

Women Alive

Summer/Fall
2020

President

In commitment to Jesus Christ
as Lord and Savior and the mission of the Church,
and through the enabling of the Holy Spirit,
American Baptist Women's Ministries provides opportunities for each woman to:

- become and develop as God's person,
- build God's faith community, and
- serve God's world.

My term as president of AB Women's Ministries of MA is coming to an end. I thought about our mission statement and reflected on my experience as an AB woman. I was in my mid 30's when my pastor's wife introduced AB Women's Ministries to the women in the church, which resulted in our starting a women's ministry. Three years later I attended my first AB Women's Ministries of MA conference in Holyoke, MA. I was shy and felt uncomfortable being with a large group of women I did not know. The women were welcoming, and many were encouraging and supportive. When I felt overwhelmed and wanted to sit by myself and observe I could do so. The first time I was asked to share about my church's women's ministries missions I kept my head down while my voice cracked, and my knees shook.

Over the next 30+ years I served as AB Women's Ministries of MA Scholarship Chairperson, Coordinator of AB GIRLS and president. I served on the AB Women's Ministries National Leadership Team as Events Coordinator and served as their Coordinator of AB GIRLS as well as serving as the first Coordinator of Missions with Women and Girls. I served as the Samuel Stillman Association AB Women's Ministries president, Coordinator of AB GIRLS, and Coordinator of White Cross.

I led an AB GIRLS mission encounter to the Czech Republic and Bulgaria where we delivered food and distributed chocolate to children in orphanages and we led an AB GIRLS gathering: Sisters to Sisters, co-led with missionary Ray Schellinger an Immigration Immersion Experience to Tijuana, MX, brought greetings from AB Women's Ministries to the congregation in a Burmese Baptist church, wrote Bible studies for AB GIRLS, wrote requests for grants for Dreamer Moms in Tijuana, MX and women in Haiti to receive micro-loans. I participated in a meeting in Washington, DC at the Bread for the World Institute with the focus on When Women Flourish... We Can End Hunger and attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York City. I walked in places that Rev. Adoniram Judson and Ann Hasseltine Judson walked and visited Rev. Martin Luther King's birthplace.

From the shy introverted young adult who faced obstacles, with the support, encouragement, and mentoring of AB women and the enabling of the Holy Spirit I believe I became and developed into the person God planned for me to serve His world. My hope is that while serving in AB Women's Ministries that I have helped in building God's faith community. Follow His lead with praise and thanksgiving and watch the blessings come down.



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Nominee for President

As the summer/quarantine lingers on, what have I been doing during this time? Cooking, cleaning, reading, lots of praying, listening to Mark Lowry Live on YouTube and too much Facebook time!

Recently, I have been given a series of books “Tearoom Mysteries.” The stories revolve around two women cousins who decide to open a Tea Room and minister to the community in the fictitious community of Lake Chickadee, Maine. As their days go by, they are busy cooking delicious treats and solving mysteries involving local townsfolk and visitors, alike. So, journey along with me with a glass of iced tea or hot tea and discover a wonderful Christian book series that offers recipes, Christian beliefs, morning devotions and the importance of friendships and faith. I have included a recipe from “Tea Is for Treasure.” Please enjoy and I am always willing to share a book or two!

Excerpt from *Tea Is for Treasure*:

“Sometimes Elaine had trouble trusting that His way was the best. In the aftermath of Ben’s sudden death, she’d often questioned why her dear husband had been taken away from her.

But now she looked at life in a different way—not about what was taken from her, but what was given. She had been given the opportunity to live in this beautiful Victorian home and share it with her cousin. They’d opened a tearoom together—fulfilling a dream—and meeting all kinds of people.”

Trusting in Him!



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From the Tea for Two Kitchen Rose’s Black Forest Cookies

1 cup all-purpose flour	½ cup sugar
2 Tbs. unsweetened cocoa powder	½ cup brown sugar, packed
1 tsp. baking powder	2 eggs
½ tsp. salt	12 oz. semisweet chocolate chunks
8 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped	1.5 cups dried cherries
½ cup unsalted butter, cut in pieces	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line three baking sheets with parchment. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Place chopped chocolate and butter in a large heat-proof bowl set over a pan of simmering water. Stir until melted and smooth. Remove from heat. Whisk in sugars, then eggs until smooth.

Whisk in the dry ingredients just until combined (be careful not to overmix.) Fold in chocolate chunks and dried cherries. Press plastic wrap on to the surface of the dough and refrigerate for thirty to forty-five minutes. Drop mounds of dough (equal to two level tablespoons), leaving about two inches between, on to prepared sheets. Bake just until edges are firm, eleven to thirteen minutes. Cool on baking sheets for two to three minutes; then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



Secretary

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” --Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

Recently the American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Massachusetts became an “official” partner with the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM). I say “official” because we now have it in writing, although AB women have been working to support MBMM through our White Cross requests for several years now.

