

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. — 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

I can feel Spring right around the corner. Can you? Our ministry focus for 2025 is Be Strong, Be Courageous. It seems easier to be strong and courageous when we can get outside in warmer weather, enjoy God's creation, and visit with our neighbors. But, as Paul tells the Corinthians, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong, do everything in Love all the time, not just when we can get outside in warmer weather. As I thought about what to share, I was reminded of a sermon from II Thessalonians 1:1-12, Linda Barnes Popham, Pastor of Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville KY recently preached. Paul was thanking the Thessalonians for their faith, for their belief in the gospel message, and for Timothy's encouraging report of their love toward others. It warmed Pau's heart that the Thessalonians testimony gave evidence that God was at work in their lives. As I reflected on the concept of our testimony giving evidence that God is at work, I thought of a few wonderful opportunities we have to experience God and then show others our love for them and for God:

American Baptist Women's Ministries, ABYW & AB G.I.R.L.S. Conference - July 25-27, 2025, Conference is a time to rest, reflect, catch up with friends (old and new), and enjoy God's beautiful creation. This year we are returning to Lake Williamson. Some of my fondest conference memories are of sitting in the gazebo on the dock and sharing with the AB Girls (who are now in their 20's and 30's) share their joys and struggles. As we shared, we also could feel God's presence and His answers to some of those struggles.

Special Project: Mini Libraries for Talita Cumi Girls Clubs - I know I shared this before, but one of my favorite books is "The Monster at the End of this Book". As a camp counselor, I read it every Saturday evening to begin our devotions; making sure that the campers felt safe and that there was nothing to be afraid of at camp. I still have the first few pages memorized. We have an opportunity to bless the girls of the more than 50 Talita Cumi Girls Clubs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua to enjoy reading, have books readily available to read, and have someone read to them.

From the President	1-2
Special Project	2
Student Aid Coordinator	2
Missions Coordinator	3
ABWM Conference	4-7
Area News	8
National News	9

National ABW Telethon: Building God's Community One Step at a Time. Join us for a one-day event, hosted by American Baptist Women's Ministries; Executive Committee, Saturday, April 12, 2025 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., CST, Live on Zoom and Facebook uniting women nationwide in faith, empowerment, and service, as we build God's community one step at a time. With a lineup of uplifting stories, music, and opportunities to contribute to meaningful causes, this event promises to be a beacon of faith and unity. Mark your calendars and join us in making a difference!

Continued on page 2



FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued

National Prayer Call:

Join us every fourth Tuesday of the Month beginning March 25. Live on Zoom. If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14
Register at the following link: You just need to register once.

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/join/register/cplnPJ3URp2af7tYonpwDA#/registration>

Just like Paul, I am thankful for all of you who continue to serve our God through American Baptist Women. We are called to Serve, stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong, and Do everything in love.

Blessings,
Karen Dainty,
President GRR ABW Ministries



Student Aid

Please pray for our college students as they enter into finals and graduations.

Brandy Trussel
Student Aid Coordinator

SPECIAL PROJECT

The Special Project for 2024-2025 will be wrapping up by June 30, 2025. Please send your donations to Becky Jones ABW-GRR Treasurer. Donations are going to Mini Libraries For Talita Cumi Girls Clubs — Goal: \$15,000. This project will provide 3,800 Spanish books of various reading levels at 50 Talita Cumi Girls Clubs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua. The goal of this project is to create 50 mini libraries in Latin America that will improve the literacy skills of girls in the Talita Cumi Girls Clubs and the chance for a better future. This project seeks to raise \$6,452 annually in order to create mini libraries with 3,800 Spanish



books of various reading levels.

Paula Bender
Special Projects Coordinator



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

Greetings from Ministries of Faith New Life, Azacualpa, Honduras 2/1/2025

In 2003, Dago and Dilia Zelaya started the Ministry along side FBC in Marshalltown, IA. Brenda, Alex and Mariana served as house parents to 23 children. Most of these children have graduated from our Ministry. Some are in college now and others have found jobs and live with family members in nearby cities or towns. Today, there are 5 children that live at the Ministry. The purpose of the Ministry is not to find new homes for any of these children but to raise them to lead productive and self-sufficient lives by the time they reach age 18 and leave the Home. All of the children help out with chores as any family member would. They help out with laundry, dishes, cleaning and helping with the cooking for the “family”.

In early 2016 Dago decided to step down as the Director of Ministries of Faith. Dilia has taken up the director position and all other responsibilities that come with the Ministry. The campus includes a main house and two cottages where the director and house parents live. There is also a multipurpose building which is used as a church, cafeteria, clinic for medical teams, and large meeting room on the premises. You'll find the Vida Nueva Christian School there and a Guest house for visiting missionary teams. Additionally, the grounds house a school concessions stand, soccer field, playground, gardens and a gazebo.

