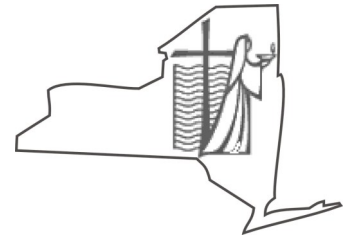




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Fall 2011

Volume 34, Issue 1

A WITNESS

A publication for and by American Baptist Women's Ministries of New York State

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In The Potter's Hands

President: Audrey Davidson

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

In the course of our lives, we experience several forms of transformation. Presently here in November with the weather, we are experiencing Indian summer. The past several days have just been gorgeous, sunny and warm with the beautiful transformation of the fall foliage. Experiencing this beauty of nature set forth by our God and Heavenly Father, my thoughts ponder the next seasonal transformation which is soon to come.

However, I realize that no matter what season of transformation takes place in our lives, we must surrender our all to HIM who holds the whole world in HIS HANDS.

The National Women's Conference for American Baptist Women was held in Green Lake, Wisconsin July 16- 22, 2011. The theme was, "In the Potter's Hands." The conference begin with Grace Johnson, a potter who worked at her potter's wheel molding and shaping a cup and sharing how God transformed her, a wounded broken vessel into a vessel of honor. The entire week was filled with inspirational morning Bible Studies, workshops, seminars, and

inspirational evening services.

October 28 and 29, our New York State Fall Board meeting was held in Auburn, New York. Originally the meeting was to have been in Owego, New York, but due to the flooding in Owego caused by Tropical Storm Lee; our arrangements committee had to work feverously to obtain another venue. We want to thank Marian Clark and Judy Forward for their dedication and hard work.

Thanks to our Convention Chair persons, Cherie Baker and Lillian Cabral and the entire Convention Committee, plans are well under way for a wonderful spirited New York State Gathering for Women and GIRLS to be held April 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2012 in Owego, New York. Please make plans to attend.

Peace and Blessings, *Audrey*

Dates to Remember (all dates are for 2012)

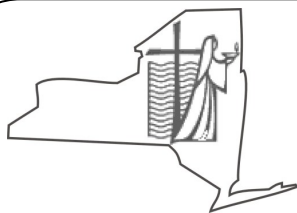
January 11	Human Trafficking Day
February 1	Winter Witness articles are due
March 1	Scholarship Applications need to be postmarked by LB Rea Applications for Annual Convention are due by
April 27-29	AB Women's Ministries Annual Convention in Owego, NY
May 1	Spring Witness Articles are due
May 18-27	2012 Mission Encounter Tour to Alaska **
June 1-2	Western Area Conference, at Houghton College
<i>June</i>	<i>Central Area Conference Retreat at Delta Lake Conference Center, Rome, NY</i>
<i>June/July</i>	<i>A.B. G.I.R.L.S. Conference</i>
July 21-27	2012 National Women's Conference in Nashville, TN **
September 16	AB Women's Ministries Sunday
<i>September</i>	<i>Adirondack/Capital Area Conference</i>
September 28-30	Young Adult Women's Retreat in Canonicus, RI **
<i>October</i>	<i>Fall Board Meeting</i>

** For more information please see www.abwministries.org

For Months italicized: Although exact dates are not known as of today's publication please check the website www.abwm-nys.org for updates to the calendar where they will be placed as soon as we receive them.



**2011-2012 Project:
Break the Chains and Stop the Pain**
For more information visit:
www.abwm-nys.org or www.abwmbreakthechains.org



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Church & Community

Church & Community Chair: Ruth Wilder

Phone:

Another summer is gone and we look around at God's creation and the beauty of the colors is amazing. We spent some of our vacation in Ocean City N.J. We attended the Baptist Church there, and saw Church and Community in action.

They host a very large group of college students who spent their summer assisting in the ministry of the church as well as the community. They go out and witness on the boardwalk and

beach to other young people. They also use their musical talents in church worship. We happened to be there on their last Sunday before returning to school, and it was awesome.

We live in a small community, but as a small church we have interaction with those living here. When we have a community dinner everyone is greeted at the door and invited to our church if they have no church home.

There are so many aspects of Church and community whether we're small or large. Jesus told us in Luke 4:16-17 to "bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free". This then is our mission, just as these young people in N.J. gave their summer in mission and service to the Lord, we need to be reaching those who need a friend to let them know about Jesus who loves and cares for them.

