

Spring 2010

The TellHerGram

President—Mariann Curl (Western Assoc.)

If you haven't noticed, the latest ministry resource became available in March 2010. Women...Destined for God's Purpose Year 2, Issue A is available from Judson Press or abwministries.org. This makes the third issue of ministry resources available for the current theme.

Conference is right around the corner! I hope you plan to attend all or at least a day or two of this special event. What's special about it? It's right in our own back yard! The Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center on Sinclair Rd. in Columbus is the location of this year's conference and if you haven't heard by now, we will be partnering with this major event for our own Ohio conference.

Tuesday is the day set aside for us to meet and share in Bible study, prayer, and hear presentations from Victoria Goff, National Ministries, and Chris Marziale, International Ministries. We will hear the results from the year long special mission project with Dayton Christian Center and the new special project will be presented. The scholarship students will be announced, the new information for the year will be available on a CD for the association presidents to share, and we will be blessed by a special worship program presented by the AB GIRLS.

I would encourage you to consider attending at least one other day if you cannot attend the whole conference from July 10 - 15. If we were having a separate conference we would gather for at least two days! Two or more women could share a room to decrease the overnight expense. Judson Press will have items for sale, our own resources will be available, AB GIRLS auction is planned, and

as we have done for our conference the last two years, the opportunity to visit and/or present a display has been extended to the missionaries from Ohio. The schedule and registration information is available on the national website at abwministries.org. Print and fill out your registration and send it in today!

The AB GIRLS will be meeting at the same time and same place. I am told to get full advantage of the experience, they need to attend the whole conference with the theme of, "Young Women of Action". Take note of the girls who have completed the 6th - 12th grade at your church and invite them to attend. The plans and the registration information is also on the website.

Have you considered planning a Violet Rudd Sister to Sister Walk? Violet Rudd was the first Executive Director of AB Women's Ministries, and is remembered for having a special knack in leadership development and social issues. It is thought she would have been in the forefront of the "Break the Chains" project. The Violet Rudd Sister to Sister Walk is a project you can plan and sponsor to continue to raise funds for "Break the Chains" as well as women's leadership. Half of the funds raised will go to funding new ministries working to abolish human trafficking, and the other half to National AB Women's Ministries to provide leadership vision and resources to women and girls.

Each region has been challenged to raise \$2,000.00 by walking 50+1 miles. 50+1 represents the number of U.S. states and Puerto Rico into which persons are trafficked and sold. Please visit



President—Continued

the website for more details, sponsorship forms, and report forms to send in reporting the results of your walk. There is also a list of regions and how much has been raised in each. I have heard of one walk in Great Rivers region, one in Rhode Island and one in Massachusetts. How about Ohio?? I know many of you are walking for your health. How about joining together with women of your congregation, your association, your other friends, and walking for the honor and health of AB Women and victims of trafficking?

This is the last time I will be able to tell you to visit the website at abwministries.org. If you are not, you are missing a plethora of valuable information and opportunities. I am sure the new president will continue to encourage you to keep informed of what is going on in women's ministries, and to educate yourself to be able to continue with the valuable ministries you are providing. I am also sure she will continue to take us on to a new technical level

one step at a time that will enhance the way we do ministry and communicate with one another.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president. It has been a blessing to serve the Lord at a level I never anticipated.

Blessings to you all,

The scripture that I remember:

People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord's plan will happen. Proverbs 19:21

The scripture I pray for you:

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father, which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

SECRETARY—Jerri Wood (Dayton Assoc.)

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

II Timothy 2:15 NIV

Greetings of peace, joy, and love to each of you! This is the time of year when officers are elected for the year (2010-2011). Are you completing your term as secretary, continuing or just beginning?

If you are just beginning – look to the past secretary for help. During meetings strive to listen carefully, taking good notes and publishing them in a timely manner. Be the best secretary you can be!

If you are continuing as secretary – look to the new year with excitement and think of one thing you can do better next year!

If you are completing your term as secretary – look with anticipation and continue being the best you can be in the new office that you have been called to serve! Mentor the new secretary, passing on your notebooks and information.

