

The Tellhergram

Winter Issue 2023 An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication



PRESIDENT - Susan Stotts

Hello Ladies!

Today is Tuesday, blue skies and sunshine. I'm not looking forward to tomorrow. Of course tomorrow is the day I have four places to go. I hope you all get to stay in and stay cozy.

I'm working on conference. Plans are coming along, so **SAVE THE DATE!** June 10th we will meet at the First Baptist Church in Newark, Ohio. We will hear from our Care & Share recipients, present our State Project, have Bible Study and communion, and more. I'm still nailing down lunch and costs, but Leslie has worked with a motel in Newark so that anyone coming to the board meeting or who wants to travel on Friday and not be rushed on Saturday can stay for just \$95, continental breakfast included. We've asked for a block of 15 rooms and can get more if we make our reservations early enough. Watch for a brochure with all the details and in the meantime, **SAVE THE DATE!**

As your president, I have attended national board meetings, "What's happening ABW?" events and several webinars. Ladies, these have been educational, inspirational, and just good experiences. Our website, www.abwmohio.org is being updated as I write, and you can register for upcoming webinars from right on the front page. They have been very good and there is no cost unless you want to donate. If you go to the national website, you can watch past webinars such as "Embracing the Beauty of Divine Chaos" and "Soulcare for Her". The next "What's Happening" for the Midwest Region is March 13 at 8:00pm. This, too, is not just for presidents. Any woman can join in and both share what their church or association is doing and hear what others are doing. You might get good ideas. I encourage you to try out some of these webinars and other events. Producing these events is one of the ways National uses our Women and Girls Fund donations for us. Take advantage of them. I know this is a long article, but I think you will find this next part interesting, so please keep reading.

Earlier this month was my Lydia Circle meeting. For our program, Debby shared the cover page of the December 24-25 weekend Wall Street Journal's "Review" section. The

article by Rebecca McLaughlin, a Christian apologist from the U.K., was called “When Mary Met the Angel”. The article sets the story of the angel’s announcement to Mary against the historical Jewish and Roman backdrop and follows the effect of Christianity from that day to this. Per McLaughlin, the idea of a human child conceived by God would have been quite acceptable to the Romans, whose deities often spawned human children. But to Jews who believed you could not even look on God and live, the idea would have been ludicrous and deadly-blasphemous, especially a “virgin” birth.

To the Romans, Mary’s message of a “king’s birth” would have been a seditious threat.

Followers of such claims—and their families and villages—would have been quickly eradicated with ruthless force. No Roman or Jew would have taken the word of a woman seriously. And yet, God’s message regarding a virgin-born savior was delivered to a woman. And another Mary was the first to testify about the empty tomb.

Christianity, even today, is largely female: unlike Islam, Hinduism, etc. Today, even though Christianity in the U.S. is sadly said to be declining, Christians still represent the largest global religion: 31% of humans say they are Christians. And despite those who say Christianity is a white Western religion, Christianity has been multiethnic from the start. McLaughlin states that, “Today, Christians are by far the world’s most racially and culturally diverse religious group.” “By 2060”, McLaughlin predicts, “40% of the world’s Christians could live in sub-Saharan Africa. [And] Though China is today the global center of atheism, there will soon be more Christians in China than in the U.S.”

McLaughlin makes the case that Christianity is also supportable by science. She quotes one particular Christian scientist, who defines science as “the description of how God chooses to work most of the time.” When Jesus rose from the dead, God was “doing something different”, which is His prerogative as Creator.

The Greeks and Romans cared nothing for the poor, and slavery was a fact of life. In contrast, Jesus championed the poor and lowly, and Christianity was often called the religion of slaves. Despite our history of slavery, Christianity was the force behind its eradication, first in Europe and finally in the U.S. And it should be noted that Christianity has been a driving force in founding hospitals, providing nongovernmental poverty relief, and heading up anti-human trafficking endeavors, among other things.

In conclusion, McLaughlin addresses why God chose to become a man. She quotes Christian Scripture and doctrine to say that God chose to become a man because of love for every human being. “[God] paid the price for human sin – a word we may not choose to use but a reality we hit upon when we bewail injustice...and wonder why it seems so hard to fix.” McLaughlin quotes Christian doctrine to say that when Jesus died, He did so, “so that all who trust in him could live as sons and daughters of God.”

Finally, she says that if Mary was right about her son, “then [we] are worth the birth and life and death and resurrection of the Son of God.” Debby suggested that with Satan diligently working to erase Christ from our national discourse, we need to concentrate on missions and evangelism in our own country as well as globally. I agree. And that is just what ABW Ministries is trying to do through their work with women and girls in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Blessings,
Susan



SECRETARY – Paula Duncan

Greetings Ladies!

As I write this article, some of you have received much snow. Here in southern Ohio along the Ohio River, we've had nothing but rain! I keep reminding myself that there's sunshine above all the clouds. I wanted to share with you my devotion for today (January 26):

ROLES OF A LIFETIME

"We were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children...We exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father." 1 Thessalonians 2:7-11

In the movie, *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, legendary actor Alec Guinness played eight different characters, all members of the D'Ascoyne family. They were being murdered one after the other, and movie fans still marvel as how Guinness managed to play so many roles.

We have one life to live on earth, but we have many different roles. It helps to think of our relationship in this way. In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul compared himself to: (1) a nursing mother who cherished the Thessalonian Christians like his own children; (2) a brother who labored day and night for his church family; (3) a father who encouraged, comforted, and urged his children toward godliness.

Relationships are complex, but they are connections that allow us to minister to others. By understanding our multiple roles in someone's life, we can help the hurting, lift the discouraged, and be the blessing God intends. Think of someone near you. How can you minister to them today?

