

American Baptist Women
Great Rivers Region
Fall 2022 Ripples

Rev. Sharon Farral, President

GRR ABWM preside Theme: "Let the Walls Fall Down"

We can think of many things that cause WALLS between us: concerns, distrust, race, handicaps, politics, mental illness, wealth/poverty, fear, jealousy to name a few. 1 John 4:7, ***"Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God."*** And...verse 21, ***"whoever loves God must love one another."*** But, Lord, it is so hard to love everyone. How can we? ***"Remain in me and I will remain in you"*** (John 15:4) ***and apart from me you can do nothing."*** (John 15:5) These quotes are the words of Jesus. As women of faith may we continue to study God's Word, fellowship together, and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Webinars

FREE but you must register to get the link

abwomensministries.org > left side click on **events** > scroll down to **webinars**

Scrolling on down and in Archives are earlier webinars. Each webinar is recorded and may be viewed at any time with access to the internet.

October 6, 2022, 8:00 - 9:00 pm CDT WEBINAR: Encountering Invisible Grief

What happens when the experience of pregnancy, childbirth, and parenthood are shattered by miscarriage or a stillbirth? This traumatic yet common reality affects many families. No one should suffer in isolation. A baby loss presents challenges that are unique to the parents. How does one move forward? In this webinar, the Healing Extension Maternal Network (H.E.M.) will present practical tools to help those affected by pregnancy loss whether a personal loss or the loss of a relative or a friend.

October 20, 2022, 8:00 – 9:00 pm CDT Webinar: Lay Down Your Weapons - Psalm 46

What a blessing it is to know that God is the God of the universe: the Creator and Sustainer of life. The Psalmist declares in Psalm 46 that it is this God who is a present help in times of trouble, our defender, and our hope. But what happens when we are not on God's side so much as our own side? When do we go to the Lord for our own self-interest over that of another? What happens in communities and relationships when Christians have different perspectives and desires for a given situation and ask God to be that "very present help"? What does it mean for believers to be still and know that God is God? In this reflection, we will gain a deeper understanding of all these questions and more as we join together to listen to the voice of God.

November Webinars to be posted soon. See abwomensministries.org.

These can be watched individually, several meeting together in a home or in the church building when women gather. If you wish, invite the men, also. You may wish to have a discussion time after viewing a webinar or include a time of fellowship and pie.

Our Great Rivers Region Biennial 'Growth Conference' is October 28-29, 2022, at the Double Tree Hotel in Springfield, IL. Our women's breakfast is 7:30 am on the 29th. We will have a buffet breakfast. Our speaker will be Carmella Jones, Global Servant serving in Hungary. She will share with us her work with Ukraine refugees. For registration and reservations go to **ABCGRR.org** or Google **Great Rivers Region ABC**

Becky Jones, Treasurer

Happy Fall Ladies. What a beautiful morning here in rural Roodhouse, Illinois. Just wanted to update all of you on our final totals for our 2021/2022 Special Project, the handicapped cabin at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. We were fortunate enough to exceed our targeted goal of \$15,000 to be \$15,850.00. What a blessing!

We also collected a total of \$5060.00 for our Student Aid Scholarship, which means the two student recipients will receive \$1265.00 per semester. They are both very grateful for our financial assistance!

Our conference offering totals are as follows: Operating General Fund - \$275.00, National Support - \$195.00, Student Aid - \$886.39, 2021/2022 Special Project - \$1041.85, Women and Girl's Fund - \$170.00, Love Gift Offering - \$190.00. Thank you all for your generous support!

It never fails that the ladies from the entire Great Rivers Region continue to give so much of their hearts and souls to ABWM.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Pat Reed, Missions and Service Coordinator

Have you ever wondered what MPT meant? Here is a little explanation to satisfy your curiosity.

What is a Missionary Partnership Team (MPT)?

This team comprises a group of people personally invited by a global servant to serve as the "core" of their larger network.

MPTs have two primary responsibilities:

1. To support their IM global servant
2. To assist the global servant in building a network of individuals, groups and churches who will provide adequate spiritual, relational, administrative, and financial support for their ministry.

Building the Mission Partner Network (MPN) includes:

- Enlisting prayer supporters
- Representing the global servant at local church and regional functions
- Communicating the global servant's news and needs with current and prospective MPN members
- Encouraging and facilitating involvement in the global servant's ministry
- Encouraging individuals and churches to give personalized support to IM for the global servant's ministry.

So, if anyone asks you to serve as an MPT member, now you know what your responsibilities would be.

Brandy Trussel, Student AID Coordinator

We currently have two recipients for the 2022-2023 school year: Noah DeLong who is attending Olivet Nazarene and Sarah Good who is attending a University in Debrecen, Hungary where her family is currently serving as International Missionaries.