The feeding program currently has 25 children enrolled from 1st grade to 6th grade. Monday-Friday we pick up the children from Brazil elementary school and bring them to



The Ministries of Faith campus for lunch. After they have lunch and play at our playground, we take them back to their neighborhood in our bus. Ministry Programs, Sunday School and Evening Service Ministering offers spiritual support and guidance, nurturing the well-being of individuals and fostering a sense of community belonging among the church..
Dilia Zelaya

Greetings from Costa Rica

It is very pleasing for me to know that there are so many people who accompany me in this ministerial project of Christian education. Christian education should be a vital topic in the church and it is much more than giving a sermon, or a Bible study or a Sunday school class. I believe that our churches need to know that the education that is offered from these spaces of faith, should be an education that offers tools for life to each person and that goes beyond dictating doctrines or norms. In my work in churches, I try to collaborate with pastoral areas that for different reasons, pastors do not address, or if they do, it is in a very superficial way. I believe that people in our churches need to believe in the God who accompanies them every day in every moment and in the different situations they live in. This God is not only a God of Sundays or once a week, He is the God of all life every moment, the same for children, for women, for old people, for all people without distinction.

A hug and many blessings
Ruth Vindas,
Global Servant in Costa Rica

Pat Reed, Missions & Service Coordinator

AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES & YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

A Note from your Conference Co-Chairs

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2025 Conference. We are all hoping to reconnect back to Camp Williamson in Carlinville, IL.. As you can see in the brochure, we will have some great speakers and Music lined up. Sue Hagerty will be our missionary, which is not in the Brochure. More activities will be added as we go. Please put a carload together and enjoy a weekend with the Girls and Blessed Women.

Everyone needs a SUMMER !!!!!



PS Call 309-830-4342 if you have questions. Please leave a message and phone number. I will get back to you that day or the next morning.....Nancy

Overnite Accommodations

Friday, July 25

Check-in begins at 4pm

- * Conference Doors open 5:45pm
- * Friday Program begins 6:30pm

Saturday, July 27

Buffet Breakfast for those staying overnight. Time TBA

Saturday Check-in time: 8:00 a.m.

- Conference Doors open at 8:15 am
- * Saturday Program at 9:00 am

Sunday, July 28

Buffet Breakfast for those staying overnight. Time TBA

- * Conference Doors open at 8:45am
- * Sunday Service starts at 9:15am

- If you are not staying overnite, Please register for the days you will be attending.

Everyone needs to pre-register.
Our deadline for the Hotel is 10 days before Conference. (July 15th)

"What YOU Need to Know"

If you have any special dietary needs or special room needs, please note on registration form.

- Please dress in layers as it is sometimes difficult to control the temperatures in each room that we will be using.
- Bring with you.....
- **Casual Clothing**

Toiletries

Bible

Comfortable Shoes

Swimsuit

Sweater or Jacket



Smiling Faces

**Fellowship, Music, Speakers,
Prayer Time, Social Time
Rose Ceremony Testimonies,
Business Meeting, & more to come!**

Special Project

Mini Libraries For Talita Cumi Girls

Clubs — **Goal: \$15,000**

This project will provide 3,800 Spanish books of various reading levels at 50 Talita Cumi Girls Clubs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua. The goal of this project is to create 50 mini libraries in Latin America that will improve the literacy skills of girls in the Talita Cumi Girls Clubs and the chance for a better future.

**Great Rivers Region
Annual Conference
American Baptist Women's
Ministries**

Friday July 25 thru Sunday July 27, 2025
Lake Williamson Christian Center
Carlinville, IL

ABWM, ABYW* & G.I.R.L.S.**

***American Baptist Young Women**

****Girls In Relationship,
Leadership & Service**



Our theme for 2023-2025 is, **"Be Strong and Courageous."**

Joshua 1:9, God has commanded us to Be Strong and to be Courageous. We will not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord our God is with us, wherever we go.



The Lesters, from St. Louis, Missouri, often called "St. Louis' First Family of Gospel Music," have been sharing The Word through song for four generations. Truly, The Lesters are ~ "A FAMILY FOR THE FAMILY."

Their signature sound is a blend of inspired arrangements and vocal artistry, led by longtime performer BRIAN LESTER. Brian has been singing with the family since he was four. His vibrant voice and easy rapport with audiences ministers to young and old alike.

As a fourth generation performer, JONATHAN LESTER brings a real freshness to the group. Like his father, Brian, Jon was "born to sing," performing at a very young age. But he remains inspired by the generations of Lesters who went before him and by the message of God's eternal grace.

The newest vocal addition to The Lesters is Jonathan's wife BAILEE LESTER. She has been inspired and influenced by listening to gospel music her entire life. Since a

young child her family would attend concerts at Meramec Caverns to hear all the great gospel groups. Little did she realize that God was preparing her for something special; not only as a part of the family, but to "Sing For The Glory of God."

The Lesters take pride in their family heritage, but consider God's greater family as the real reason for their continued work. As they prayerfully pass their legacy to future generations, The Lesters hope to move others to a deeper level of spiritual commitment.

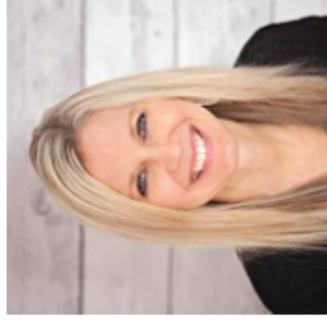
MISSION STATEMENT: The Lesters is a ministry dedicated to leading people to Jesus by sharing the joy of Christ through music and personal testimony.



