



The Tell Hergram

An American Baptist Women's Ministry of Ohio Publication

Fall 2015

PRESIDENT - Mariann Curl (Western Association)

Where did the summer go? By this time you have launched your ABWM activities for the fall, have plans in mind for an ABWM Sunday emphasis, and have begun working on White Cross needs. May I suggest a couple of areas you may consider introducing to your church family?

If you go to the abwministries.org website, you will find on the home page an announcement for the next virtual mission encounter. Now is the time to register for, "Sacred Space: Bullying in Church Youth Groups". Bullying is a situation many schools, families, and even churches experience. It is a widespread problem that requires education and counsel to deal with. Take advantage of this resource to begin your exploration of this topic. The directions are available on the site to help you sign up.

It has been recognized that women's and girls' ministries involve the love of doing "hand work" for our missions. Younger women would rather be involved with something tangible in their ministry involvement. If you go to Mission Focus on the website, scroll to the last item, "hands on". There are several suggestions for projects you can participate in, including "Days for Girls" and information on the kits for Church World Service. The baby gowns, surgery masks, etc. we have been doing for several years are still very much needed. With the requested simplification of White Cross, we now have the pleasure of choosing which projects and the amounts we can produce.

A very special time in our women's ministries has been launched. This is the 65th year of ministry for American Baptist Women's Ministries. This next year at the National conference in July at Washington D.C., we will have a special celebration of this event. I invite you to consider attending this conference. It is not too far to drive! Keep watch on the website for registration information as it becomes available. I would also encourage you to use some of the resources designed and written in honor of this event. They are on the website under "logos". I have to say Ohio was well represented in the production of these resources. Sheryl Wise wrote a skit you can perform in your promotion, and there is a Prayer of Dedication written by yours truly.

I will close with the scripture from Luke 4:18 & 19.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" NIV version

I pray you serve well and seek the Lord's favor.

Mariann Curl, President, ABWM of Ohio

SECRETARY – Paula Duncan (Assoc)

Greetings ABWM Women!

I think I've finally got all the corrections/additions to the 2015-2016 ABWM/Ohio Directory. I will be sending a list of the corrections/additions via email to Association Presidents (or "snail mail" to those for which I don't have an email address).

As we stand on the threshold of cooler temperatures, football games, the leaves ready to change color, etc., I am reminded of the awesomeness of God. He provides for us in all ways. And He will be there for us no matter what. There is no one else who can provide this type of unconditional love!

God desires to be found by you; He orchestrates your life. When life is going good, we are blessed and feel like God is smiling on us. However, when we come upon a rough patch along our life-journey, we must trust that He is still smiling on us and providing a way out.

What an awesome God we have and it's so encouraging to know that He is watching over us all the time!

Blessings!

Paula Duncan, Treasurer

ABWM of Ohio

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TREASURER – Nancy Peto (Columbus Assoc)

VITAL PARTNERS IS VITAL

THANK YOU, VITAL PARTNERS!! Without Vital Partners, ABWM wouldn't be! That's what it means... **Vital:** absolutely necessary, essential! Vital Partners provide the essential sustenance for our organization. Vital also means full of energy.

We have defined Vital Partners as those giving \$120 or more per year to AB Women's Ministries. It takes money—the fuel that provides the energy to do ministry. Without food, the body gets hungry and eventually starves. Without gas in the tank, our vehicles don't go anywhere. Without electricity, we would sit quietly in the dark, without our "conveniences" like refrigerators, stoves, TVs, and computers!

Your Development Team recognizes that while \$120 a year is a good starting place, if Vital Partners each gave *only* \$120 a year, it would not be enough "fuel" to keep us running. So we have designated some giving levels to emphasize higher amounts of income we also need. Inspired by our mission statement, "AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to *encourage and empower* women and girls to serve God," we introduce the following giving levels for yearly giving.

Vital Partners

\$120 - \$499	Sustaining Partner
\$500 - \$999	Encouraging Partner
\$1000 +	Empowering Partner

At what level are you partnering? Could you give more to help energize and strengthen—to sustain, encourage and empower—this essential ministry? THANK YOU

Personal Development Coordinator – Anna Suerken (Marietta Assoc)

“See...” is the new theme that we will be exploring for the next two years. This will give each of us a chance to grow spiritually in ways that we have not experienced. I like the ideas that are presented in the American Baptist Women’s Ministries resource book to help us to grow spiritually during the coming two years. In this article I am going to be paraphrasing and quoting from this resource book. The authors and publishers of “See...” the 2015 – 2017 Ministry Focus Resource introduce you to the new theme and resource book in the very best way.

“For the next two years, we’ll be exploring the theme “See...” in all of its facets. The national board of AB Women’s Ministries, when choosing this theme, wanted women in congregations, area/associations, and region/state ministries to discern what message God is sending them through this theme. And so, to that end, you should feel free to come up with your own take on the theme appropriate to your setting – See what? See how? See who? Others, however, are more comfortable with ideas they can bounce off from: so this resource is organized in such a way to allow for flexibility as well as guidance. Choose the path you prefer!”