Personal Development

Coordinator of Personal Development: Laura Palada

Email:

Phone:

As I write this, we are fast approaching thanksgiving and the Advent season. Advent is a time of preparation - preparing our hearts for the coming of our King, our Savior, Jesus. When thinking about preparing my own heart to grow spiritually, I am drawn to our theme "In the Potter's hands" and thinking about how much we are like the clay in the hands of the Master Potter. If we look at the properties of clay and what it goes through to turn into something useful, we can relate it to our own lives.

Before even being used, the clay must be prepared. This requires patience and work. Clay must be kneaded to free it from flaws, air bubbles and foreign particles. Like a potter with the clay, God is ever

at work in our lives, kneading us, so to speak, to work out our flaws, imperfections and hardened parts of our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, God shows us our sin

and through Jesus we are cleansed and purified, making us usable. As the potter must be patient and diligent in his work, God is patient and diligent in rooting out of our lives any flaws and sins. I know that I am often painfully aware of those areas in my character that have to be worked out of me like pesky stones that ruin the clay. I am sure that you know these areas in your life as well. The Lord will help us with this process if we let Him and work these impurities out of our lives.

After kneading, the clay must rest, for it is in resting that the

air bubbles are removed and the clay becomes ready to be worked into what it will become. We too must rest. In our resting we can begin to listen for that still, small voice that calls to us. God speaks to us in the quietness. I encourage you to use this Thanksgiving and Advent season to find rest in Him - even through all the parties and church services and shopping - find the time to be quiet and rest before God. Often in the busyness of our lives, (and our lives are busy) we lose track of that still small voice inside us. We lose sight of God. Even in this holy time when we are focused on the joy of the season, we can get caught up in the whirlwind. When we take time to rest as clay must be rested, we will

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be restored and renewed.

So, we give thanks to our Master Potter in this season - thanks for the blessings we receive, thanks for the relationship with him as we have been formed with his very being and his own hands. And yet, we, the clay, is its own substance as well--it has limitations and imperfections. With the hands of the master potter shaping and

molding us, we can become beautiful and useful creations. If we allow God to work us; if we allow him to knead us, to shape us and yes, to fire us, we can become strong and beautiful vessels.

I give thanks to you, my sisters, at this time and my prayer is that you will have a blessed Thanksgiving and Advent season.

*Have Thine own way Lord,
have thine own way,*

*you are the potter,
we are the clay
Mold us and shape us
after thy will,
while we are waiting
peaceful and still*

Lord, you are our master potter -shape us, mold us, help us to become all that you can see in us. Amen.

Blessings, Laura

Secretary

Secretary: Betty Adkins

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Greetings, sister Secretaries of ABW Ministries of New York State: How the weeks and months do fly by...and here we are already in the midst of the new ABW year. Are you feeling the Potter's Hands? Is God doing a new thing in and with you? You may wonder how this applies to the position of Association or Local Secretary, but we are an important facet of the work of our separate but yet total organizations. Our minute

taking, record keeping, form filling, letter writing, information dispersing tasks help keep our groups focused and yet pliable to the Potter's Hands. We have a record of what we have done so we know how to recognize God's plans for what we need to do next.

As Thanksgiving and the blessed Christmas season approach, let us be open to the leading of our Savior and not resist what He is forming us to be. Where is He

leading us, what is He prompting us to do for Him and His Kingdom...no job is insignificant. Each of us has God endowed talents to bring to the tasks God has for us to do. Serve gladly and thankfully. Praise God for the way He has formed you and be open to the changes He brings about in you.

Have a meaningful Thanksgiving and joyful Christmas.

In Christ's love., Betty

White Cross

White Cross Chair: Mary Townsend

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whosoever sows generously also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a

cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NIV

My dear Christian sisters and friends I greet you with Jesus Joy. All power honor and glory belong to God. I trust that all of you are off to a



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good start fulfilling your white cross quotas.

You received the requests from the Oakland Burmese Mission Baptist Church, Cameron Community Christian Center and the Christian Neighborhood Center

of Norwich (The Place), as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippine Christian Center, Myanmar and Nepal.

