

## Sharon Farral, President

*“For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.”*

Ephesians 2:14

What are the walls that separate us? In today's culture our first thoughts may be racial and political separations. There are many 'walls' that block relationships and prevent us from experiencing joy in our daily lives: health, finances, family difficulties, loss of loved ones, distance from family and friends, COVID, natural disasters, continued wars and fighting in many countries and chaos in cities across our country as people seek to 'air' their disagreements.

A young lady from Myanmar felt so blessed to be attending seminary here in the United States. As she was completing her studies, she was asked what her plans were for the future. She replied she would return to her home country and serve Christ as a missionary and teacher of the Gospel. Her words, "I know the only way there can be peace in my homeland is when people receive and share the love of Christ."

What is the question? How to have peace? What is the answer? Peace is only through Christ. May each of us strive to share the love of Christ daily. Ladies this has been a hard 16 months. Let us make every effort to come together for, worship, fellowship, and service. Remember to pray for each other, those unable to meet with us, and please pray for our missionaries.

Blessings to each of you,

*Sharon Farral*, Great Rivers Region ABWM president

**Sunday, September 19, is ABW Sunday. Special Event - 5:00 p.m. Register to hear Rev. Dr.**

**Pamela Durso, president of Central Baptist Seminary**

**[abwomensministries.org](http://abwomensministries.org)**

**Fall Webinar Series** – Free, you must go to [abwomensministries.org](http://abwomensministries.org) to register for the link. These may be used for your programs and meetings. They are archived for use at any time.

September 9, 8:00 CDT	Empathy as a Tool for Transformational Change
September 23, 8:00 CDT	The Power of Storytelling for Racial Healing
October 7, 8:00 CDT	Understanding and Taking Action Against Human Trafficking
October 21, 8:00 CDT	God Is Preserving You
November 4, 8:00 CDT	Debunking Domestic Violence Myths through a Biblical Lens
November 18, 8:00 CST	God Is in the Details

**GRR ABWM Special Project for 2021-2022 GOAL \$15,000**

**Benton Legacy Cabin at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp – Handicap Accessible**

## **Pat Reed, Mission and Services Coordinator**

It is so great to have technology, although some days I do not like what my computer or phone do. What is great, though, is the website for International Ministries. They have recently changed and updated their reference pages.

You can look for information if you go to the “Global Missions” page, “Global Servants” and click on a name. The profile page will tell you where they are serving, how much of their support is pledged, and their ministry priorities. To be connected to their ministry, go down on the page to see “Get connected”. You can send them an email, sign up for their newsletter, request a prayer card, access their journals, and see their mission projects and news. You are encouraged to pray that God will direct their paths and keep them safe as they minister to the local people.

Under “Resources”, there is a video library. Under “Ways to Support” you will see “Ways to Give” and “White Cross”. As you should know, Great Rivers Region is supporting Peoria Friendship House and Bethel Neighborhood House. If your church wants to support other organizations, you may do so, but you are encouraged to provide the needs of these two houses. Your Area Missions Coordinator will be receiving a listing of their needs to send to the churches in your area.

## **Becky Jones, Treasurer**

### **ABWM GRR members come thru again!**

Congratulations to all of the wonderful ladies of the Great Rivers Region. Despite all of the many difficulties we have faced due to the COVID pandemic our 2020-2021 Special Project greatly exceeded all expectations. \$21,770 was the final total for Ochomogo, Costa Rica pavilion ROOF OVER THEIR BASEBALL COURT. It has been so heartwarming to see the generosity of the ladies representing Area I through Area V.

**Thank you so much!**

## **Karen Dainty, Coordinator of Church and Community**

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.  
Hebrews 11:30 NIV*

One of my favorite passages of scripture is Joshua 6:3 -20, where the Lord says to Joshua the city of Jericho will be his after marching around the city for 6 days and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the city will be his. I can only imagine what some of the people thought and maybe even said to Joshua. It might have been something like... "Are you serious?" "How will marching around the city help us get into the city? "If it was me, I would be saying those things; especially around day 5 or 6. But the people of God marched around the city and by their faith the walls of Jericho fell.

