



A WITNESS

Winter 2010

Volume 32, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- Penny Project
- Your To Do List
- Simulcast Invitation

Inside this issue:

Dates to Remember	2
Preparing for Lent	2
2010 Convention	3
Rest but not Inactive	3
LB Rea	3
Thank You & Reminders	4
Your To Do List	4
Can You Be Xtreme?	5
Reach Out	6
Special Interest Missionaries	6
Simulcast Invitation	7
Project Reminder	7

Penny Project

President: Joyce Whittaker

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

"Women... Destined for God's Purpose" is who we are. But, do we really know what God's purpose is for us? One purpose is to reach out to others in the name of Jesus.

Have you heard of the Penny Project?

The Penny Project is being coordinated by National Ministries. The goal is to raise 14 million pennies which represents the 14 million children who live in poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico.

National Ministries announced in December that more than a million pennies had already been collected.

We can be a part of this huge project. I encourage you and/or your local ABW Ministries group to participate in the Penny Project. You can go to the website www.14millionpennies.org, to register as a participant and report your progress. For more information about The Penny Project, contact the Rev. Lisa R. Harris, acting national coordinator for Children in Poverty Initiative at lisa.harris@abc-usa.org or (800) 222-3872,x2158.

In the wake of the devastation in Haiti, you can help through One Great Hour of Sharing by marking your gift Haiti Relief. Hygiene kits are also needed. Check the Church World Service Website www.churchworldservice.org for more information.

There are many ways that each one of us can find to reach out in the name of Jesus. Be aware of things you can do. Listen for God's direction.

Consider attending the ABW Ministries State Gathering in Owego, April 16-18. There will be inspirational speakers, Bible Study, music and news from National Ministries. Another fantastic opportunity is our National Women's Conference in Columbus, Ohio on July 10-15. It's in a new place but, there will still be wonderful speakers, Bible Study, music and fellowship.

Let me leave you with this verse "for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." Philippians 2:13.

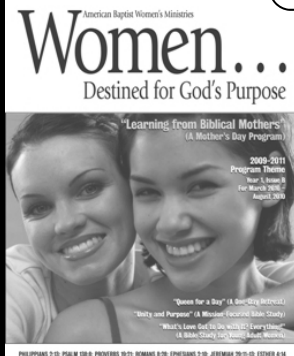
Have a Blessed Day, *Joyce W.*



The Children in Poverty Initiative
National Ministries ABCUSA

Preparing for Lent

Coordinator of Personal Development:
Kathie Lawrence
Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]



How will you use the time God has given to you during the period of Lent and the season of Easter to follow? Here are some suggestions.

1. Pray for your friends and fellow members of American Baptist Women's Ministries. Some are facing difficult decisions and various health issues and need our prayer support.
2. Pray for your pastors and your churches. These are difficult times for them, too.
3. Pray for your communities and our

state and nation and their leaders. Forget about party politics and affiliations and support the decisions that are best for all God's people and for all of His creation.

4. Pray for people around the world in every country. There is so much need and we are so blessed. Pray also for our missionaries as they serve in our place and in God's name.
5. Pray for peace throughout the world

(Continued on page 3)

Don't forget to order the 2nd Issue of the Program Resource, Year 1, Issue B, October 2009-March 2010

www.abwministries.org

Dates to Remember (all dates are for 2010)

- March 1 Deadline for Scholarship Applications to Jackie Lottermoser
- March 1 Deadline for L.B. Rea Applications to Janet Barnes
- March 31 Deadline for Association Contributions to be received by the Treasurer
- April 16-18 Annual Conference for AB Women's Ministries of NYS at Owego Treadway Inn
- May 10-16 "Break the Chains" Virtual Mission Encounter **
- July 10-15 The 2010 National Women's Conference and 2010 National Gathering for Girls will be held in Columbus, Ohio **
- October 22-23 Fall Board Meeting at Owego Treadway Inn

** Please see www.abwministries.org/events/ for more information

Check our state website www.abwm-nys.org or the national website www.abwministries.org for the most current information!



A WITNESS is a publication of
American Baptist Women of New York State
For questions regarding this publication please contact:

Editor:
Rebecca Walters
[REDACTED]

Address Changes/New Subscriptions:
Cherie Baker
[REDACTED]

Paper Subscriptions are available for 3 issues at a rate of \$3.00 per year.

Online (email) subscriptions are available for 3 issues at a rate of \$0!