I have received some feedback from a couple of associations stating they are having some difficulty in fulfilling their request. God knows your heart, I

am sure you will do your best and I trust God to do the rest. Thank you for all that you do. Please share my heartfelt thanks with the churches in your association. Be encouraged, together we can and will make a difference in the lives of others.

Love Gift



Love Gift Chairwoman: Denise Myers

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reprint from an email sent from National Coordinator of Love Gift, Betty Holmes sent in September 2011.

Romans 9:17-21 (New King James Version) speaks to AB Women's Ministries' current program theme "In the Potter's Hands":

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

God could have chosen to use

each one of us for dishonor as He did with Pharaoh. Nevertheless, the Lord saw in His infinite wisdom to place us in the American Baptist Women Ministries and use us for His good. For this we should praise and thank God. How has He used us as vessels of honor?

A few weeks ago I received a letter from the state of Michigan and I was asked, "I want to find more information about the importance and uses of Love Gift so I can continue to encourage their efforts."

As you know, the denomination distributes Love Gift to your region and to the national organizations to use for their mission and ministry. So as I ponder this question in my heart and mind, I have made a conscious decision to start sharing with local and regional coordinators some of the great stories about how American Baptist Women's Ministries uses mission monies we receive on the national level. In the past, many of us have strived to share Bible verses as an encouragement to those who give.

Jesus often taught through parables, current events, and everyday situations. Therefore, I would like to encourage American Baptist Women with some current projects our monies have supported.

Our Break the Chains mission project most recently raised support for a grant we gave to help with employment, housing orphans, and running schools for a low-cast tribe in India.

We raised money to educate the women in Haiti about Cholera; we sent the money to the Haitian

Baptist Convention women's department for them to use in their Haiti Cholera Project.

We have given conference scholarships to women and girls from Burma, Puerto Rico, and across the United States to attend our national conferences.

These are all example of donations that AB Women's Ministries raised to support mission with women and girls around the world, and funds that

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we had the privilege of distributing for use.

The Master Potter has placed in our hands the resources that are needed to honor those who are hurting and suffering. The monies have been used to educate and support the needy. God has been glorified in our giving, so please continue to be an instrument of honor by blessing those who are less fortunate.

When I was a Girl Scout leader we had a motto, "Keep old friends but make new friends, one is silver and the other one gold." This year

at the National Women's Conference we adopted a new mission statement, "American Baptist Women's Ministries is Christ-centered, committed to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God." We also initiated a new Women and Girls Mission Fund to simplify donations and give our organization more funding power to be used by the Potter. We lovingly give our Love Gift to the denomination's United Mission to be distributed for mission and ministry. We can channel our Women and Girls Mission Fund offerings to the needs of women and girls

worldwide.

As we journey on to help women and girls let us keep our old friend Love Gift because she is our silver reward. Also, let us embrace our new friend Women and Girls Mission Fund for she is our golden crown that we shall wear as we pilgrimage the rest of the pathway.

Betty Holmes

National Coordinator
of Love Gift

American Baptist Women's
Ministries

info@abwministries.org

Mission & Service

Coordinator of Mission & Service Ministries: Irene Ingram

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

This is my first year serving as coordinator of Mission and Service.

I am learning about new resources that I can share with you.

I want to thank you for assisting me in attending the American Baptist Women's Ministries Conference that was held in Green Lake, Wisconsin in June, 2011.

The theme for the conference was "In the Potter's Hand" taken from Jeremiah 18:1-6. The conference opened with an inspirational message featuring Grace Johnson, a potter. Daily Bible study was provided by Rev. Karen Yee, an American Baptist clergywoman from California. One of the highlights of the day was the music that was provided by,

Hornrette Washington. The Rainbow Acres Rancher Choir sang beautifully at one of the sessions.

There were interesting workshops and seminars provided throughout the week. I attended two workshops that were given by two missionaries who spent several years serving in Africa. I was so impressed by what these missionaries shared. Both missionaries had children who were with them in Africa.

Next year, the conference will be in Nashville, Tennessee. I do plan to attend.

Our ABW special project for 2010-2011 was Mitendi Women's Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We were able to meet our goal of \$16,000.

This year's state special project



is Break the Chains/ Stop the pain. Our goal is \$12,000. I encourage all of you to support this important project and we thank you for your contributions to last year's project.

Most of the information from Mission and service come by e-mail to me. If I have your e-mail, I will send this information to you.