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Love this! If you are able, I encourage you to reach out to someone today. Even a phone call can lift a person's spirit. And don't forget to send me any changes that need to be made in the ABWM/Ohio Directory ☺.

Blessings to all!

Paula Duncan
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TREASURER – Becky Winsley

Just a short note to let you know where we stand on collecting the \$10,000 for our 2022/23 State Project. The current balance that I have received as of January 24, 2023, is \$2,105.47. June will be here before we know it, at which time we get to attend our Annual Conference and present what we have collected for the kitchen at Camp Koinonia to Randy & Lori Brooks. Please help us meet our goal.

All monies collected for State Project, Scholarship, Women & Girls Fund, General Fund, etc (you can find a complete list on our website) should be sent to me at 1924 Euclid Ave., Zanesville 43701. However, please, please, please do **NOT** write the check to me personally. Make the check out to **ABW Ministries of Ohio** and then mail it to me. Thank you.

If you would like me to mail to you a couple copies of the form "Funds Incoming to State Treasurer", please let me know. This form lists all the funds that come through the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio. Make copies of it and send one with each check you send to me. It lets me know how much is being sent for which fund. Leave a message on my phone or email me if you want some mailed to you. I will need your name and complete address. Thanks.

Hmmmm...this short note got a bit long. Have a wonderful and blessed day! 😊

Becky Winsley
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**CHAIRWOMAN OF CARE AND SHARE –
Tammy Hubb**

Our State Project for 2022–2023 is A Kitchen for Camp Koinonia!

Every year at Camp Koinonia, lives are changed! Children learn about and have the chance to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior! Adults are physically and spiritually renewed! Teens as they work with horses and make the connection of caring for God's

world as He cares for them! Those with challenges as they discover they can ride! There is something new every day! What a ministry Randy and Lori Brooks and staff do!

What isn't new is the kitchen!!! The staff are still using the same kitchen that has been there since the camp opened. There have been some updates, of course, but trying to keep things working is a battle. It's time for new appliances, flooring, a wall change, to name a few things needed to keep functioning effectively. So, let's do our part to help Camp Koinonia continue to change lives! Help us raise \$10,000 by spring. Encourage your church and women's groups to give! I'm hoping we can surpass our goal to help spread the Word of Christ to all.

Please keep all our Care and Share partners in your prayers and give what you can to help them continue their mission.

Thanks

Tammy Hubb
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**COORDINATOR OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT –
Sandra Banks**

God has showered us with His blessings thus we are able to embark upon a new year. Let us pledge to make this year a year that we live our lives to render good deeds and great works that will give a new perspective on a life filled with joy and purpose. Pray each day that God will move among us granting us everything we need to carry out His purpose for our lives. As Mission Women, we can help each other by just offering words of cheer and reaching out to those who do not know the Lord. What will you do this year to make a real difference? Seize each opportunity, for only what we do for Christ will last.

Sandra Banks
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SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR – Flo Smith Heizer

2 Timothy 3:7
always **learning** but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Ladies, we are still dealing with this COVID pandemic. It has changed our lives considerably. It has left some of us without pay checks, without housing, without jobs, without schools, without finished educations. Keeping our Scholarship Fund going so that

our scholarship funds will enable our scholarship applicants to continue learning and not fall short of schooling.

I hope that you all have been following the scholarship student assigned to your area/association with encouraging notes, cards, and gifts.

Contacting them and getting them on your schedules to speak at your meetings or on Zoom or Go-To-Meeting. I am sure they would love to do that if scheduled. Above all keep them in your prayers and on your church's prayer list!

March is coming up and the deadline for our aspiring scholarship applicants to send in their applications for this coming scholarship year. Some of them may be repeats, and some of them new, but if we have no funds then there will be no scholarships.

We need to help our scholarship students with a hand up to finish or continue their education. We cannot do this without your help. Yes, we need your contributions to keep up our scholarship funds to help your students. PLEASE...PLEASE...PLEASE send your scholarship offerings to Becky Winsley and notate Scholarship Fund on the memo line. Please send to:

Ms. Becky Winsley

March is coming up and the last day of March is the deadline for applications. We are receiving applications already. I am praying that we will receive funds and I will not have to write those "I'm so sorry that we will not be able to support you this year" letters.

God Bless

Stay safe and well.

Flo Smith-Heizer

FROM YOUR 2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT

Because of complications from my cancer treatments last year, I was unable to return to seminary Fall semester. Unfortunately, I found out about Thanksgiving that the cancer has returned. I was unable to return this semester, either. I appreciate the cards and gifts that have been sent to me. I mostly covet your prayers as I undergo treatment again.

I add my voice to Flo's and urge you to encourage your ladies and your churches to contribute to the scholarship fund. This fund as really been a lifesaver in continuing my education.

May God bless you all.

Susan Nicholson

FROM THE EDITOR - A SPECIAL URGENT REQUEST

I recently was contacted by Rev. Vince Harris with Racetrack Ministries. The truck we helped him purchased many years ago is in need of \$2,500 in repairs. Without this truck, Rev. Vince is severely limited in his abilities to carry on his mission work.

Can you please let everyone know that I drive 172 miles from my house to Mahoning Valley Racecourse where I work. Round trip is 344 miles. I rent an apartment 3 miles from the racetrack and I am there four and a half days a week. My apartment address in Youngstown is 3690 South Main Street, Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440 but I prefer to have monies sent to my home address at 1223 Treehaven Lane, Columbus, Ohio 43204. All checks can be made out to Re=ace Track Ministry Ohio or to Rev. Vincent Harris.

If you are able to help raise this money, please send your contributions directly to Rev. Vince. Let's help to get him back on the road!



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