Association Secretaries: Whether you are the old, new, or continuing secretary for 2010-2011, **REMEMBER:** I need a list of your association officers for 2010-2011 by June 1, 2010. If possible, please include e-mail addresses so we can save on postage. We will have the new directories at the June 19 ABW of Ohio Board Meeting. You can send officers to me at: 1525 Stockton Ave., Kettering, OH 45409 or e-mail at bjwood68@aol.com.

May God richly bless you and empower you to do the best you can as a woman destined for God's purpose.

TREASURER - Brenda Donegan (Marion Assoc.)

As I write this, I am basking in the sun (under an Ohio State umbrella) in Myrtle Beach. The purpose of this trip was to relax, hang out with family during Spring break and watch our grandson play baseball.

The week started good with a fine Calabash seafood dinner on Friday, relaxing on the beach with family on Saturday and a beautiful Sunrise service on the beach on Easter Sunday. It was downhill from there. First someone hacked my laptop and put a virus on it which I had to take to have restored; secondly, my husband was hit in the back of the head with a baseball thought to be thrown about 70 miles per hour and a trip to the emergency room; and thirdly, my allergies kicked into high gear because of the high pollen count which made me terribly miserable.

But as we were doing devotions one evening, God made it very clear to us that all those things happened so He could use us as a witness to the parents of the baseball team that were also in the area. One evening the topic of finances came up and how everyone was stretched to the limit to provide for their families – one father even commenting that any one of our problems would have thrown his family into a panic.

I finally realized I had the opportunity to share the love of God by giving a testimony. I reminded them that even with a personal relationship with God, our life has been full of bumps along the way from serious illnesses to financial strains – just like everyone else. But we also had the assurance

that by trusting God he would bring us through whatever he sent our way.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio are facing similar bumps with today's economy. Folks are holding their resources close to them and not as generous in their charitable giving – including the church.

It is my duty to keep you abreast of our financial standings – which today is pretty bleak. We are under \$5,000 in the general fund which is used for training of your state officers, reimburse them for expenses related to their office and a token reimbursement (25 cents per mile) for mileage to and from board meetings.

So, how can you help? By encouraging women in your individual groups to give to the general fund on the line designated as "dues." How much as dues, you ask? There is no set rate, but \$1 per active woman is suggested – that equals one sweet tea at McDonald's.

Giving is also down for the scholarship fund and state project. By giving to the scholarship fund, we are able to give assistance to students who have answered the call to ministry. The state project enables us to give a helping hand to Dayton Christian Center to enhance and improve their ministries to the underserved.

As a reminder, all monies are due by May 15 to be included in this year's annual report.

And, yes, by the way, I have a new address. It is: Brenda J. Donegan, 1550 Wellness Drive, Villa 6, Marion, OH 43302 and also a new e-mail: bdonegan55@roadrunner.com

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT—Joyce Crislip (Akron Assoc.)

It's SPRING! And, aren't we glad! What a winter we just survived! Whew!! Each season has its own kind of beauty; but none can outdo spring. How refreshing and colorful the flowers are after a cold, dreary winter.

Some of the first "flowers" to appear in my yard are the single stemmed, bright yellow and extremely hardy dandelions. (I've considered painting smiley faces on them; but it would be a daunting task given how many there are!) Most people don't think much of the lowly dandelion; but, God gave it special attention when he created it.

Each leaf has a little channel in the middle that helps life-sustaining rainwater run straight down toward the root. And, what happens when you try to pull up a dandelion? That root is so tough and so deep you almost never get it all. If

you get just the top and leave even a portion of the root, it grows a whole new plant! That's survival!!

The stem of a dandelion is floppy so it can bend in the wind and not break. And, the blossom? Why, the whole blossom closes to protect itself when it's rainy or dark. It will open again when the sun shines. Did you know each of those little yellow "petals" in the blossom is really a whole flower? Its parts are so small we can't see them easily. Each tiny "petal" forms a seed that makes a whole new dandelion. And, when the seed is ready, it even has its own little parachute that guarantees it a safe landing as the wind takes it away to a new location. Have you ever blown on a white dandelion? That's a "rite of passage" in our family and just one way God has of preserving this humble weed!