With this new partnership, we are hoping to continue assisting the new Americans who have come to our shores as strangers, seeking relief from the terrors and dangers encountered in their original homelands.

MBMM is a multi-faceted organization, and it would be impossible for me to touch on its many programs in a brief article. All that information can be found online at www.mbmm.org, which may be overwhelming to view at first because of its scope. What I would like to do is to bring the facts to life by mentioning a few of the personal experiences that have shown me what it means to “show hospitality to strangers.”

Celebration of World Refugee Day with “Backpack Stories” brought to light the experiences of several immigrants leaving their home countries with all their possessions crammed in a backpack. It was amazing to hear of the courage and resilience of these folks, and to know that MBMM was there to help them become adjusted to their new home communities. It is comforting to know that the organization is available to advocate for individuals who are not familiar with our legal procedures and empower them to speak for themselves eventually.

Preparing for celebrations like the New American Christmas offered hands-on mission opportunities, as members of various Baptist churches gathered in early December at FBC Lexington to stuff over 500 bags with items from the White Cross request. Many hands made quick work, and all was complete in about two hours. These bags were destined for families at the New American Christmas Party a couple of days later in Lowell, complete with carol-singing and the arrival of Santa Claus. My favorite times involve the celebration of our diversity, especially involving music and food!



I do encourage you to become more informed about MBMM, either through the website or by contacting me to see how to become involved more fully.



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Save the Date

Fall Women’s and Girls’ Day
Saturday, September 26, 2020
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Some may gather at Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center and others may join us via Zoom.



AB GIRLS

I have missed you! It is hard not being able to gather together. I hope that some things you have learned at AB GIRLS gatherings has helped you during this time of social distancing.

I am happy to announce that we will have the opportunity to gather on Saturday, September 26. We will be celebrating girls and young women and will have a visit from Ann Hasseltine Judson, who will tell her story of faith in the midst of great difficulties.

“Remember your creator in the days of your youth.”



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White Cross

During World War I, women in the church assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, bandages, and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. As they met these needs, the women became convinced that similar methods would be of great help in the work of Christian missions. In April 1919 American Baptist women organized the White Cross Service League. Later that year, both International Ministries (IM) and AB Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) adopted the White Cross Service program and decided to unite the efforts while keeping two divisions, “overland” and “overseas.” Requests from ABHMS (Overland) and IM (Overseas) were distributed to the Coordinator of White Cross in each region/state, who would breakdown the requests and distribute it to their associations’ Coordinators of White Cross and the associations’ Coordinators of White Cross would breakdown those requests and distribute them to the women’s groups in the local churches.

Through IM, Overseas White Cross supports the work of our missionaries and our mission partners as they serve in programs of health and wellness, evangelism, community service, education and abolishing global slavery. Items requested through Overseas White Cross include birthing kits for the Congo and now baby layettes for Nicaragua. Visit IM’s website at <https://www.internationalministries.org/white-cross/> to see how you, your women’s group and your church may continue to support our IM missionaries and partners around the world. Your gifts remain vital. If you do not have access to a computer, contact the secretary, Marilyn Glover, at glovermarilyn46@gmail.com and she will forward a packet to you. You may also send a donation by check made payable to “International Ministries – WC.” Write the project name: WC-General Fund or WC-Health Fund or WC-Education Fund or WC-Fighting Human Trafficking on the memo line and mail it to International Ministries, 1003 W 9th Avenue, Suite A, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210.

We did not receive a request this year from ABHMS. The ABWM of MA executive committee discussed what could be done to continue to support our White Cross recipient, who is in our own community, Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM), that works at the grassroots level with refugee communities in the areas of advocacy. From this discussion a Partnership Ministry is being developed. Read about it on page 5.

Thank You for your years of supporting this ageless mission and its cyber continuation.



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News

2020/2021 State Mission Project



The AB Women's Ministries of MA executive committee is recommending that the 2019/2020 State Mission Project: Christian Women of Angola be extended for another year because women's groups were not able to meet due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Women in Angola make clothing for women and men using a specially made fabric which helps them to evangelize.

Funds raised will be used by the women to have more fabric made so that they may continue witnessing to those with whom they come in contact. Rev. Ruth Harvey, International Ministries Special Assistant to Angola, is available to speak via Zoom in local churches, women's gatherings, mission events, etc. Contact Rev. Harvey via email at ruthlh@comcast.net.

Our goal is \$3,500 with a challenge goal of \$5,000. Donations may be made through the Eight Steps of Giving. Eight Steps of Giving Remittance Forms are available to download from our website, www.ABWomensMinistriesMA.org under resources.

Facebook

AB Women's Ministries of MA is creating a Facebook page for women in the local churches, associations, and state to connect with one another and find out what is happening in AB Women's Ministries. Stay tuned!

Partnering Ministry

American Baptist Home Mission Societies has discontinued sending out Overland White Cross requests. The executive committee of AB Women's Ministries of MA discussed what we could possibly do, and we came up with the Partnering Ministry.

