

Women Alive

Summer
2021

President

Sometimes I Just Look Up and Say, "THANK YOU"

Has God ever answered your prayers? Do you turn to Him on a daily basis, thank Him for all He has done for you, or only question why bad things happen?

These are two of the common ways people normally consider God and prayer.

My God is so much bigger and smaller than that. He chooses to answer prayers even when we are not looking. When I am out for a walk and a cardinal flies near me, it heals my heart. When a throwaway Easter lily blooms in my garden the day my great niece is born (Lily J.), I see Him. And when I stand at the foot of the roaring ocean and cry quiet tears for all the losses this past year, God takes away my pain. He is always here.

When my husband was in the hospital with an unknown illness, I wanted to cry. I was scared and yet hopeful that they would find answers. I DID NOT PRAY. Yet, two days later I praised God for answering my UNASKED PRAYER.* You see, I believe he holds me in the palm of his hand. Maybe from that song I learned as a child "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," or the gift of faith that God gave me. (Matthew 18:3) "And he said; truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" or maybe it is because I am a child of God?

As I continue my journey as President of AB Women's Ministries of MA, I will encourage you to share your stories.

My story is not unique. We as women have many stories to share. Please consider attending the AB Women's Ministries Fall Meeting. The topics have been chosen with LOVE as we begin to share our stories with each other. Sisters, AB Women's Ministries, Women of God.

*My husband is on his way to recovery, praise God!



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Coordinator of AB GIRLS

As my term as Coordinator of AB GIRLS draws to a close, I reflect on all of the girls and young women I have had the pleasure of meeting. Through talks and worship, sewing sessions and escape rooms, late nights in hotels, swimming sessions and workshops, I have seen much to be hopeful for in the future of the church and AB Women's Ministries. There is kindheartedness, intelligence, and spirituality in abundance.



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Coordinator of Mission and Service



Dimes for Angola

It is with pleasure that I welcome everyone into the month of August. I have served on the Board of AB Women's Ministries and am so looking forward to important work in Mission and Service.

Our special project is Dimes for Angola. We have collected \$3101.00, which is just below our goal of \$3500.00. If you come across any additional dimes, turn them into the bank and send a check to Marilyn Glover. Her address is 40 East Border Road, Malden, MA 02148.

Jennifer Sten-Cromack
jenstenc@yahoo.com

Partnering Ministry

We are beginning the second year of our Partnering Ministry. Last year the AB Women's Ministries of MA executive committee came up with the ministry when American Baptist Home Mission Societies discontinued sending out Overland White Cross requests. We are continuing our partnership with Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM). Items that are greatly needed will benefit the new Americans they serve. Our hope was to have at least two other ministries to partner with, but we are not there yet. 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. MBMM has 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.

News

New Baptist Covenant Grant

American Baptist Women's Ministries was awarded a New Baptist Covenant Grant initiating new community building opportunities as part of their Building Beloved Community Ministry. This ministry brings women from American Baptist related churches with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds together to build relationships, collaborate, engage in multicultural dialogue, and strategize together towards a shared ministry project. The project focuses on outreach, collaboration, and will also serve as a model for future ABWM Beloved Community projects in different regions and Massachusetts received one of the grants.



Although the ministry is designed to bring women from American Baptist related churches with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds our "Beloved Community Ministry" was made up of former and current AB Women's Ministries of MA officers and coordinators and women from St. John's Baptist Church in Woburn.

We met for a total of six times over seven months for one or two hours. Because of the pandemic meetings were via Zoom, although our final meeting was in person for most of the members. We learned about each other's ethnicities and cultures, spent time in prayer, wrote a covenant of action, and chose a ministry project that we could work on together. Our project was MBMM's Ace Center for New Americans in Lowell which helps refugees and immigrants navigate their path to self-sufficiency, inclusion, and active citizenship. Communities served include Arabic, Burmese, and Bhutanese. One of the center's goals was to develop a library of stories for young children from around the world. Their hope was to eventually have a collection of 50 books in this category. With the funds from the grant we received, and donations made by individuals, we were able to provide almost 100 books. In addition, we recorded ourselves reading some of these books for a virtual story hour for the young children the Ace Center serves.



Our final meeting was at the ACE Center where we received a tour, dedicated the books that we donated, shared our experiences, and discussed what we would do next. We agreed that we wanted to continue to meet because as one of the members shared, "We are bound in heaven, and we are bound here on earth because of this Beloved Community."

In His Service,
Bonnie Sestito, Co-leader
Beloved Community Ministry in MA

Note: AB Women's Ministries of MA will be receiving an offering at Fall Women's Day, which is Saturday, September 25th and it will be designated to the ACE Center. Thank you!

Farewell



It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Kathleen Bond, who passed away at the age of 57 on July 9th. Kathleen was a former treasurer of American Baptist Women's Ministries of MA. She was also a longtime member of Central Baptist Church where she was a deacon, sang in the choir and helped out where she could. Her smile would always light up the room. We will miss our AB sister in Christ.

National News

Iron Sharpens Iron: Birthday Celebration

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries on **Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 6:00 PM EDT**, as we celebrate 70 years of ministry with a free online celebration!

Let the Walls Fall Down: Shalom Retreat

Join women from across the country for a virtual retreat on **Saturday, October 19, 2021, at 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT. Registration \$40.**

For more information or to register visit www.abwomensministries.org/events.

Is God Calling You to Serve?

The national nominating committee for AB Women's Ministries will begin its work in the fall to select women to be nominees for **Coordinator of Mission with Women and Girls, Coordinator of AB GIRLS**, and **Midwestern Section Coordinator**. The positions are three-year terms that begin September 2022. Selections are based on skills needed for the position, experience, active membership in an American Baptist church, and a passion for women's ministries. For more information and to complete a national position application by October 1, go to www.abwomensministries.org.

Partnering Ministry

Partner: Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries
 99 Church St., Lowell, MA 01852
 Contact: Mar Imsong, Executive Director
mbmm@mbmm.org / www.mbmm.org
 978-455-3340

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: _____