**TRACY WILLET
HARMS: WORSHIP LEADER & SONGWRITER**

Tracy Willet grew up in IL. She studied acting & musical theater at Circle in the Square Theater School in NY. Tracy spent 17 years in NYC, serving on the worship team at Calvary Baptist, working as an actress/singer/ song- writer

& obtaining her Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Mental Health Counseling. Willet advocates for the National Eating Disorders Association. She recently moved back to IL, close to family & her new husband. **Tracy will be leading worship and speaking to our group.** Tracy now tours with a Group of Christian Comedy Ladies called "The Unknown Tour". It's a fun "Girls Nite Out" with Christian messages..



Rachel Wojo is a public speaker and freelance writer for well-known faith-based companies. She hosts Bible reading challenges on her popular blog, rachelwojo.com, which rallies readers of all ages to search God's Word for solutions to life's problems.

Her Bible reading plans are used by more than four million people worldwide. Rachel is the author of *Desperate Prayers: Embracing the Power of Prayer in Life's Darkest Moments*. She and her husband, Matt, reside in Ohio and are the parents of eight children, two in heaven and six on earth.

Rachel Wojnarowski

MAIL TO MARCIA WIMMER

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Name on Name Tag_____

(Name & Phone for Emergency Contact)

Local Church_____Area_____

Room mates_____

☐ First Time Attendee

1 night Option

☐ \$165.00 for 2 persons to a room (3)

☐ \$180.00 for 3 persons to a room (3)

☐ \$240.00 for 1 person to a room (3)

☐ \$75.00 Saturday Only (2)

2 night Option

☐ \$220.00 for 2 persons to a room (4)

☐ \$215.00 for 3 persons to a room (4)

☐ \$314.00 for 1 person to a room (4)

WRITE CHECKS: ABWMINISTRIES GRR
& mail this registration form to:

Marcia Wimmer

2249 North Fairview Ave

Decatur, IL 62526

Questions: 217-855-4158

E-Mail: salad49@comcast.net

**Dorm Rooms for Larger Groups, Bring your
own Linens, Call Nancy for info 309-830-4342**

Save this Copy for Yourself

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Name on Name Tag_____

(Name & Phone for Emergency Contact)

Local Church_____Area_____

Room mates_____

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Meals_____

AREA NEWS

AREA I

American Baptist Women's Ministries
Great Rivers Region
AREA I Spring Spiritual Feast
Saturday, April 26, 2025
Blackhawk Camp
4491 W. Henry Rd.
Oregon, IL
Coffee hour: 9:30am
Meeting: 10:00am

Dynamic Special Guest Speaker
Theresa Crystal
"Be All You Can Be"

Let this spring be a commitment to new beginnings.

Drinks & Dessert will be provided

As a donation to the camp, please bring toilet paper/paper towels

AREA II

Area II Spring Rally
Great Rivers Region
April 8, 2025
Whitehall, FBC
109 N. Carrollton
Whitehall, IL 62092

Speaker
Rev. Mary Jean Sheets
Coffee & Fellowship at 9:30am
Meeting at 10:00am

Bring a salad/dessert to share for lunch

AREA III

Area III Spring Rally
Great Rivers Region

Saturday April 26, 2025
First Baptist Church of Fairbury
701 N 7th St, Fairbury, IL 61739
Put a "SPRING" in your "STEP"
and Step into a new life
Registration & Coffee Fellowship
8:30 to 9:15 am
Rally Starts at 9:15 AM
Guest Speaker & Worship Leader:
Tracy Willet Harms Tracy comes to us from "The Unknown Tour"



I will trust and not be afraid,
for the Lord is my strength and song;
He is my salvation. Oh, the joy of
drinking deeply from the Fountain of
my Salvation.

Isaiah 12:2-3

Prayer

Praying that your cup will overflow
with the Lord's joy, and that your heart
will be filled with
beautiful songs of salvation

Amen

Forever through Jesus Christ,
Joan Leitzen, President AREA III

NATIONAL NEWS

Friday, July 4, 2025 | Omaha, NE | 9 AM – 2 PM

WOMEN AND GIRLS' DAY

Building God's Community

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025

CHI CONFERENCE CENTER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

REGISTER AT WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG/EVENTS

This year at Women and Girls Day, we gather under the inspiring theme of Building God's Community. Together, we will explore what it means to rise to new challenges, rebuild after difficult seasons, and restore hope and unity in our communities of faith. This is a day for women and girls to unite, empower one another, and work toward a shared vision of God's inclusive, transformative love in the world.

To learn more and these events and/or to register, go to:

www.abwomensministries.org

Dates to Remember



April 8, 2025—Area II Spring Rally—Whitehall

April 26, 2025—Area I Spring Rally—Blackhawk Camp

April 26, 2025—Area III Spring Rally—FBC, Fairbury

July 4-6, 2025— 2025 Biennial Mission Summit—
Omaha, Nebraska

July 25-27, 2025— ABWM GRR Conference
Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL