

# Women Alive

Spring  
2019

## President

### Stay Connected to the Vine

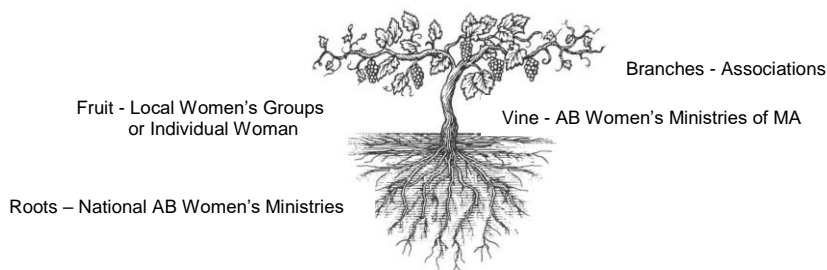
*"<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." John 15:5-6*

While contemplating this scripture the thought of how it relates to AB Women's Ministries and myself came to me. I might be stretching it a bit, but it makes sense to me hopefully in a respectful way.

If you look at the diagram below starting from the bottom up, the root system is the national AB Women's Ministries, our state's AB Women's Ministries is the vine, the associations' women's ministries are the branches and the fruit is the local women's groups or individual women in the local churches. That said, it is through the roots that water, nutrients and minerals provided by God are taken in. But, if the roots are dug up, then life will end. If you take a branch off from the vine or a piece of fruit off the branch and leave it by itself, it will eventually wither away and die.

A little over 20 years ago my pastor's wife, Rev. Ana Higbee-Barzola, invited the president of AB Women's Ministries of MA, Stella Ordonez, to come to our church to speak to the women about AB Women's Ministries. Shortly after that the women decided to start a women's group. A few years later some of us began attending women's ministries events in the association, state and national. Although the women in my church don't meet on a regular basis now, I continue to stay connected with the ABC women's ministries family. The women are encouraging, supportive and they are a lot of fun to be with. It is because of women's ministries that I found my voice, developed leadership skills, grew spiritually, and grew as an individual.

Women's ministries is a vehicle that allows God's love to flow through in its fellowship, workshops, worship, singing, learning experiences, etc. Make the choice to stay among the branches connected to the vine rather than cut yourselves off because God wants us to prosper and grow to be the best fruit we possibly can.



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## Secretary

Reflecting on the AB Women's Ministries theme for 2018-2019 Domestic Violence, I just finished reading a beautiful story of deliverance by a survivor, who has now found a caring home for herself, her son, and her soon-to-be-born daughter at Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico.

She begins her story with selected words from Psalm 6:

"Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint;  
Heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.  
My soul is in deep anguish."

She then continues with her testimony, sparing none of the painful details of what she went through to find that home that God intended for her.

"The Lord has heard my weeping.  
The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;  
The Lord accepts my prayer."

We were fortunate to have Ray and Adalia Gutiérrez Lee as American Baptist missionaries at Deborah's House; it was Adalia who provided the framework for this story. If you want to explore the issue further, you may find this story and a Bible Study on violence at <http://www.abwomensministries.org/page.aspx/contentId/83/2018-2019-Mission-Focus-Domestic-Violence/>.

While this issue may seem far away from us in Massachusetts, that is simply not the case. Please take the time to look this up. Someone's life may depend upon it. If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic violence, visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline at <https://www.thehotline.org> or call 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224.

If you need assistance in accessing either of these items, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope to see you at our Spring conference at the Salvation Army Wonderland Conference Center in Sharon, MA on May 31-June 1, 2019.



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## Treasurer

AB Women's Ministries of MA is engaged in all-important mission with women and girls. One, The Eight Steps of Giving, is received on a yearly basis and is due May 15<sup>th</sup>. Your support as an individual or through your women's group or mission board is greatly appreciated. The purpose of the Eight Steps of Giving is:

1. **Scholarships**—undergraduate and graduate scholarships are awarded to American Baptist women in our eight associations, who qualify, assisting them in furthering their education.
2. **Camperships**—campers attending Oceanwood and Grotonwood.
3. **State Project**—each year a worthy cause is chosen. This year's project is a local mission, the Christian Youth Conference. Next year's state project is an international project, Christian women in Angola, which was voted on at the 2018 Spring Conference annual meeting.

4. **State Support**—contributions to AB Women’s Ministries of MA provides funds for regional and operating expenses.
5. **AB GIRLS**—this ministry is for girls in grades 3 through 12. These girls are a part of our present and are our future. We endeavor to provide support in building relationships, encouraging leadership and developing skills.
6. **Friendship Fund**—provides women and girls with scholarship assistance to attend events held by our organization.
7. **Women and Girls Mission Fund**—supports AB Women’s Ministries ABCUSA missions at home and around the world.
8. **White Cross**—when urgently needed supplies are provided by women’s groups, churches or individuals that are requested from mission workers overland (American Baptist Home Mission Society) and overseas (International Ministries) this completes the step.

More details of The Eight Steps of Giving and remittance form may be downloaded from our website, <http://abwomensministriesma.org/mission-works/>.