Do we have walls that we have built up? Have we built up a wall by thinking we are too small, too young, too old, too large, or just too busy to get involved? We do not have to do something huge, maybe just a phone call or a card. Maybe go to a local school and read to kids. Maybe pray for someone that you do not know well, but know they are going thru a hard time.

Maybe it is sending a card to one of our global servants. Whatever the Lord leads you to do, may our faith break down those walls so that we can serve our community with the greatest love and care.

## **Karen Dainty, Coordinator of Special Project**

### **Benton Legacy Cabin**

#### **Lake Springfield Baptist Camp**

#### **Goal \$15,000**

As I write this article, I am recovering from right hip replacement surgery. There are many different protocols to follow; remembering not to bend too far over, or not to turn my hip or foot inward. It reminds me of one summer at camp, where we had a camper, Sally, who was in a wheelchair. We did not have cabins with handicap bathrooms or a way for her to get up the hill from the cabins to the dining hall or down the hill from the cabins to the waterfront. What we did have was a camp full of campers who were more than willing to wheel her up and down the hills, take her to the infirmary to use the more modern restroom, and make sure she was involved in all of the camp experiences.

Our special project this year will help build a cabin that is handicap accessible with handicap accessible restrooms. It will have heat as well as air-conditioning. The Benton Legacy cabin will allow campers and staff to enjoy camp in a cabin setting with modern handicap accessible facilities. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 to build the cabin.

Sally had the time of her life at camp that year! What a pleasure it was for us to see her smile and giggle as she was in the motorboat during the waterskiing activity or see her joy when we made tin-foil dinners on the campfire or see her shoot the bow and arrow during archery. Yes, she had a blast at camp that year. We as ABW ladies can give that same gift of joy and fun to another Sally by helping to build the Benton Legacy cabin at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.

## **Nancy Johnson and Marilyn Koch, Co-Coordinator of Conference**

### ***Conference 2021 "Sisters Seeking Wholeness"***

The 2021 ABW Ministries GRR Conference was held July 30, 31, and August 1. Even though the attendance was not as high as previous years, it was a close group of women reconnecting from a 2-year face to face meeting.

Susan Gundy led the Friday evening activities with a devotion "The Glove"

Babbie Mason was very interesting & entertaining with her concert of hymns and many of the songs she had written over the years.

On Saturday morning, Babbie gave a wonderful in inspiring talk "Embraced by GOD". She intertwined more of her music in her talk. We were so lucky to have her at the Conference from the Atlanta, Georgia area.

Our other Speakers were Sharon Cadle from St Joseph Mo. Sharon talked about Physical Wholeness. We did fun physical exercises from our chairs.

Susan Gundy enlightened us with some of her stories. Susan is a storyteller of Bible and of historical people.

After lunch, a Memorial Tribute was done of the faithful women who have left us in the last two years. Barbara McKean did an excellent job with this presentation.

We were blessed to have Katie & Taku Longkumer at our conference. Her presentation, 'Mission Moments from India' was informative and very interesting.

A small auction was followed by the business meeting led by Marcia Wimmer and our President, Sharon Farral. Bylaws had been revised by Marcia & Linda Watson this last year. Officers were able to see all the work they had done via ZOOM meetings. All changes were approved. Great job ladies

After a wonderful dinner, our evening program was "Everyone Has a Story". We had several ladies who shared stories about their lives. It was a great evening of sharing...

We were pleased to have had Pastor Elaine Bolen (interim Minister of the East Peoria Baptist Church.) Her sermon was very inspiring.

A Special Thanks to Marcia Wimmer for her encouragement to Myself & Marilyn. Also, to Ashley Young & Samantha Crump for leading the Praise music & helping with the sound system.

## **And now the Good News!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

***Save the Date!***  
***ABW Ministries GRR***  
***Conference 2022***

Will be held in Decatur, Illinois

July 22 & 23, 2022

Details will be coming as soon as speakers  
and workshop leaders are confirmed.

***Mark your calendars***

## **Judy DeRolf, Area I President**

September 27 – Fall Board meeting

Belvedere Baptist Church 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

October 23 – Fall Festival

Dixon Baptist church 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Speaker: Aaron Osterbrock, Global Servant in Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia

## **Marcia Wimmer, Area II President, and ABWM GRR Secretary**

### **Beatitudes for Christian Leaders**

Blessed is the consecrated leader dedicated to Christian service because her strength is in the Lord.