Read Luke 12:27-31. "...God clothes the grass

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT—Continued

[dandelion] of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you..."

God cares enough to make sure this little plant survives and grows. He cares so much more for you. You are "destined for God's purpose," just as the lowly dandelion is destined to announce the arrival of spring after the mighty

winter.

Put your roots deep in God's word. Then, bloom and grow for Him! Smile! God loves you! See you at Conference!!

330-769-3343

oksmilegodlovesyou@juno.com

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY—Susan Stotts (Zanesville Assoc.)

I hope you all have sent your Church & Community Ministries Report to your Association Coordinator. **Her report is supposed to come to me by May 15.** She can delay a few days, but not a few weeks, so rush your reports to her if you haven't yet. We want to hear about all the wonderful things that are happening in your church family and community. I will be mailing the state report to the association coordinators in June, so be sure to get a copy from her and check it for new ideas. Need a form? Check with your association coordinator or contact me to get one. I haven't gotten calls or emails, so I'm guessing you all have lots of good ideas or are getting them from the TellHerGram articles.

I've been thinking of ways to encourage Church & Community Ministries, especially the church part, and how to emphasize the importance of volunteering and of helping and interacting with the church family, so I looked through our church hymnal for scripture readings on the subject. I found one that was listed several times in the topical index. It came under Church-Nature & Foundation, Holy Spirit-Our Love for Others, Social Concern and Stewardship & Service. I decided it fit quite well for Church & Community Ministries and want to share some of the verses with you.

In Romans 12:1-5 we find:

1. "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? 2. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is. 3. As God's messenger, I give each of

you this warning: Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you. 4. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5. so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others." New Living Translation

Doesn't that describe what we can do through Church and Community Ministries? To the community we can give our bodies by volunteering. But don't forget the church part. Verse two says, "Don't copy the behavior of the world, but let God transform you." One way to do that is to be active in your church family's life. Get to know your church family. We are all parts of Christ's body so we need to be good to and to celebrate with each other.

Yes, giving to local ministries, both financially and with time is an important part of Church and Community Ministries. But, volunteering, celebrating and growing spiritually within your own church family are important, too. Don't forget that, as you look for ways to participate in Church and Community Ministries.

740-454-8446

sstotts@columbus.rr.com



MISSION AND SERVICE—Judy Douglas (Trumbull Assoc.)

I hope everyone is frantically trying to raise more money for Dayton Christian Center. **Brenda needs your money for the project by May 15th so she can get the books in order by the end of June.** Our goal for Dayton Christian Center is \$20,000 and at the last board meeting we had a long way to go.

I sent out the new list of Special Interest Missionaries. The top of the page says 2011- 2013 but you can go on and start doing things for them now. You don't have to wait until 2011. We have new National Special Interest Missionaries for the next three years; Rev. David Nichols from Friendship House in Hamtack, Michigan; Rev. Vincent Harris, Race Track Chaplain; and Mark Samuel from Neighborhood Ministries in Youngstown.

All the International missionaries are the same for us except for Annie and Rev. Jeffery Dieselberg, Thailand. I sent all the addresses to the Coordinator of Mission and Service person in your Association so if you haven't received a copy, contact them.

I received an e-mail from Debby and Jim Kelsey who are missionaries in Italy. They would like used children's books in English; the books can be from infants through 12 years old. She said the

children are bi-lingual and have trouble finding books in English. The books are to be sent to the Book Depository in Cincinnati. Mark the boxes for Kelsey's in Italy and also try and give a donation of \$2.00 a pound to the Depository for shipping. The address is Judson Village Retirement Community, Used Book Depository, 3272 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211 in care of Polly (Kelsey's).

This is my last article for the Tellhergram as my three years as Mission and Service Coordinator comes to an end. I have enjoyed this job. As you may have guessed, missions are my love. It has been a very short three years and I am a little sad that it is over and I will miss the contact I have had with all of my counterparts. I will still be around if you have any questions until after the conference in July. My friend from the Akron Association, Wilma Nicholson is the nominee for the next three years.