The resource includes monthly “Ministry Experiences” that offer themes you may choose to explore, from July 2015 through June 2017. If you do not have monthly meetings just choose the themes, reflections, and activities that interest your group when you meet. Change the ideas around to make them fit your ladies. There is an idea for a retreat if you would like to explore that possibility. Before you start to use this resource, go through it and become familiar with the topics. Some you will want to use and others may not work at all. Knowing this from the beginning will help you plan your calendar and use the resource book to a better advantage.

I really like the back of the resource book as it introduces the “See...” scriptures that will be used. I will quote the paragraph: “‘Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good,’ declares the psalmist (Psalm 34:8, NRSV), calling us to experience the greatness of God through our very senses. And in Psalm 139, we are reminded that the same God who saw us in our mother’s womb continues to see us in our every movement, our every thought and action, indeed, even searching us out – a very intentional form of seeing! And yet, most of us are also familiar with the parable about the man who gets beaten and left for dead at the side of the road; although the priest and the Levite see him, they move to the other side of the road and keep on walking. They see, but they also choose not to see. It takes the Samaritan to truly see the man, to see his needs, and to see the Samaritan’s own responsibility in caring for his neighbor (Luke 10: 29 – 37).” (Note the underlined scriptures are the theme scriptures.)

“‘See...’ will give us the opportunity to spend two years focusing upon how we are seen by God, how we see God, and how we are called to see the world through God’s eyes.” Praise God for this opportunity to “See...” more of Him as he sees more of us! May God bless each one of you and the work you do!

Visit www.abwministries.org/see to purchase a copy of this resource book as well as other materials you may want to use.

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Coordinator of Mission and Service – Jerralyn Wood (Dayton Assoc)

Mission & Service Coordinator

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Our **theme** “See...” directs us to look for new avenues of ministry. Psalm 115:5 reminds us that many have eyes but do not see. To see ministry needs we have to have the light of Christ in our hearts to direct our vision. There are SO many opportunities of service and each one must follow God’s plan to see ministry needs around us. Let us with open eyes – see!



As ABW of Ohio, we have the opportunity to direct energy to making our ABWM of Ohio State Project a success. **2015-2016 our project is “K Camps”** which will raise \$20,000 -funds divided by Camp Koinonia and Kirkwood Camp. Koinonia needs funds for their multipurpose building, painting and horse ministry. Kirkwood will use funds for kitchen upgrade (oven drains, frying, etc.). We urge EACH church and association to be creative in raising funds. In Zanesville during Vacation Bible School one church held “Camp Discovery – Jesus works through us”. They stacked up paint cans (each one for \$15 collected) and funds for 15 cans were donated contributing \$225. At the ABWM of Ohio June Conference we raised \$245 when women made donations for items from Aline Davis’s table of treasures. Please let me hear of some of your ways to raise funds for “K Camps”.

There is a new **global mission study guide** available. It was available in your World Mission Offering packet. However, additional copies are available through Judson Press by calling 1-800-458-3766 and ask for item #W914. The emphasis is Hungary. There is a **Virtual Mission Encounter** September 21-25. Register by Sept. 14 (cost \$30). The theme is “Sacred Space: Bullying in Church Youth Groups.” **Mission Study** for 2014-2015 is Crisis at the Border. Learn more at info@abwministries.org about any of these activities.

Hands on Mission Projects are listed at the ABWM site. Learn about CWS kits (www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits/), Giving of Letters (by 9-30 letters to congress about government response to hunger), little dresses for Africa (patterns and info available www.littledressesforafrica.org). Days for Girls which provides safe and hygienic sanitary supplies in kits (www.daysforgirls.org).

Remember **our missionaries...** The McCurdy Family has raised 100% of monthly support but needs one time start up fees of \$63,000. They will be commissioned November 1 in Painesville and plan to leave for mission field in December. All of our Special Interest Missionaries to Ohio are at 89.9% or more of monthly support except for newly endorsed missionary Rovaughna Richardson who attended June Conference. Rovaughna is at 1.3% of monthly support and she will not be able to go to Ghana until she has raised her funds. Contact her at rovaughna@gmail.com to schedule her speaking at your church. Dr. Bill and Anne Clemmer will be featured missionaries at the Ohio Gathering in October.

Coordinator of Conference – Susan Stotts (Zanesville Assoc)

Mark your calendars! The date and location are set! **ABW Ministries/Ohio Spring Conference will be held at Philo High School in Duncan Falls on June 17 & 18, 2016.** That’s the same location we had this year and it got lots of good comments.