Blessed is the informed leader for those who listen will receive knowledge.

Blessed is the creative leader because she maintains interest in the project which is before her.

Blessed is the leader who is flexible in her ideas because she is sympathetic to the problems of others.

Blessed is the leader who makes the program presentation the means if accomplishing an end for she is helping women grow.

Blessed is the leader who delegates responsibility and trains others so that the work of the church may include many women.

Blessed is the leader who speaks so that all might hear and understand for then she will have an interesting and stimulating program.

Blessed is the leader who is careful of her personal appearance, who is mindful that her outward radiance reflects her inward joy, for she shall walk in the light of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed is the leader who recognizes qualities of leadership in others, for her group will not lack for leadership when her period of service is over.

Blessed is the leader who keeps her ultimate goal clearly in mind for she shall not be distracted by petty matters.

Blessed is the leader who places the welfare and interest of others above her own, for she shall be of good courage.

Blessed is the leader who looks constantly to her heavenly Father for guidance, for she shall be given strength abundantly.

I have shared these beatitudes before, but I felt they needed to be revisited as we struggle to fill positions in our local, area, and regional ABW groups. Let us look at ourselves and then look at the women (all ages) around us and find ways that we can develop ministries that will help them grow in the love of God's family.

This prayer closed my devotions on my birthday this year and I would like to share it with you.

*Lord, help me get ready for old age now by showing me by your Spirit that my value is not based on income, productivity, or popularity. It is based on being a member of the people and family of God. Amen.*

### **Linda Watson, Area IV President**

**At our Area IV Zoom Board meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>**, we planned portions of the Fall Rally. We have changed the September 25, Saturday, 2021 Fall Rally from an In-Person to a Zoom format due to the COVID restrictions. We will have the programs:

**Veronica Ross, Area IV Coordinator of Missions and Service**  
**Global Servants Presentation and Special Video from Annie & Rev. Jeff Dieselberg, Global Servants in Bangkok, Thailand.**

### **White Cross Workshop**

**“Little Dresses for Africa”**

**Workshop will include making items.**

**Kits to take home will be available.**

### **Here are some Area IV dates for your 2022 calendar:**

2022 Area IV Zoom Board Meeting will be March 19, 2022

2022 Area IV Spring Rally will be Saturday, April 30, 2022 – Location to be announced but we are hoping it will be in the southern part of Area IV.

Blessings,

*Linda Watson*, Area IV President



## Linda Watson, Area IV President - 2021 ABWM GRR Convention



The Annual ABW Ministries Great Rivers Region Conference at Alton, IL was very successful. Nancy Johnson and Marilyn Koch, Conference Co-Chairs carefully planned a safe and enjoyable conference filled with great presenters, speakers, and an award-winning singer-songwriter-Babbi Mason.

Karen Dainty, Coordinator of Church and Community announced the Special Project for 2020-2021 donations for Camp Ochomogo in Costa Rica reached over \$20,000. Bless all the churches that helped with this Project. Next, Karen announced the Special Project for 2021-2022 would be helping to build a handicap cabin at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.

**At the GRR conference business meeting**, GRR President Sharon Farral presided over the adoption of the revised ABW Ministries GRR Bylaws. The good news is there are no longer “term-limits” for officers. The disconcerting news is there are vacancies on the ABW Ministries GRR Board. Thankfully, the other coordinators have taken on two positions to fill some offices. Three important vacant offices include: Coordinator of Communication, and Coordinator of Student Aid. If you would like to serve on the GRR Board, please contact Linda Watson, Area IV President.

The ABWM Great Rivers Region Board meeting will be the last weekend of August and our nominating committee is anxious to fill these positions.

## Time Out Ladies

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older, and will someday be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and onevery occasion.

Release me from the caving to try and straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details – give me wings to get to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains.  
Help me to endure them with patience.

But seal my lips on my own aches and pains. They are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash  
With the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that I may occasionally be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a said – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old woman (or man) is  
One of the crowing works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it; but thou knowest, Lord, I want a few friends at the end.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell me so.

Dale Evans Rogers, from *Time Out Ladies*