You can email me for the following information, check our website, www.abwm-nys.org or call

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(Continued from page 6)

me and we can arrange another way for you to receive the material.

You can receive or get from the website:

- International Ministries Missionaries (2011-2013)
- American Baptist Home Missionaries for New York

(2011-2013)

- American Baptist Women's Ministries of NYS, Special Project (2011-2012) Brochure
- How to Support Your American Baptist Special Interest Missionaries

Please make arrangements to hear from your missionaries. They are doing a wonderful job that we

need to hear about. We also need to encourage and support our missionaries.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [redacted]. or you may call me at [redacted].

May God continue to bless you.

Special Interest Missionary

Special Interest Missionary Chairwoman: Claudio Little Email: [redacted] Phone: [redacted]

I continue to be amazed at the possibilities and opportunities for us to support our missions and missionaries. I might note here that missionaries are no longer "assigned" to your church or association. I know this has been the case in the past, but Valley Forge has changed that itinerary.

However; there are thousands of opportunities to help with mission

projects and 101 missionaries who would welcome your support.

First you need to check with your church and see if you have received the packet releasing all of this information.

If for some reason, you they have not (or it has gotten misplaced)...please contact me and I will get it for you or send you the info for you to do it.

If your church or association hasn't chosen a missionary to follow and support, I encourage you to do so. It is such a rewarding experience for all parties involved and participation can be at many different levels.

Peace to all of you and may you "make a difference " in someone's life today.



Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chairwoman: Grace Kelley-Neal Phone: [redacted] Email: [redacted]

This is an exciting time for the nominating committee. We have the big job this year of finding the President Elect candidate. Please keep us in your prayers as we are put to task with this momentous job!

We also have to fill one and three year board member positions, as well as Secretary, Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries, Chairwoman of Love Gift and the Chairwoman for Resources and Exhibits.

As the Potter's Hands shape and mold us into his image, may we be blessed to be a blessing to others.

Let us continue to praise and worship Jesus and watch how he changes things for us.

Area Conferences

Conference Chair: Kris Wilson

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

2011 was a great year for area conferences. Three were in June: Western New York at Houghton College, Central New York at Delta Lake Bible Conference Center, and South East New York and then one in September Capital Area's conference at Christ The King Spiritual Life Center.

Western's was entitled "The Other Six Days" with main speaker Rev Pat Robinson. Many workshops, lots of food and 'bedtime stories' (which were hysterical) seemed to be the main theme of this year's retreat.

Centrals' was entitled "In the Potter's Hands" with Rev Lynn Sullivan speaking and Margie Harryman (a real life potter) presenting a lively 'hands on' teaching. Jackie Lottermoser had gone on a mission trip to Japan and

shared her evangelistic experiences there. This was a rich time in the Lord for all.

SENY Conference was a one day conference serving breakfast and lunch. There were two workshops led by Minister Sondra Browne and Deaconess Aldamora Henderson.

CABA's Conference (September) had Dr Laura Miraz from Home Mission Society of Valley Forge as speaker. Mission speakers were three local women who had recently been to Haiti on a mission trip-Karen Hurst, Lorrain Brownell and Tegan Whiting. On Saturday there was a celebration on 25 years of retreats with testimonies of those telling what retreats have meant to them and an anniversary cake. Seventeen came a day early to enjoy the quiet of the retreat center.

Please don't miss next year's conferences. Much planning and prayer goes into each and every conference. You won't go away the same!

Western Area Conference had a total of 54 attendees:

- 43 full time
- 11 part time
- 11 First time

Central Area Conference had a total of 61 attendees:

- 40 full time
- 21 part time
- 20 First time
- 3 teens

CABA Conference had a total of 69 attendees:

- 40 full time
- 29 part time
- 10 First time

Will we see you there next year?

Western Area Conference

Claudia Little

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Plans are underway for the 2012 western conference being held at Houghton College, Houghton NY.

The dates are June 1&2, 2012. An overnight escape from the real world into "the Garden". Details are still being confirmed, but imagine your favorite garden, your favorite gardening task, and your walk through God's garden of life.....

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Anyone or association in the western area willing to help in the planning should contact Claudia Little at [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED].

Looking for some unique workshops, "special touches" and entertainment.

