

The TellHerGram

An American Baptist Women's
Ministries of Ohio publication

Winter 2010

PRESIDENT—Mariann Curl (Western Assoc.)

CHOICES... So Many!

As children we are taught by our parents the difference between good and bad choices. As teenagers we become frustrated by not being allowed to make all our own choices, as we begin to expand our horizons and desire to live our own lives. As adults we can become confused when there are so many choices to make. As Christians we are blessed to have the scripture to lead us in discernment with our decision making. 2 Peter tells us, "God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and for godliness." By our study of the scripture, we can have knowledge of His promises and the divine power that can protect us from corruption and the sinful desires of the world.

We should feel blessed to have so many choices to make in AB Women's Ministries. When you look at the abwomensministry.org website, you will see we have many opportunities for mission, ministry, resources, and events from which to choose. It would be difficult to experience all that is offered! Pray with purpose to have the Lord lead you to what events to attend, what resources to use, and what ministries in which to give.

The subject on so many minds these days is conference! Ohio joining the National Conference was a hard choice to make. It will be a totally different experience that many would not be able to have at locations farther away. A lot of thought has gone into the workshops, schedule, and the whole experience to make sure there is something of interest to a widely diverse group of women. Pray as you make your choices from the many selections on the list of workshops. If you are not able to attend the whole conference, try to attend at least two days as you would at our regular conference. See Sheryl Wise's article for more information.

The ladies in the Akron Association have finished the quilt that Ohio will donate to the AB

Girls auction. Women in the Western Association are getting ready to make candy buckeyes and buckeye nametag lanyards and Columbus Association is working on buckeye jewelry. Two other associations have volunteered to bring snacks for after A.M. bible study. We could use a couple more volunteers...could that be you?



What other choices have we to make? How about the mission experiences to Illinois Sept. 18-26? The deadline in May 3 - check for more information on the web under Missions. Are you ready to follow in the footsteps of hundreds of missionaries? Travel to Africa on the AB Women's Ministries mission encounter April 21-May 6, 2011. Again, check out the information on the web under Missions. Maybe you would prefer to take the Virtual Mission Encounter on your computer May 10-16. Travel through your neighborhood, nation, and world as you tour the "Break the Chains" mission encounter.

There are even more choices to make with your finances. Did you know that you can create donations to ABWM through your online searches and shopping? [iGive will donate a percentage to our ministry if you use a simple procedure and toolbar.](#) This information is available on the website under many of the ministry and resource areas.

If you give regularly to ABWM, consider giving as a Vital Partner. You can arrange for your donation to be withdrawn automatically from your account. If you are giving at least \$120.00 a year, you are considered a Vital Partner. Long term giving that continues is possible through the endowment fund. Check the website also for this information.

One more area to consider at this time of year is the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22th. In 2008, there were 29,613 abortions performed in Ohio, down from 30,859 the previous year. Keep our legislators in your prayers as we ask for God's will in these important decisions that are made for the children of our future. "I knew you before you were in your mother's womb"- "I set you apart for my purpose" Jeremiah 1:5

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SECRETARY—Jerri Wood (Dayton Assoc.)

Greetings of peace and joy!

Thank you to all who have sent me association officer changes. I have passed this information to state counterparts. I will need all **new** association officers for 2010-2011 Directory by June 1. You can mail your association officers to me: Jerri Wood, 1525 Stockton Ave., Kettering, OH, 45409 or e-mail at bjwood68@aol.com.

As women destined to serve as secretaries, did you receive for Christmas the 'gifts' you need?

STATE OFFICER CONTACT INFO CHANGES:

Coordinator of Conference - Sheryl Wise

Sheryl.wise@gmail.com

Love Gift Chair - Conni Morrision

3832 E. 153rd Cleveland 44128

Coordinator of Personal Development—Joyce Crislip

oksmilegodlovesyou@yahoo.com

Check your list:

- * Bylaws of ABWM for your local, association or state
- * Here's How - Guide for ABWM of Ohio (all Association presidents received a copy in June)
- * Parliamentary Procedure Rules
- * Notebook to keep minutes and membership directory
- * Calendar for 2010

Remember: Unless you have a communications chairperson, the secretary should send out reminders for meetings. Always include when (date & time), where (location & directions if needed), who (who is the meeting for) and what (is there anything members should bring).