Noah DeLong has just entered his Junior year at Olivet Nazarene University. He states that he really appreciates our support financially and spiritually as he continues his college career. Noah reports spending the summer in Nashville, TN with his siblings and working a few "gigs". He worked at a historical site giving tours to families and he commented that since he worked in the education department this experience would also help him out when schools have field trips. He sends best wishes to all the ABW and states that he really appreciates our continued financial and spiritual support.

Sarah Good is our newest recipient and is in need of our prayers as her college experience seems to be much different and she has much to learn about the routines and expectations. Sarah's mother notes that the universities in Hungary do not have advisors nor admissions counselors nor student orientation. It is kind of sink-or-swim approach for the first years, and they have to figure out a lot on their own. Sarah has begun attending classes and made some friends. We are hoping that these friends can help her out.

Karen Dainty, Special Project

Jesus' words, ***"This is my commandment that you love one another just as I have loved you."***

John 15:12.

As I am sitting on my back porch enjoying a cup of coffee and the sound of birds chirping, I am reminded of the beauty and wonder of creation. I am also reminded

of the many summer mornings that I sat on a hill for morning watch at camp. Those memories are forever etched in my mind.

Thank you for raising **\$15,850.00** for our 2021 – 2022 Benton Legacy cabin at Lake Springfield. Your gifts have made it possible for kids of all abilities to enjoy camp.

Our 2022 – 2023 Special Project is **Congo: Medical Supplies and Nurses training for the thirteen hospitals that are a part of the Congolese Baptist Community Hospitals.**

Goal: \$15,000



This project will help to improve the overall level of medical care to those who seek medical care at each of the thirteen hospitals within the Congolese Baptist Community Hospitals.

A year ago, I had hip replacement surgery; many of you have experienced hip or knee replacements. Imagine for a moment that you go to your surgeon, who says you need a hip replacement, but you need to purchase the artificial hip parts (screws, ceramic hip ball joints etc.), sutures, bandages, anesthesia, and any kind of medicine the surgeon might need from a store. If you could find all items, then imagine going back to the surgeon and he or she says, “That is great, but I don’t have a nurse, or multiple nurses available to assist in the surgery; we will have to postpone the surgery until I have nurses to help.” If it were me, I would be very disappointed, dejected, and even mad. This scenario happens all the time in the Congo. The Congolese people must purchase their medical supplies and then hope and pray there are nurses to assist the doctors. Please pray with me for the Congolese people, their medical teams, and ways to raise support for this wonderful work.

Update on: Camo OCHOMOGO Costa Rica

Attached to this email is a document that shows an update for our 2020 project:

CAMP OCHOMOGO COSTA RICA: PAVILION FOR THE BASKETBALL COURT Updated to august 18th, 2022

One of the pages contains the following quote:

“Since 2018, Rev. John Grisham mobilized to obtain funds for the construction of a roof over the current Basketball court, donated by the Baptist women of the GRR.”

Karen Dainty Church and Community

And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in. Isaiah 58:12

As I was thinking and praying about what to share, this verse from Isaiah came to mind. Sometimes the news we hear is so overwhelming and negative, that we might say or think, what can I do? How can I be a repairer of the breach and a restorer of streets to dwell in?

There is plenty we can do in our own communities. First and foremost, we can pray for our communities, whether large or small. I like to walk around our neighborhood (I do not walk fast but that is okay), maybe you like to walk around your neighborhood; say a quick prayer for the families that live in the houses you pass.

We can also get involved by volunteering at a local soup kitchen, neighborhood center, or a ministry at our own church. We can send cards or call those who cannot get to church any longer or reach out to someone that has not attended in a while and simply invite them back to church. The personal contact may just make the difference in their life and in yours. It might be arranging for the choir of your church to sing to members that are in care facilities or assisted living.

Think and pray about some things you can do to get involved or further involved in your community and to be that repairer of the breach and restorer of the streets to dwell in.

Area Presidents Reports

Judy DeRolf, President, Area I

Area 1 will not have a fall festival this year because the region conference will be held from September 27-29 and some of us will be attending that event. Please try to attend the ABC Region conference at Springfield. We will have a Spring Spiritual Feast on April 29, 2023, at Sterling First Baptist Church with Carol Garver presenting her quilt artistry and sharing her spiritual experience during the Covid Pandemic. Joy Kim, a second-year graduate student in music and organ at NIU, will give a piano/keyboard concert in the afternoon. I hope everyone will look forward to attending in the spring of 2023