Just sign up at www.abwm-nys.org

(Continued from page 2)

using this prayer from the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi: O God, you are the source of life and peace. Praised be your name forever. We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace. Hear our prayer in this time of war. Your power changes hearts. Muslims, Christians, and Jews remember, and profoundly affirm, that they are followers of the one God, children of Abraham, brothers and sisters; enemies begin to speak to one another; those who were estranged join hands in friendship; nations seek the way of peace together. Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live. Give to us : UNDERSTANDING that puts an end to strife; MERCY that quenches hatred, and FORGIVENESS that overcomes vengeance. Empower all people to live in your law of love. AMEN.

2010 Convention

Convention Chairwoman: Carol Seidel
 Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
 (Please put ABW Convention in the subject line)

We are eagerly awaiting your attendance at convention April 16-18! There is a discrepancy on the registration form as far as pricing. Please go with the prices on the Hotel's form, Sorry for the inconvenience!

For A.B.G.I.R.L.S. a special treat. A member of the Xtreme Team will speak to you Friday evening!

We have many special guests and many shopping opportunities in the Book Store and SERV V Mission store on Saturday. Can't wait to see you! Bring friend.

Rest but not Inactivity

Secretary: Betty Adkins
 Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

This is what I call the season of "resting". Where I live, the earth is resting under the snow; my garden plot and tulip bulbs patiently awaiting the warmth of spring sun. The beautiful holiday season is past and I am resting in the afterglow of the celebration of our Savior's birth. Even as I put the Christmas décor away, and arrange the new pictures of my children and grandchildren I rest in the blessings God so graciously bestows. I have had in my mind that old hymn..."Jesus I Am Resting, Resting". The words remind us that even in the midst of busyness we can still feel God's calming spirit and immeasurable love.

However, this is not a season of inactivity, but one of re-starting. I have been reorganizing my desk, sorting through the ever present stacks of papers and getting ready for the coming ABW Ministries events. This seasonal interlude is a good time to make sure I have included all the business of last year in my Secretary Book, and to review the schedule of business to come. In the next few months, we will wrap up the 2009-2010 ABW Ministries year. I trust it has been one of blessing. Thank you to all of you serving faithfully at the Local and Association Levels. I pray that in the midst of your busyness, you find time to rest and grow in the love of God.

L.B. Rea Fund

L. B. Rea Fund Chairwoman: Janet Barnes
 Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

By the time you are reading this, the deadline for applications for the L.B. Rea Opportunity Fund will be upon us. March 1 is the deadline. All Association presidents have copies of the form. They can also be downloaded from the website.... www.abwm-nys.org

Remember, scholarships are available for area conferences in June and the AB GIRLS conference. Deadlines for those are one month prior to start of conference. Janet

Thank You's & Reminders

Treasurer: Barbara Cron

Phone: [REDACTED]

Of the funds remitted to ABW Ministries NYS, National Support and Refit are the ones I send to National ABW Ministries at the end of March and before December 31. Parts of the "receipt letters" received by me are reprinted here for your information.

Important Reminders...

1) March 31st is the end of our fiscal year.

2) Preferred remittances from association treasurers of local contributions for Refit, National Support, NYS General Fund, NYS Leadership Development, the current NYS project, Scholarship, AB GIRLS. Love Gift from the local church does not come out of the ABW Ministries of NYS Treasurer.

Local to Association to State is the most Efficient System!

Thank you for your gift for Refit. Your gift enables International missionaries to return to their place of service adequately supplied or to begin their home assignment with that extra cushion that missionary service may not provide. It helps new church planters to meet immediate ministry needs in their congregations.

Because you have given, International Ministries and National Ministries can plan for the needs of the missionaries. With the emphasis on increasing the number of missionaries being sent overseas and starting 1010 new churches by the year 2010, you can see the importance of your gift!

Thank you for sharing in the total mission of the American Baptist Churches USA. You make a difference in the lives of many people.

Thank you for your gift to National Support. Our ongoing ministries with women and girls depend on the generosity of individuals like yours. We deeply appreciate your support.

Our mission - to provide vision, training, and resources for ministries with women and girls in American Baptist churches - guides our work during 2009 and 2010. American Baptist women everywhere are catching an exciting vision to reach out to more and more women in their congregations and their communities. The variety of relevant and contemporary resources continues to expand. We have a Ministry Resource for women's groups, based on our two-year program theme, "Women... Destined for God's Purpose!"

We invite you to visit our website at www.abwministries.org to learn of upcoming events and excellent resources designed for you and the women and girls in your church. Your gift helps make all of this, possible!