Because the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) was our White Cross recipient for several years, we wanted to continue providing the much-needed items for the new Americans it serves. MBMM agreed and together we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 29, 2020. We are also working with two other ministries to partner with and will let you know who they are and what their needs are as soon as the MOUs are signed.

The Partnering Ministry enables women's groups, individuals, mission committees and/or churches to support ministries in the TABCOM family, provides choices, gives opportunities to do hands-on-mission, and brings exposure to AB Women's Ministries of Massachusetts, which provides a variety of opportunities.

Since MBMM is member of our Partnering Ministry, they have provided us with a list of requests, which is at the end of the newsletter. Do not get intimidated by the requested quantities. Provide what you can provide. Make a copy of the form and use it as a packing slip.

This is new for us. We may have to tweak the process along the way. But for now, we can continue to help serve new Americans in Massachusetts.

NATIONAL NEWS



Domestic Violence Prevention and Education Virtual Training

September 12, 2020

1 PM – 3 PM

Registration Fee: \$25 (Deadline to register is September 9, 2020)

American Baptist Women's Ministries is partnering with Safe Haven Ministries for a Domestic Violence Prevention and Education virtual training. This training will enable clergy, church leaders, community groups, and domestic violence educators to come together in a safe and intentional manner to learn ways to support and aid those in their communities that are suffering from Domestic Violence. Participants will gain knowledge, insight, and skills useful in addressing and preventing domestic violence.

Topics Covered

- Biblical Exploration of Violence
- Defining Domestic Violence
- Characteristics of an Abuser
- COVID-19 and its impact of Domestic Violence
- Supporting Victims & Safety Planning



Young Adult Women's Paint and Soothe Your Soul

September 18, 2020

8 PM

Registration Fee: \$20 (Deadline to register is September 14, 2020)

Join women from across the country for a virtual gathering that will engage your creativity and soothe your soul.



Webinars

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries for our upcoming webinars: Fall Addiction Webinars starting in September 2020

For more details and to register visit <https://abwomensministries.org/events.aspx>

Partnering Ministry

Partner: Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries
 1580 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02420
 Contact: Mar Imsong, Executive Director
mbmm@mbmm.org / www.mbmm.org
 781-457-8058

Walmart and Costco gift cards are also accepted.

Requested Qty.	Size	Item	Purchased Qty.	Amount Spent
20		Children's Books		
18		Cars		
35		Dolls		
35		Toys		
18		Bibles: Spanish, Burmese, French, Portuguese, Arabic		
4		Regulation Basketballs		
4		Regulation Footballs		
4		Regulation Soccer Balls		
4		Regulation Volleyballs		
15		Children's Workbooks (Math/English) K-5		
18		Coloring Books		
7 PKGS	16/Box	Crayons		
10 PKGS	9x12	Construction Paper (Assorted Colors)		
7 PKGS		Dry Erase Markers		
35		Erasers (Art Gum)		
35		Highlighters		
18		Permanent Markers		
20 PKGS		Fine Tip Marking Pens		
18	Wide	Marking Pens		
35 PKGS	12	Blue/Black Pens		
35 PKGS	12	#2 Pencils		
18		Pencil Cases		
18 PKGS		Colored Pencils (Variety of Colors)		
35	12"	Rulers		
35	8 oz.	Glue		
35		Glue Sticks		
18		Children's Scissors		
35 PKGS		Notebook Paper (College-Ruled/Wide)		
35		Pocket Folders		
35		Spiral Notebooks		
18		Aprons		
10		Baby Booties		
10		Baby Sweaters		
18		Potholders		
35		Dish Towels		
35		Mittens		
35		Scarves		
18	T-D/Q-K	Quilts or Comforters		

Requested Qty.	Size	Item	Purchased Qty.	Amount Spent
18	2-16	Boy's Jeans		
18	2-16	Boy's Shirts		
35	All	Boy's Socks		
18	All	Boy's Underwear		
18	All	Boy's Sweatshirts		
18	All	Boy's Sweatpants		
18	2-16	Girl's Jeans		
18	2-16	Girl's Shirts		
35	All	Girl's Socks		
18	All	Girl's Underwear		
18	All	Girl's Sweatshirts		
18	All	Girl's Sweatpants		
35	All	Men's Socks		
18	All	Men's Underwear		
18	All	Men's Sweatshirts		
18	All	Men's Sweatpants		
35	All	Women's Socks		
18	All	Women's Underwear		
18	All	Women's Sweatshirts		
18	All	Women's Sweatpants		
10		Sleepers w/snap crotch		
180	Bars	Soap		
180		Toothbrushes		
180	Tubes	Toothpaste (Not Travel Size)		
35		Combs		
180		Deodorant		
70		Washcloths		
70		Towels		
Total Purchased Qty./Amount Spent				\$

Date: _____

Name/Organization: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email/Telephone Number: _____