Blessings for a most wonderful new year,

TREASURER—Brenda Donegan (Marion Assoc.)

As I write this, I'm looking at mounds of snow from the snowfall over the New Year holiday and right on the heels of the Buckeyes winning the Rose Bowl. I also realize it will be closer to Spring when you read this, but want to wish each of you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year, anyway.

When I took over this position, I never dreamt it would be one where I would have to beg for funds. But essentially it has come down to this. Incoming funds since June total less than \$8,000 and very little has been designated for the general fund.

I'm a member of several social and professional groups/clubs/organizations and each of them charge yearly dues ranging from \$5 to \$150 for the year. What do I expect from each of them? Social interactions, networking and sharing of information, and volunteer opportunities are what I perceive in exchange for those dues. I believe that is what American Baptist Women's Ministries provide through the TellHerGram, conferences and other association and regional opportunities. There are no dues tied to this opportunity.

This is where each of you can help to keep information flowing among counterparts ... contribute to the general fund (mark for dues in memo) and give to your local treasurer who will then send

to the association treasurer and then on to me. Training opportunities for your state officers is made available through this fund. Contrary to belief, many of your state officers do not seek or receive reimbursement for supplies or mileage to board meetings. Most of those who do not receive reimbursement consider it their gift. For those who cannot afford to do so, it is the only way they can serve in their various capacities. State officers are paid 25-cents per mile for mileage - about one-third of what the Federal Government permits.

On the brighter side, ABW Ministries are doing as well as or better than many organizations to which I am a member. God is good!

I had hoped to be able to provide you with my new address by this issue, but our new villa is not quite ready for occupancy; so continue to send checks to the current address. I will rent the post office box for another 6 months and go pick up mail once a week.

Let me leave you with this quotation by Anthony Robbins: "Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more."

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740-386-3053

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT—Joyce Crislip (Akron Assoc.)

O.K. Winter finally got here, didn't it? I brushed at least six inches of snow off the top of my little red car today before I could take my grandson to Dairy Queen for lunch. Thankfully, a wonderful neighbor had just finished plowing my driveway, so we had clear sailing.

Is there someone who does things for you to give you "clear sailing?" Do you do things for others to give them "clear sailing?" I'm sure all of you are busy with winter projects, White Cross, Care and Share, or others. When there's a meeting coming up,

call a woman who doesn't drive in the winter or at night and offer to pick her up. How about taking in the mail or paper for a neighbor on a cold and snowy day? Or, if you're the recipient of one of these kindnesses, a phone call or card of thanks is always appreciated -- it works both ways!!

Let's remember who our neighbors are and "do unto them as we'd want them to do unto us." Happy New Year!

email (**note change**): oksmilegodlovesyou@yahoo.com
phone: 330-769-3343

CHURCH & COMMUNITY—Susan Stotts (Zanesville Assoc.)

Happy 2010! It's hard for me to believe that we are in a new year already. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Ours was a little different since my mother-in-law was in the hospital recovering from surgery (She's home, now, and doing well). But, the time at the hospital did show me another way to serve our communities. Volunteer! There were volunteers at the front desk, in the waiting room and delivering flowers to rooms. At the neighborhood center we help support, volunteers sort clothes, stock the food pantry and help with homework, among other things. This Sunday is our communion Sunday and volunteers will get the elements ready on Sunday morning. Our Kindergarten and Nursery always need volunteers during worship service. You can do so much good by giving of your

time. It can be daily, weekly or monthly. Choose a cause that is close to your heart; animal shelter, pregnancy crisis center, nursing home, food bank, one of the many others, and volunteer. It will help others and make you feel good, too!

The Church and Community Report Form for 2009-2010 is included in this newsletter. I suggest that Church Coordinators fill in what your church has done so far since last May, now, then finish it up and send it to the Association Coordinator by April 30. I will need the Association Reports by May 15. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 740-454-8446 (evenings) or email me at sstotts@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.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT—Janet Wion (Zanesville Assoc.)