Your To Do List

Love Gift Chair: Denise Myers

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

February is the month of Love So our Church has been supporting Love Gift. Hopefully all the Love Gift chairwomen have been coming up with some very creative ideas to get the support of your women's group and your Church. I hope everyone in New York State has had a safe and warm winter so far, I have been very content to watch the snow since I retired, I prayer for all the rural carriers out there as it is not an easy job. Here is a To Do List for any week .. Dottie Wood- author



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

MONDAY: Look for a smile today and return it with one of your own. Give someone new faith and hope, it's such a beautiful loan.

TUESDAY: Gather a thought that's kind, one that is sincere and deep but be sure to pass it along, for such are too precious to keep.

WEDNSDAY: Forget yesterday's old sorrows, mistakes, sadness and pain. Lift your heart with hope and song, as flowers to sun and rain.

THURSDAY: Offer a word of comfort and prayer to help someone in need. A little thoughtful gift, some flowers or a smile makes us all rich indeed.

FRIDAY: You shall not pass this way again, so do any good you can do. Don't put it off 'till tomorrow or the chance may be lost for you.

SATURDAY: Today will soon be a memory so don't let it come to an end without a smile, without a song or just a word with a friend.

EVERYDAY: In your Love Gift box don't spare, the blessings of God that you shared.

May God Bless you and I hope to see some of you at Convention this year.

Can You Be Xtreme?

Mission & Service Coordinator: Lorraine Brownell

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

There are many areas of focus within our mission fields. I hope that each of you in your churches are praying for our missionaries, corresponding with them, and financially supporting them. They need us to help them be able to stay where they are, serving God and bringing others to Him. I am sure other reports will be referring to the needs in Haiti and the ways that we can help there. Please be mindful of those needs and whether it be roller bandages, CWS Health Kits & Baby Layettes, or financial support through OGHS, we hope your women are reaching out to those in need.

I recently received the following and decided to share it with all of you as my focus for this Witness Article in hopes that you might know of someone (ages 19-29) who would benefit from this wonderful program. With times being tough financially perhaps your women will find a way to help a young person be able to go. If God is for it - then there is a way.

The Xtreme Team is headed for Egypt.. Do you Know a Young Adult That Could Be Xtreme?

The Xtreme Team, a program of International

Ministries, ABC-USA is designed to connect young adults with the global mission of American Baptists. Our purpose is to grow a passion and interest in mission for the here and now as well as to cultivate global mission leadership for the future.

The Xtreme Team is called Xtreme for a reason! It's not your everyday mission trip. You see, the team members are not told what they will be doing on a daily basis, they are not told who else is going on the trip, they are not given any details about the trip at all! All they know for sure is the country they are visiting and when they will arrive and depart. The rest is a mystery! It's an intense faith walk in following Jesus to the Xtreme!

The team will spend three weeks in Egypt Xperiencing mission firsthand then return for debriefing in Detroit and cap off their Xperience by joining the ABWomen's conference in Columbus, OH for a couple of days. The entire Xperience goes



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

from June 14 to July 13, 2010.

Please visit the Xtreme Team website: www.xtremeteamonline.org. You can view past team Xperiences, application information along with this year's cost, youtube video link, and more information about the program. If you know someone who is interested, please urge them to contact International Ministries ASAP.

Reach Out

Church & Community Chair: Ruth Wilder

Phone: [REDACTED]



We have all been made aware of the tragedy in Haiti. As we watch, those who have been so affected by this disaster we see love and caring in action. Church and Community Ministries is so much more than what is just around us. We all can't go there, but we can pray and give.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Here at home we can also be effective in

meeting the needs of those in our communities by reaching beyond our church doors.

We must become familiar with the larger American Baptist family, and promote its missions and ministries among the women of our congregations. Then we can reach out by becoming involved with those who need food and clothing, and a feeling of being loved and cared for.

If we look there are many of these opportunities all around us.

Special Interest Missionaries

Special Interest Missionary Chairwoman:

Pat Taylor

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Please remember to keep praying and thinking of our missionaries. You can check the last issue for addresses, check our website (www.abwm-nys.org) for links to the International Ministries website (www.internationalministries.org) or National Ministries website (www.nationalministries.org) for updated journals and information. Or contact me!