I have a new e-mail if you need to contact me judydouglas@centurylink.net.

330-584-5888



CONFERENCE—Sheryl Wise (Zanesville Assoc.)

CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE!

2010 National Women's Conference: "Women...Destined for God's Purpose: Mission Possible!" and "Ohio Terrific Tuesday!" "Women...Destined for God's Purpose: Mission Possible!" is a national conference for women sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABCUSA), **July 10-15, 2010**, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Our Ohio AB Women's Conference will be Tuesday, July 13, 2010 during the National Conference. Cost is \$75 for program fee, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This is new experience for all as we partner our Ohio Conference with the National Conference. Come and learn what it means to live with purpose and to accept the life that God

dreams for you. Together we can face our struggles, find our strengths, and grow in Jesus. Together we can encourage one another to be the women God has called us to be. Christ-centered experiences include Bible studies on the conference theme with Rev. Christine Roush, worship and singing with Christian performing artist Pam Noah, inspiring Sunday morning preaching by Rev. Marilyn Turner, morning "Java & Jesus" devotions, and a memorable closing communion service on Wednesday evening. Workshops, off-site tours, special meal events, and activities with the National Gathering for Girls offer great opportunities to build new intergenerational friendships and grow closer to God. **If you can come for the whole week you will be truly blessed. If you can only spare a day...make it your mission to join us for our Ohio Terrific Tuesday!**

CONFERENCE—Continued

Tuesday, July 13

7:00 AM — Java & Jesus (Morning Devotions)

7:30-8:30 AM — Breakfast

8:45 AM —Bible Study

10:00-10:20 AM — Break

10:20-11:30 AM — Conversation Café

11:30 AM-12:30 PM — Lunch

Special Lunch: Love Gift Lunch (*This is open to anyone wishing to attend.*)

1:00-4:30 PM — Ohio women's business session in auditorium

4:30-6:00 PM — Dinner

6:45 PM — NLT and AB GIRLS leading worship

After WORDS Session — Chit Chat & Chocolate

Download the registration form at

www.abwministries.org

or call 1-800-ABC-3USA x2288.

(1-800-222-3872 ext. 2288)

Need information specific to our Ohio conference, email Sheryl Wise- sheryl.wise@gmail.com or call 1-740-607-6080.

Early Bird Pricing* for the full week of National Women's Conference:

\$400.00 per person in a room with 4 occupants

\$450.00 per person in a room with 3 occupants

\$500.00 per person in a room with 2 occupants

\$650.00 for a single occupancy room

**All-inclusive conference fee includes program fee, housing, and meals for 5 days!*

Rooms have 2 double beds. A limited number of handicap-accessible rooms are available, each with 2 double beds. All rooms have private bath, air conditioning, TV, and high-speed Internet.

Early Bird conference fees end on May 1.

After May 1, add \$30.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT—Janet Wion (Zanesville Assoc.)

Have you ever wondered what the word HELLO means?

H = How are You?

E = Everything all right?

L = Like hearing from You

L = Love to see You soon

O = Obviously, YOU are my friend!

So **HELLO** Ladies! We have made it through all the snow and cold and now we are ready for the beauty of spring and all that is new and the joy of all God's wonders! I think of little children discovering the world for the first time and God gives us that chance again every spring!

I listened to the new frogs last night -- this morning the beautiful sunshine highlighting

the green grass and the daffodils coming up as the other flowers are breaking through the ground. I think of Psalm 118:24 -- *This is the day the Lord hath made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Enclosed you will find the 2010 Spiritual Growth Retreat poster and registration form. I am looking forward to a special time of fellowship, worship, good music, bible studies, missionary speaker, comedy, crafts, renewing old friendship and making new friends so be sure to come join us at First Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, Ohio, September 17th & 18th, 2010!

740-342-4628

janwion@gmail.com

CARE AND SHARE—Barb Rockwell (Mohican Assoc.)

I have enjoyed being your Care and Share Chairperson. It has been exciting working with all the participants and seeing all the wonderful supplies given to Care and Share.