It is snowing today and the beauty of the snow on the trees and the red birds feeding is an awesome artwork sent from God. His beauty is all around us to cherish and enjoy. Christmas has been here and has left lots of blessings with family, special events, holiday meals and now the New Year with new excitement of what is to come. The 2010 calendar has been set for the ABWM Spiritual Growth Retreat at Mount Vernon First Baptist Church for September 17 & 18, 2010. Rev. Sharon Tucker will be the Bible study leader. There will be

full details in the Spring TellHerGram. I am so looking forward to seeing you all at the Retreat.

The Hands of our Creator, Lord and King of Heaven above, are the Savior's hands, forever reaching out to us with love.

Mark 6:2 "What deeds of power are being done by His Hands!"

FLYER ATTACHED

janwion@gmail.com
740-342-4628

DATES TO REMEMBER—

MARCH 1—Scholarship Application Deadline

APRIL 30—Church and Community Report (Churches send to your Association Coordinators)

MAY 1—National Conference Registration Deadline

MAY 15—Church & Community Report (Association Coordinators send to Susan Stotts)

MISSION & SERVICE—Judy Douglas (Trumbull Assoc.)

How are the fundraisers going for our state project? You ladies did such a fantastic job for two years on “Break the Chains”, I can hardly wait to see the result of your endeavors for Dayton Christian Center!

Here is the breakdown:

**Build a Bathroom for the Preschool Room
Preschool and Toddler Flooring**

Upgrade Computers

Curriculum for Breaking Free

**(a program devoted to: co-dependency, un-
tangling relationships, coping with anger,
an approach to relapse prevention)**

Our goal is \$20,000. Please contact Bob Bishop or any of his staff for speaking engagements.

I was on the web site for “Break the Chains” this weekend and they are still getting donations. We have a total of \$433,598.48. I still have not heard where the money will go for the third year.

Remember your special interest missionaries with cards and extra donations if possible. Remember they are required to raise a lot of their own money to stay on the mission field.

Remember your Global Mission Study Guide. This year it is on Costa Rica and Nicaragua. I have one more copy, which is mine but after I use it in February, I would be glad to send it to some one. Just call me and leave your name and address.

Let me know of some of the ways you are raising money for Dayton Christian Center.

jdouglas@alliancelink.com

330-584-5888

CONFERENCE—Sheryl Wise (Zanesville Assoc.)

RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!!!

July 10-15, 2010

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Conference Center

The American Baptist Women’s National Conference 2010 is right here in Columbus, Ohio!!! This is your opportunity to meet our national leaders, grow spiritually through workshops and worship, get new ideas, fellowship with women from across the state AND the whole nation!! And...you can attend all five days of conference including meals, housing and the program fee for as little as \$400! Never before has there been this great of a deal on our national conference.

So how do you register?

Online — Get online at www.abwministries.org and click on 2010 National Conference under “Events” on the right hand side of the website. You can then see all the information about the conference and download the registration form.

Not Online? - Call 1-800-222-3872 ext. 2288 and our national office staff will get you the information you need.

Total Costs?

\$400 conference fee in a room with 4 occupants

\$450 conference fee in a room with 3 occupants

\$500 conference fee in a room with 2 occupants

\$650 conference fee for single occupancy

NOTE- Add \$30 if postmarked after May 1, 2010.

Special deal!!! If this is your first time coming to National Conference you can deduct \$15 from the total cost!!! This would make your total cost \$385 with 4 occupants in a room!! What a deal!!

OHIO TERRIFIC TUESDAY! Our Ohio events will be held on Tuesday, July 13th, 2010. If you can only come one day, the cost will be \$75. This includes three meals and your program costs for the day. In the morning, we will begin at 8:45 worshiping with the national conference; you then have the opportunity to attend the special Love Gift luncheon. During the afternoon we will have our Ohio business meeting, in the evening the AB GIRLS will present a special program. Call our national office at 1-800-222-3872 ext 2288 to register for one day.

WANT TO STAY TWO DAYS AND ONE NIGHT?

Call our national office at 1-800-222-3872 ext 2288 and they will be able to help you with specific arrangements. This way you could come Monday/Tuesday or Tuesday/Wednesday.

sheryl.wise@gmail.com

740-453-9385

AB GIRLS—Aline Davis & Mildred Thomas (Columbus Assoc.)