National Ministries Missionaries Assigned to NYS for 2008-2011

- Tysha Sellers, Edna Martin Christian Center
- Mrs. Susan Harding, Cordova Community Christian Center
- Dr. Paul Chapman, The Poverty Initiative
- Ms, Cynthia Harper, Cameron Community Ministries

International Ministries Missionaries Assigned to NYS for 2008-2011

- Rev. Mercedes Gonzalez-Barnes, Rev. Richard Barnes
- Ms. Kristy Engel
- Rev. Debra and Dr. James Kelsey
- Mrs. Patricia and Rev. Timothy Long
- Mrs. Katherine and Dr. Wayne Niles
- Rev. Kihomi Ngwemi and Rev. Nzunga Mabudiga
- Ms. Karen Rachel Smith
- Dr. William Thomas Jr.

River Community Church of Clayton, NY invites you...

BETH MOORE

So Long, Insecurity

SIMULCAST EVENT

April 24, 2010

Live Via Satellite on CCN

KISS YOUR INSECURITIES GOOD-BY AND DISCOVER THE JOY OF LIVING WITH CONFIDENCE!

Beth Moore is coming to women across North America live via satellite on April 24 with a new message that will set us free from our insecurities!

Since Eve ripped the first leaf from a tree in the Garden, insecurities have plagued the female gender. Today's women—young and old, churched and unchurched, rich and poor — are suffering from such deeply embedded wounds that most don't even know how to identify them, and beyond that they can't imagine living without them.

In her engaging, "speaking-right-to-you" style, Beth will once again bring a transforming message to women. The message is this: We don't have to be slaves to our insecurities! We can conquer fear and doubt and discover the liberating confidence and security that is found in Christ.

Join us for this transforming event!

PRESENTED BY:
CCN

www.ccn.tv/bethmoore2010

Tickets for April 24 event will go on sale on Feb. 2 @ \$12/person. group tickets of 25 or more will be \$10/person. This price includes beverage, snacks, and dessert as each person will bring a sack lunch. There are some scholarships available for those in need.

Contact Angi for registration @ [redacted] or email at [redacted] or for any questions you may have.

Money for the Beth Moore Registration tickets will be collected at time of registration; space is limited.

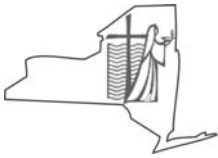
Special Project

Special Project Chair: M. Joanne Strauss
 Email: [redacted] Phone: [redacted]

Don't forget to promote the 2009-2010 Special Project to help fill the American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Trailer located in the Capital Area Region.

Our goal is \$12,000. Our fundraising for this project ends at our convention in April 16-18, 2010.





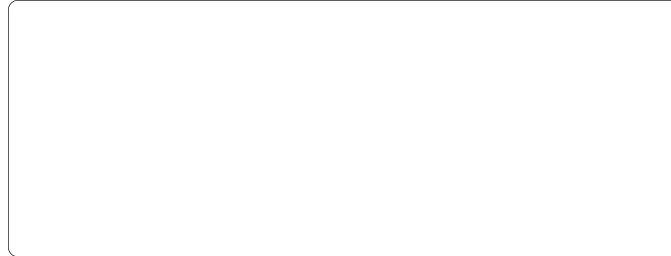
All women are invited to participate in American Baptist Women's Ministries. Each woman is encouraged to participate according to her own needs, interests and gifts as led by the Spirit of God.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SYRACUSE, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 37

American Baptist Women's Ministries of New York State

c/o American Baptist Churches NYS
5865 East Seneca Trnpg.
Jamesville NY 13078

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



From the Editor

Editor: Rebecca Walters

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Are you seeing new ways that God might be changing your plans? Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Remember God's plans trump all! :)

As we explore this theme it has been interesting to me to think outside of my comfort zone for what it is that God maybe have destined me for. I'm finding that things I never expected to happen are now my reality. Continued unemployment, being on public assistance, and what feels like a constant waiting for God's next step in our lives.

There are many comforting scriptures at this time, just look at our theme scriptures! In particular this one stands out for me today...

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV) ... "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a

future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Are you seeking God?

Are you seeking God with ALL your heart?

Are you saying to God each and every day, I am blank slate Lord, fill me with your purpose?

It's hard, I know. Jobs, volunteer duties, children, and family, your wishes and desires all want to take center stage. Our biggest challenge as women is to start the day asking God what his purpose is for that day. Sometimes it is just to survive, and by doing that "surviving" we show another our unwavering faith that things will get better. Making them wonder who gives us this strength.

May you feel God's purpose for you today... See you in April!



Becky