After reading this article I am confident that we will receive your response via return mail.



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## White Cross Celebrates 100 Years!

### Overseas

The importance of White Cross is immeasurable, and 2019 marks 100 years of your labor and generosity! Thank you for your loving commitment in meeting needs by supporting mission around the world. Through God's grace, this critical ministry continues to bless those who give, those who serve and those who receive.

An important change noted in the 2019-2020 request: **ROLLED BANDAGES WRAP-UP**

AB Women’s Ministries of MA and International Ministries (IM) wish to thank the women and girls in the local churches for their faithful hands that have rolled bandages over the past 100 years! Thanks to your commitment, this need has been met. IM is continuing to ship out boxes of rolled bandages, and it may take up to four more years to use up what is stored. IM global servant, Katherine Niles and international partners in the D.R. of Congo are discontinuing use of handmade bandages. Thank you again for being part of this meaningful ministry.

If you have any bandages that you are rolling now, please send what you have made before **September 30, 2019**. IM will continue to ship what they have received until supply is depleted. After October 1, 2019, only baby kits should be sent to the Brethren Service Center. Also, they state that "Although rolled bandages are wrapping up and shipping out, there is an ongoing need for baby items." You can assemble the kits or send a financial gift to purchase the needed baby and medical supplies for new moms. Only include the items listed on the instruction sheets.

*(Information is an excerpt from the 2019-2020 White Cross request for International Ministries.)*

### Overland

American Baptist Home Mission Society’s (ABHMS) request for 2019-2020, is designated to the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) whose mission is to Advocate, Celebrate, and Empower the new

American by helping with critical needs like translating; helping file state, federal, employment, legal and health care documents; provide ESL training and after-school programs; and opening opportunities to create context celebrating diversity and inclusion to share their respective cultures and traditions. Visit <https://www.mbmm.org> for more information about MBMM.

Consider celebrating "Christmas in July" this year. Put up a fake Christmas tree and hang paper tag ornaments listing the items requested (i.e., toys, men's or women's new socks, school supplies, toiletries, etc.). Keep the tree up for the month of July and let your congregation pick items off the tree to buy or make. At the end of the month ask your pastor to have a moment of dedication or to bless the items during worship service. The items may be mailed or delivered to MBMM whose office is in Lexington.

If your women's group or church isn't currently participating in the White Cross mission and you would like to or if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.



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## Announcement

### AB Women's Ministries of MA Website

We have a new and improved website!!! Although it is still in the works, you will be able to register for events on-line. Check it out, <http://abwomensministriesma.org/> and let us know what you think.

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# ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Adoniram Judson Association

The Judson Women will have their annual meeting at the Zion Baptist Church, 4 Adams Street, in Lynn, on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM. At 9:00 AM everyone will gather for breakfast and a time of fellowship and sharing ideas for projects, programs and events that are happening at the Judson churches. The women from First Baptist Melrose will give an update on the "Little Dresses for Africa" project that they have been involved in for the past two years. A date will be set for the Judson Women to gather for an introductory workshop on making the dresses. A business meeting will be held with updates on Judson Women activities. The program for the morning will be presented by Marilyn Glover. She will speak about the Refugee Immigration Ministries organization that she has been involved in for many years and the good work that is done for many people. She will share her experiences and stories about people she has worked with and about how the program works. There will also be an update about the Youth Harbors organization that the group learned about at last year's annual meeting. Plans for the annual Judson Women's November Toy Harvest will be discussed.

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# NATIONAL NEWS

## Sisters Seeking Wholeness *Hermanas Buscando Plenitud*

### Women's Day 2019

Friday, June 21, 2019  
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Virginia Beach Convention Center  
1000 19th St, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

*(Immediately preceding the 2019 ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit)*

"They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

-- Jeremiah 17:8 (NIV)



**Keynote Speaker/Bible Study Leader: Dr. Jessica Young Brown**  
Dr. Jessica Young Brown is a counseling psychologist who serves as Assistant Professor of Counseling and Practical Theology at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. In this capacity she teaches and provides consultation and program development on issues of vocation, spiritual formation, and human development. Dr. Brown is also a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional in private practice, and provides education and consultation to churches and community organizations on mental health and organizational issues. In her clinical practice, Dr. Brown focuses on women's issues and relational concerns.

For more details or to register visit, <http://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=17>



*Beach Break: A 3-Day Youth Conference* is open to individual attendees as well as youth groups.

A planning team from around the country has been busy designing this immersive 3-Day Youth Conference during the Biennial Mission Summit.

Do you want your students to be given space from their busy lives to connect with Jesus? Do you want them to be inspired to serve their community and the world? Would you like to connect them to other Christian teenagers?

This is what Beach Break 2019 is about, through main session speakers, hand-on service, and excellent worship. Youth from sixth through twelfth grades are invited to join us as we take a "Beach Break" in Virginia Beach.

Visit [www.abc-usa.org/beachbreak](http://www.abc-usa.org/beachbreak) for updates.

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