Thanks for all you do. Hugs, *Claudia*

Scholarship

Scholarship Chair: Ann Brooks

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

There has been a delay in the report for Scholarship due to Ann's health. Please look for a report from her to appear on the website as soon as we can arrange it, and in the next issue of *A Witness* which will be arriving in February.

The updated Scholarship Application will be available for download off of the website, www.abwm-nys.org after December 22nd. On it you will find the address for the applications to be sent to will be listed as:

Rebecca Walters, [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Rebecca has volunteered to assist an in this intensive process of gathering the application information and then getting it to the entire committee.

Application Documents and Recommendations must be postmarked by March 1st!

If you have given girls applications to fill out, please give them the contact information for Rebecca to send their information to.

I will briefly list here what you will need if you are thinking of applying. For full instructions please download the form off the website or contact Rebecca to have one mailed to you.

1. One page essay on one event that occurred during the past year and how it has impacted your faith.
2. Copies of current US Income tax returns, and other financial materials as explained in the full application directions.
3. Three letters of recommendation from the people you list on your

application. **Christmas Break is an excellent time to work on this so please pass this on to those who will be applying!**

4. Recent photo
5. Supporting documentation if attending a Christian College or University.

You can still contact Ann for assistance but if you have been unable to contact her please contact Rebecca and she will assist you in finding the information you need as quickly as possible.

Also be looking on the website for a Scholarship Calendar with some ideas for gathering monies to help in this important fund.

Prayers for Ann are greatly appreciated and I know she looks forward to being a part of the process for this important role that we as AB Women have for our girls in assisting them in their educational goals.

Blessings, *Rebecca*

Applications can be downloaded at

www.abwm-nys.org

L.B. Rea Scholarship Fund

Position: Janet Barnes

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Remember when making plans to attend The National ABW Ministries Conference in Nashville or our own ABW Ministries Gathering in Owego that help is available from the LB Rea Scholarship Fund. Applications are available from me or on our website, www.abwm-nys.org. Deadline is March 1, 2012

AB Girls

AB GIRLS Chair: Valerie Medley

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

This years conference was far more than I'd expected.

I had a total of 48 attendees (girls) not inclusive of my counselors (4), nurse and Pastor.

The young women connected with one another as well as with our pastor in ways that only God could have foreseen. I am looking forward to planning this years conference with more vigor than last years, now that I have my feet wet! It is a lot of work, but I am prayerful that I will receive much assistance.

There is a possibility that we may have to look at an increase of pricing for the conference due to the rising cost of things. I know that we will do all that we can to keep pricing reasonable so it can remain affordable for all who want to attend.

I would like to extend a special thanks to my saving grace Cherie Baker for answering any questions I had and my blessing, Lauradine Timberlake for her tireless assistance with the Commish Girls, programming and tirelessly

answering any and all questions and phone calls.

I truly appreciated all of your assistance!

Sincerely, Valerie



Arrangements Committee

Position: Marian Clark &
Judy Forward

Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The arrangements Committee has been working diligently over the past 6 months "siting" several Hotels across the state. We have made trips to visit and meet with sales representatives. So far for 2013 and 2014 we have made 12 contacts. We will be discussing different proposals before presenting them to the full board. The sties that we have requested proposals from are:

- Owego Treadway Inn Owego, NY
- Rochester Plaza Hotel Rochester, NY
- Adams Mark Buffalo, NY
- Holiday Inn Auburn Auburn, NY

- Desmond Hotel Albany, NY
- Holiday Inn Wolf Rd Albany, NY
- Silver Bay Retreat Center Silver Bay, NY
- Hilton Garden Hotel Troy, NY
- Doubletree Hotel Syracuse, NY

Also, due to severe flooding in August we had to make different arrangements for this Fall Board Meeting. We had a contract with Owego Treadway Inn and they received 51 inches of waters in their facility. They had a lot of major damage and notified us that they would have to cancel their contract. In contacting other

Holiday Inns to find a place to hold this meeting, Auburn Holiday Inn worked with us and offered to 'honor' our contract and arrangements were made with Sales Rep, Mary Moore. Thanks to Her, we were able to be here today.

If anyone has any suggestions for hotels that may be workable for future conventions, please give the information to Judy or myself. Most of you know our "specs" for conventions.

It has been very rewarding to meet with several sales staff across NYS.