SEE ATTACHED.

aline@osc.edu 614-274-7817
thomas2740@aol.com 614-236-1991



CARE & SHARE—Barb Rockwell (Mohican Assoc.)

Thank you again for all the Care and Share you gave last year. We appreciate your faithfulness and service. Our ABWM National Conference will coincide with our Ohio ABWM Conference. On July 13, 2010 we will celebrate with our Ohio women and what an exciting experience for us to have the opportunity to have the Conference in Ohio.

We don't have a room available to store our Care & Share this year. We ask you to take your articles to the participants. However, if you cannot, bring your items to conference and leave them in your vehicles. We will make arrangements some time in the day to transfer them to the participant's vehicles. Thank you in advance for your patience and consideration of any inconvenience.

We are asking you to make sure you put all liquids, etc. in boxes and have everything sealed, secured and labeled. Last year we had some leakage!

Why not ask your family and friends for your birthday, anniversary, Valentines Day, Mother's Day, and etc. instead of gifts, give money so you can attend a day or more at conference and share this lifetime encounter.

Sharing changes lives ... including your own.

lrockwell@embarqmail.com

740-397-2748

LOVE GIFT—Conni Morrison (Cleveland Assoc.)

*"Share Our Blessings with Love Gift" by Marilyn Rollins
www.abwministries.org American Baptist Women's Ministries
Posted December 2009*

Sharing Our Blessings with Love Gift

A program idea by Marilyn Rollins

The bells will ring and everyone will celebrate the arrival of the New Year! It's definitely time for making plans for 2010, especially when we will have a new "Share Your Blessings" theme for Love Gift! We are a people—a denomination—who are richly blessed with many ways to share with other people worldwide. Let's create ways in which we can *share our blessings* with others.

When I think of showers, I think of numerous droplets of water coming down, washing the leaves and grass to make them clean. The droplets also freshen flowers and any of God's other creations so they are "whiter than snow." We are showered with blessings from God, and by sharing those blessings, we are freshening ministry and mission throughout God's world.

Take a large sheet of newsprint or poster board and write the title "Share Your Blessings" on it. Give each of the participants in attendance several circles or

rain-drop-shaped pieces of paper. Invite them to write on each piece of paper the name of an item that they are blessed to own, and affix the papers to the poster. The poster can be added to over the next few months as women

think of additional items.

Consider having

different colors of paper to indicate varying monetary values of items listed. As each item is mounted, invite the participants to make an extra donation to Love Gift!

In Acts 30:35 we read, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" We share from our many blessings to assist those who are spreading the good news of Jesus Christ around the world. Our support is an important part of our ministry. Love Gift was begun by women meeting an important need to keep missionaries in the field sharing the word of God. We are continuing to meet this need today through Love Gift supporting all of the mission and ministry of American Baptist Churches USA.

... continued

The Love Gift Figures YTD November 2009
Ohio \$21,605
National \$515,668

LOVE GIFT—continued

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Prayer: Our thanks come to you, our Heavenly Father, for the many blessings we have been granted. We are thankful for the privilege of being able to share these blessings so others may be blessed with the story of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Marilyn Rollins is the national coordinator of Love Gift (2007-2010).

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WHITE CROSS & CONFERENCE IN-TRAINING—Fay Bostic (Columbus Assoc.)

Greetings to all in the Name of Jesus,

Pray your holiday was as blessed as mine, and filled with all of God’s goodness. We celebrated our mothers birthday on December 19, she turned 85 years old. We had a wonderful time sharing love time and fellowship with one another five girls and one brother, lots of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

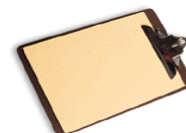
This is a new year with lots of new things to do. As the Conference In-Training Coordinator, I am currently working on the ABWM CONFERENCE FOR 2011, with the help of Aline Davis. We have visited about 5-6 different hotels and will present our final selection during our March 5 board meeting. Before I turn anything in, there are a few questions I would like to ask:

- * What would you like to see, hear, and do, for your 2011 Conference?
- * What are some of the things you would like to accomplish within your association?