I am Co-Coordinator with Sheryl this year and we're excited to announce that we have already secured Rev. Jane Gibbons as our Bible Study Leader and Debby Johnston as Worship Leader. We are still working on scheduling a missionary and planning workshops. If you have any workshop suggestions, please let me know.

Now that the location is confirmed, we will work on motel accommodations. You will be making your own arrangements like you did this year, but we'll try to find the best prices and location and put it in the registration flyer. Wilma Barrows will be Conference Registrar and she and I will get the information to you as early as possible. For the time being, reserve the dates. Look for updates in the TellHerGram and on the website and I'll look for you there!

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Co-Coordinator of Conference
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Retreat Chairwoman – Janet Wion (Zanesville Assoc)

Hello Ladies, It is hard to believe it has been a two weeks already since our Spiritual Growth Retreat in Mount Vernon! Thanks so much for attending! I left the Retreat feeling blessed, refreshed, renewed in spirit and happy to have seen you all. There were 66 in attendance. Mark your calendars for the date has been set for September 9th & 10th, 2016 at the 1st Baptist Church in Mount. Look for more details in your Spring Tell-Her-Gram.

Psalm 34:8 *Taste and **see** that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.*

White Cross Chairwoman – Susan Stotts & Patsy Rice (Mohican Assoc)

Hello, Ladies! Are you ready for some cooler weather? I really like the heat and dry, but even I realize that we need some (gentle) rain and slightly cooler breezes. We also need to start on our 2015-2016 White Cross work.

Request packets were given out in June so, hopefully, each church has their request and all the information needed to fill it. If you don't have your request, please contact your Association Chair. And be sure to send those acceptance slips to her so she can send me a note and we know that you're underway.

Please note: Throw away any old contribution and report forms – they have been completely revised. (Important!)

Some changes you need to know about:

First, this is my last article as your White Cross Chair. I am transitioning to Co-Coordinator of Conference and Patsy (Pat) Rice from the Mohican Association has stepped into the White Cross position. Patsy has a lot of knowledge of and enthusiasm for White Cross and will be able to help you with any questions. Her contact information is below.

Second, you will notice that you don't have a specific number of particular handwork items, like roller bandages, in your request. **This does not mean that roller bandages and other handwork items are not needed. The need is a great as ever.** International Ministries is just

trying to give us more choice as to which items we do. Thousands of roller bandages in every size, cotton squares, baby blankets and gowns, caps, masks, wrappers and triangular bandages are needed. Check out the "Working with Your Hands" page in the white envelope of your packet to see the needs. Then choose an item and start ripping, rolling and/or sewing. **These items are so important to the hospitals in Congo and they are counting on us.**

Third, IM has not given Ohio a specific monetary goal or location for Overseas. **Again, that does not mean the money is not needed, just that we are being given the opportunity to give to our ministry of choice.** As you think of the overall goal of \$336,000, you can see that, if anything, we need to increase our giving. **I have set a goal of \$20,000 for Ohio**, which gives each church about the same goal as last year. We managed a reported \$15,791.41 towards our goal last year. With the change in reporting this year, I think we'll see that we actually do better. Make sure everyone in your church has the opportunity for either a one-time gift or to pledge. Share the various need opportunities and have them, individually or as a group, send their money in with copies of the contribution form provided. IM will keep track of our giving, send receipts and report back to us.

Please note: Throw away any old contribution and report forms – they have been completely revised. (Important, thus repeated.)

So, ladies, dive into your White Cross requests with excitement and with joy. Know that you are making a difference in the lives of people here in Ohio and across the world. Know that what you do is appreciated.

Please note: Throw away any old contribution and report forms – they have been completely revised. (Go, do it now.)

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Scholarship Chairwoman – Beatrice Cunningham (Columbus Assoc)

It's time to start another year in our ministry.

This year we have four Scholarship students:

Rev. Karen Johnson
Sunday Moo
Micah Thomas
Stephen Thomas

Please remember each one of them in our prayers and send them cards of encouragement.

Bea Cunningham
beatricecunningham23@gmail.com (new email address)

Phone: 614-888-7698

Care and Share Chairwoman – Judy Douglas (Mahoning Valley Assoc)

We had 8 associations report to me. Ashtabula, Dayton, Mahoning Valley, Columbus, Western, Mohican, Zanesville, and Akron for a total of \$20,109. I know there were more than that brought to conference in June but these are the only ones reporting to me.

I will send out the new request for 2016 in the spring. The requests are always similar, so if you have an old list for this year just use it as a guide line.

Judy Douglas,
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Coordinator of Publicity and TELLHERGRAM – Nancy Hynds (Zanesville Assoc)

‘NEW’ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please fill out and send with your check made out to ABW Ministries. Do not send self-addressed stamped envelopes.

Please note the subscription year is : Fall (Oct 1) – Winter (Feb. 1) – Spring (May 1). Please submit a new subscription form each summer to continue your subscription for the next year.

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