Marian Clark Judy Forward

Hearts & Hands in Service

Learn & Serve Bus Trip coming up May 21-25, 2012 to New Windsor Maryland.

Have a hands on experience volunteering at the SERRV International Gift Shop warehouse and the Service Center in New Windsor, where the Church World Service Blankets and Kits (Hygiene, School, Emergency Clean-Ups Buckets and Baby Care) are collected, packed and shipped for use around the world, including here in the US.

\$385.00 cost includes round trip bus transportation and lodging (double occupancy) for four nights and all meals in New Windsor. (Meals while traveling are not included.) The bus traditionally picks up people in Rochester, Syracuse and Binghamton.

To work in the Service center you **MUST** have the ability to stand for up to three hours and be able to walk up and down a hill to reach the warehouse (approximately once city block).

For more details contact Lorraine Brownell at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].



AB Women's Ministries A Vital Partner for Vital Ministries



Love Gift is... a precious part of our history, which has done much to support denominational mission and ministry over the decades.

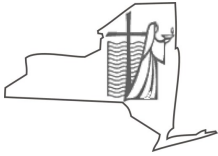
Love Gift is a treasured part of AB Women's Ministries' heritage. Individual and churches that support and promote Love Gift are warmly encouraged to do so. Love Gift, begun by women in 1931 to help the American Baptist denomination address funding challenges during lean times, continues to be an over and above gift to United Mission and is distributed in the same manner as United Mission dollars. Decisions about Love Gift distribution are governed by the Common Budget Covenant adopted by the ABC Regions, Office of the General Secretary, International Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. AB Women's Ministries receives for its ministries United Mission dollars in an equivalent of 15 percent of Love Gift, which in 2010 equaled 0.71% of United Mission funding.

Gifts marked for "ABWM Love Gift" are given through the local church treasurer to United Mission.

Women and Girls Mission Fund is... and exciting part of our future, which will have tremendous impact for women and girls worldwide.

AB Women's Ministries began its Women and Girls Mission Fund in 2011 to support missions that empower the lives of women and girls in the U.S. and Puerto Rico and worldwide. The Women and Girls Mission Fund supports ministries of AB GIRLS, Break the Chains, Refit, and Leadership Development. The Fund also enables AB Women's Ministries to respond quickly to mission needs that arise at home and around the world. The national board of AB Women's Ministries oversees the distribution of the Women and Girls Mission Fund's assets. Twenty percent of donations to the Fund are used to support the administrative costs of AB Women's Ministries. The Women and Girls Mission Fund provides an avenue by which American Baptists can reach out a helping hand and respond to both immediate needs and long-term mission and ministry projects that benefit women and girls.

Gifts to "Women and Girls Mission Fund" maybe mailed to AB Women's Ministries, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851



All women are invited to participate in American Baptist Women's Ministries. Each woman is encouraged to participate according to her own needs, interests and gifts as led by the Spirit of God.

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For Editor & Address Change/
Subscription information please see
page 2. Thanks!



From the Editor

A Witness Editor: Rebecca Walters

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

As Mom's we are charged with little ones to watch over. Whether they are our own, or a friend that you are helping you worry over every little snuffle, cough, and tumble.

I watch my children this season as they are beginning to understand more of the secular reason for the season and we struggle always trying to reinforce the real reason for the season, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The secular world tries to mold my children into little ones who will ask for all the toys, and often unneeded accessories of the season.

At the same time I try to help

them, to mold them if you will, to understand the gift that was given so many years ago in a simple stable.

As my Lord molds me daily reminding me of the gifts I have been given through my little ones, my children that I have been charged by God to raise to the best of my ability, with strength given each day by God. I need more molding than other some days. :) Sometimes it has been a struggle through the night to catch any sleep, making me short tempered. Often it is after that is when I can feel the Potter, running his hand down my hair, over my furrowed brow, wetting me down

and reminding me to relax and to remember that he will help me through my tired days. My attitude can change as I feel the massaging from the Potter, remolding my attitude for the day.

Mary was molded too. She was a willing vessel. Can you imagine Mary's perspective as she was awaiting the birth of her baby? Marveling at the wonder of the baby moving inside of her, wondering at the miracle occurring in her body. She probably needed that massaging too, especially on the harder days. I'm sure she too questioned... "What child is this..."