- * How many groups do you have in your association that would be willing to go the extra mile for AB WHITE CROSS?
- * Is God’s work still the driving force in what you do?
- * Does it still give you joy or are you longing for more?

Some of you never come to Conference. Would you consider sponsoring one of your own to represent you at Conference? Not your President, she has enough to do. Pool your resources together and send some one to bring back and share what was experienced. This suggestion can also be applied to the ABWM CONFERENCE 2010. When you meet women from all walks of life and hear their testimonies, Christ Spirit is felt everywhere, and you know then, you are not ALONE. Please pray about this.

Much Love To You



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SCHOLARSHIP—Marilyn Craig (Dayton Assoc.)

A quick note to remind you that the scholarship deadline will be here before you know it. I have not received any new scholarship requests for the coming year.

If you know of someone who is in seminary and who would be interested, please have them contact one of the people below.

Marilyn Craig (cell) 937-424-6271

Mariann Curl (cell) 937-926-0594
marianncurl@hotmail.com

Kris Chismar (cell) 330-207-2509
chismar109@yahoo.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1ST.

An American Baptist
Women's Ministries of Ohio
publication

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
abc-ohio.org and
abwministries.com

GIVING GOD OUR GIFTS

By: Pat Ferguson

Seeking God's will for our lives can be a difficult task. But discovering how He has "gifted" us is often enduring. Most of us want to be a part of God's greater plans, but we're just not sure where we fit in. Some even believe that they have nothing to offer God, convincing themselves that their talents and time are insignificant. As a young bride, I remember preparing my husband's first meal. Maybe it was my look of despair that caused my husband to quickly come to my rescue, but as I frantically searched the sparse shelves in our kitchen, my husband resourcefully began preparing our small feast. How could I have overlooked the same meal that he had so quickly prepared. Same shelves. Same freezer. Same kitchen. But I was blinded by my fear of "cooking" while my husband was insighted by his desire to eat.

How often we all have overlooked our own resources, gifts, and talents that the Lord could use to further His kingdom. When I think about how many accomplishments a small child can make in their early years, I wonder what has ever stopped me from using my gifts for the Lord. In Romans 12:6, it says, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith." Proportioned faith is the key. Unless we believe that God can do all things through us, then even discovering what gift we possess is fruitless. Most of us would love to exercise our gifts, but we have somehow fallen into the belief

PUBLICITY/TELLHERGRAM— Kris Chismar (Trumbull Assoc.)

Hello women of Ohio!

I know all of you are trying to stay warm this winter and so far it has been a little difficult. I'm spending every opportunity in front of our wood burner with our three boxers.

The next edition in the spring will be my last and I'm in search of who **God has chosen** to be my replacement. This might be one of the ways God is calling you to use your gifts. (See article below.)

This isn't a time consuming job. Only three times a year for three years... and it truly does go fast. Once the articles are e-mailed to me, they are transferred to Word and proofed. In Publisher, the actual time setting up the design takes about 4-5 hours. That's it! I e-mail everything to the Granville office. Leslie Hoskinson is the angel who does the copying and mailing.

If you are interested in taking over this position, PLEASE contact me. We can do the Spring edition together!

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that unless our gifting is some instant ability or beauty, then it's useless to God.

In I Chronicles 25:6-7 the praise and worship team for the army was forming. One of the requirements for the musicians was to be trained and skilled. This very thought brings to mind my oldest son's first experience with the trumpet. I can remember the early "blows" and his heartfelt effort at playing an instrument. Along the way, the blows became notes and the child became the musician. But it did come at a price; practice, endurance and desire. Had this young man never given the trumpet a chance, then his discovering a "gift" would have never occurred.

Once I asked God to "bless me with a gift" that I could use in His kingdom. Nothing happened. Later, the thought occurred to me that I should ask God to show me my gift. Boom, the lights went on. Immediately, I began to think of the early desires God had given me even as a child. I realized that my gifts had been right under my nose my entire life. Same shelves. Same freezer. Same kitchen.

Prayer of service:

Show me Lord my place in your kingdom. Direct my steps as I walk this path with you. Anoint that which you have given me, so that when these gifts I have to give are used for your glory, men will marvel at you. Amen.