July 13th, Ohio Terrific Tuesday in Columbus, we are asking you to bring your items. We will have a time to transport them from your vehicles to our participants. Gift cards and money will also be appreciated. We are sorry we don't have a special room for your donations.

When we share our resources, we make a



difference in the lives of others. We ensure children and adults to change their lives and bring Christ to a lost world in the form of Care and Share.

When we understand how the blessing of sharing changes lives, our own lives are never again the same.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have. Hebrews 12:16A

740-397-748

lrockwell@embarqmail.com

WHITE CROSS—Fay Bostic (Columbus Assoc.)

Oh come and magnify the Lord with me, let us rejoice and sing praises unto Him: Greetings to all, pray all are well.

I received this from our National Chair Chris Marziale: As of March 8, 2010, update on Overseas White Cross for Ohio:

Burundi received \$626.16 (\$5,373.84 still due)
Nicaragua \$4,879.09 received, (\$11,029.91 still due)

Dom. Kits \$25.00 **Philippines** \$433.00

Congo Supplies \$30.00

Gifts of the Heart \$884.40

The total overall contributions through ABWM is \$175,790.17. Thank you again for all you do as chairwomen. I want to encourage all of you that have QUESTIONS about White Cross to come

to the WORKSHOPS on Monday July 12, 2010 from 1:15- 2:30p.m. to here Showers Of Blessing with White Cross Victoria Goff and Chris Marziale from National. Also **MONDAY IS WEAR PURPLE DAY.** Come and be blessed.

2010-2011

MONETARY HANDWORK REQUESTS:

Congo—\$21,000.00

Haiti—\$900.00

OVERLAND: Neighborhood Ministries, Thistledown Racetrack and Dayton Christian Center.

I'm honored that I was able to be your Chair.

614-759-6486

Local White Cross reports

were due April 30th.

Association reports

are due May 15th.

faybostic@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP—Marilyn Craig (Dayton Assoc.)

This is to confirm the scholarship recipients for 2010-2011. Returning this year is **David Williams**. He lives in Columbus and attends Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio.

Brittaney Perry is from Columbus and attends Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mary Stevenson is from Delaware and will attend Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio.

Aaron Osterbrock is from Milford and will be attending Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hampton, Massachusetts.

This year Steven Rhodes will be graduating from Asbury Theological Seminary. Following his graduation on May 22nd, he will be seeking pastoral employment.

Association scholarship appointments will be sent out by the end of May.

**An American Baptist Women's
Ministries of Ohio Publication**

American Baptist Churches of Ohio
136 Galway Drive, N
Galway, OH 43023

Phone: 740-587-0804

Fax: 740-587-0807

Email: lhoskinson@abc-ohio.org

abc-ohio.org
and
abwministries.com

LOVE GIFT—Conni Morrison (Cleveland Assoc.)

DESTINED TO GIVE

by Gail Gillespie (from NJ)

As we envision an over-and-above Love Gift,

Realize that we are very important

And eagerly designated

By God

To give indefinitely,

Faithfully,

And totally

To His table of love.

Purposely

Give to Love Gift

And receive

Gifts of blessings.

TELLHERGRAM/PUBLICITY—

Kris Chismar (Trumbull Assoc.)

Well, this is it! My last issue. I hope all of you have enjoyed reading the past nine issues. The women who write these articles are just fantastic to work alongside. If you have the opportunity, please agree to a state office. It will truly bless your life.

Your new editor is Doris Beckwith from the North Central Association. A renewal form is enclosed with her address. Please send those in as soon as you can.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

MAY 1 — Early Bird Pricing for Conference deadline

MAY 15 —Association Church & Community Reports due

MAY 15 —State Project money & all other money due

JUNE 1 —List of Association officer's due

JUNE 19 —ABW Brd of Managers meeting (10 am, Granville)

JULY 10 —National ABW Conference in Columbus starts

JULY 13 —Terrific Ohio Tuesday in Columbus

AUGUST 16—Retreat Reservations due

SEPTEMBER 17-18—Spiritual Growth Retreat in Mt. Vernon