Marcia Wimmer, President, Area II

Looking Good, Sistr! This was shared by Liz Curtis Higgs at a conference I attended. I thought it was so appropriate, because I know there are times when we all need a little reminder that we are loved and cherished by God, our creator. When you look in the mirror, my beautiful friend, do not say "Blah" say "Ta-da!" Why? Because that is what God said the day, he made you! Women, you see, we are the crown of his creation, God's ultimate creative effort. After adding the finishing touches, he declared, "It is very good." Not "Next!" Not "Uh-oh." Not "Oops." Just imagine God smiling at you and saying, "Ta-da! I did it! She is finished and she's all mine." You are not a mistake, beloved. No way. You are God's definition of beauty for you. Now, here is your assignment: Stand in front of your mirror each morning (fully dressed, of course) stretch out your arms with joy, and say it like you mean it : "Ta-da!" Five Statement Pledge of Faith God is who HE says HE is. God can do what HE says HE can do. I am who God says I am. I can do all things through CHRIST. God's Word is alive and active in me. "I'm believing God." I believe that God has created us as beautiful women in our own individual way to serve Him as Godly women in our families, churches, and communities. God Bless each of you as you serve and bless others.

Joan Leitzen, President, Area III

Thomas O. Chisholm wrote the poem in 1923 about God's faithfulness over his lifetime. The Biblical lyrics reference -

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with 10,000 beside

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Linda Watson, President, Area IV

What a beautiful time to be involved with American Baptist Women's Ministry of Great Rivers Region. Everyone steps up to help our organization be successful. *God Is In Control* is one of my favorite religious songs. Whenever we face hoops and hurdles in our journey, we know who controls our future. I keep my camera with me because I love to take pictures of clouds. The Israelites followed God's cloud during their journey. He showed them the way.

Our Spring Rally at Crainville Baptist Church was a tremendous success. Counting our four Pastors, youth, presenters, and American Baptist Women there were over 50 in attendance. The Rally presenters showed us what it was like to have a servant's heart in the community and nation. Carterville is a very giving community. Their local funeral home provides funding for the church funeral dinners. There was money left over to support the breakfast and lunch for our rally. God is working in the hearts of people in Carterville.

Our Annual ABW Ministries GRR Conference was also a tremendous success at First Baptist Church in Decatur. Presenters shared their love and trust in God. The conference bag had the words "Believe!" Yes, we are moving away from COVID and stepping into new ways to encourage American Baptist Women to get involved with new activities. We celebrated the successful completion of our Special Project and learned where another need awaits. We said good-bye to our faithful servants with a beautiful Rose Ceremony by Barbara McKean. God has some special angels in heaven to help Him.

Our Fall GRR Board met (in-person and with ZOOM). New ideas were shared. Information from national (www.abwministries.org) was shared. The 2022-23 Special Project will go toward medical supplies for the Congo. It is anticipated that this project will help to improve the overall level of medical care given to those who seek medical care at each of the Congolese Baptist Community Hospitals.

Our Area IV Board Meeting was via ZOOM. I read a letter of resignation from Shirley Pressgrove, Coordinator of Personal Development. We will miss Shirley and her wonderful devotions at our board meetings and rallies. It has become difficult for her to travel and continue to meet her commitments. She enjoys working several days a week at the local thrift shop. She has been a true inspiration for our Area IV, and we will miss her devotions. Veronica Ross has volunteered to serve as our devotional leader at our 2022 Fall Rally at Highland First Baptist Church. Linda Driesner presented the program for our Fall Rally. Patty Bilyeu will be our guest speaker. Patty is our new Executive Director of Great Rivers Region. She has been to Hungary and will share exciting things happening in our Region as well as in Hungary. If you are looking for Patty in a crowded church, look for the lady with a big smile. She is a joyful servant right out of God's plan for Women of the Bible.

And now, as I write this letter, it is a week away from our 2022 Fall Rally at Highland First Baptist Church. I am getting excited, can't you tell. I am like Nancy Johnson, Coordinator of Conference when she tells us about the plans for our Conference next year. I am like Karen Dainty, Coordinator of Special Project when she announces we met our goal for the Handicap Cabin at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp and then describes our new GRR Special Project for 2022-23. I love how they share their energy and spirit in our meetings.

Let us all step up and help our American Baptist Women of Great Rivers Region. Climb through these hoops of doubt and leap or step over those hurdles of cannot do. Look forward to our future and look up to God because He has everything under control.

Area V

Note from Sharon Farral, GRR ABWM president

We are trying to revitalize our Area 5 ABWM. September 19th Grace Baptist ABWM in Kansas City, MO, hosted a 'meet and greet' time and desert dessert bar. Rev. Dr. Gina Strain and Wendy Clemmer, our national ABWM staff members, shared with us information about National ABWM.

A group of ladies from 2nd Baptist ABWM in Kansas City joined us. They have a very active ABWM; we enjoyed learning from them. Several other ladies not from Grace Baptist also attended. Joining in fellowship and sharing around the table was encouraging and a blessing for all who attended. We are praying for more times of fellowship and working together in the future.

Nancy Johnson

ABWM GRR 2022-2023 Conference

Watch your email for updates on a conference in the summer of 2023.