Take about a two month period for this project. God will bless you. (Boxes may be ordered from Judson Press).

My prayer, oh, gracious God, is you have filled our cups to overflowing. May we reflect your generosity in all we do. We give you ourselves along with our gifts. We know you have a purpose for them and for us. Oh, God, expand our limited vision, help us to see new possibilities. May our offerings reach beyond the barriers of what we used to think and do. In Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior's name. Amen

kaicon@aol.com

216-991-5390

White Cross Chairwoman-Fay Bostic (Columbus Assoc.)

Greeting to all in the matchless name of Jesus: Pray your holiday was as beautiful and Spirit filled as mine.

Now we are looking unto a new year with as much hope and peace that God will continue to be our guide. Within a month our new White Cross materials will be arriving, knowing whatever is needed from us we are awaiting to fulfill those needs. We all know about the economy, but we must press on looking unto Jesus for all direction. Don't be afraid of accepting your quotas, whatever

they may be. If we stay in a safe place (comfort zone) how will we ever know who and what is needed in SAMARIA!

John 4:4 "Pray with me that we will accomplish what the Lord gives us to do."

Blessings and Peace To You, Fay
faybostic@yahoo.com

614-759-6486

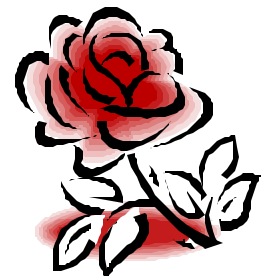
Scholarship Chairwoman-Marilyn Craig (Dayton Assoc.)

Happy New Year!!

The time for Scholarship requests is closing in on us. The deadline is March 1, 2009. I have already received five requests for this year, not including our current students.

If you know of anyone who is interested in receiving scholarship information and has not contacted me, please contact me ASAP and I will get the information to them. I can be contacted at any of the addresses below. Blessings!!!

Marilyn R. Craig
5589 Joyceann Drive
Dayton, OH 4415-2948
937-274-2734
mrcraig@donet.com



An American Baptist Women's Ministries
of Ohio Publication

136 Galway Drive, North
Granville, OH 43023

Phone: 740-587-0804
Fax: 740-587-0807

E-mail: lhoskinson@abc-ohio.org

American Baptist Churches USA

P.O. Box 851

Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Phone: 800-222-3872

State Website:
abc-ohio.org

National Website:
abwministries.org

Coordinator of Publicity and TellHerGram—

Kris Chismar (Trumbull Assoc.)

Hello Ohio Baptist Women!

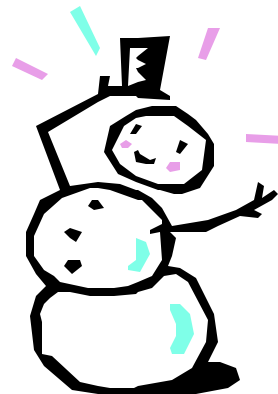
I hope you enjoy this issue. I've tried to make it fun and enjoyable. More importantly, the women who have submitted articles are providing you with excellent information that will be beneficial to your local ABW groups. Their e-mails and phone numbers are included after each article so that you can contact them with any questions. These women are available to serve you and to do whatever is necessary to make each of your ABW groups successful in serving our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The next issue will be in April and will include the renewal forms. The TellHerGram is published April, October and February for a cost of \$4.00.

If there is anything in particular you would like to see included, please let me know.

chismar109@yahoo.com

330-533-7568



Coordinator of AB Girls—Aline Davis (Columbus Assoc.)

Create fond memories for girls in your church by bringing them to the 2009 American Baptist Girls Gathering in Ohio. Get some of your members and friends to sponsor a girl so that it will provide them the opportunity to attend a state conference which in the long run could be one of the best gifts that they ever receive. Who knows the effect it may have on their lives or how God will speak to them?

There will be workshops, Bible study, worship, time for fellowship and a few surprises. Even if you don't have an AB Girls Ministry in your area, it's okay to sponsor a girl from your local church or even from your family?

WE NEED YOUR HELP
IN GETTING THE GIRLS THERE.
CONSIDER IT, PRAY OVER IT.

aline@accad.ohio-state-ed

614-274-7817

GOD'S LOVE

God's love has no boundaries
It's flowing everywhere.
He has enough for everyone
And even some to spare.
So take a heaping handful
And give some out each day ...
Speak it by your actions
And with the words you say.
As you share His love with others,
He'll make it multiply,
For God's love has no boundaries ...
There's an infinite supply.