

New Logo for ABW

You probably noticed that ABW has a new logo. The "purple lady" has taken a well-deserved rest and instead the new graphic, which includes the ABC-USA globe is here. Your group can find this logo in black and white, or the traditional ABW purple seen above at the national website: abwministries.org. Products with the logo are available at the on-line store as well.

Second Year Program Theme

The many languages in the theme logo (languages of Burma, Spanish, English) represent the history of mission and ministry of American Baptist Churches USA as well as the relationships we have with Christian women across the world, each seeking to be Christ's hands and feet in service and praise.

American Baptist Women's Ministries is resourcing the second year of the 2013-15 theme--"A Time to Serve"--through *Leader's Reader* for free! We have additional resources you can use, too, including our

In Their Shoes: Women Walking with Women Worldwide print resources, [Immigrants and Refugees](#), [Economic Empowerment](#) and [Hope in the Midst of Depression](#), which include Bible studies, program session plans, practical ways for groups to reach out and serve at a deeper level, recommended resources for further study, and activities for AB GIRLS or children in general. Our program theme continues through June 2015 when the new theme will be announced.

National Website New Look

Easy to use and find resources, the abwministries.org website is up and running. There you will find the Leader Reader, Shine the Light award, Mission Focus, Ministries, Events, Resources, and the Store. Remember, many of the brochures available are free so take advantage of resources.

EMAIL IS EASY- FIRST CLASS MAIL REMINDER

Since the Good News is sent out once a year, it is IMPORTANT that you confirm any changes in your address. If you receive the email version, please send changes to wventura@hotmail.com. If your mailing address changes, please call our editor, Wendy Ventura at 973 770-0154 to update. Thanks!



From Our President, Joan Moyer

I'm still trying to feel my way with the job of President of ABWM NJ. For me, this is a personal chance to develop spiritually and serve the women of NJ. I attended my first National Annual Conference at Green Lake, WI this past July. What a great event to meet with the greatest group of ladies. They inspired me with their goals and ideas and dedication to serve our Lord and Savior. It truly is a "Time to Serve".

My hope is that we have a productive year, looking for ways to encourage new members, strengthening Love Gift Offerings and participation in White Cross. Also, working with Jean Beaute Kreole Leneus, the National American Baptist Youth leader, to enlarge the over 18 years old group. If there is any hope of the continuation of ABW it is in this group of young women.

We are planning two events on the State level. First will be the Love Gift/Spring Rally on March 28, 2015 at Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, NJ. It's an all-day event, lunch Included. There will be two great speakers. Odalys Banks is representing First Choice Center. Our State Project for 2014-2015 supports this ministry, so bring your donations. Minister Dr. Karen Weaver-Jackson will present our afternoon program. Check the website for registration forms and additional information.

Second, is our Annual Conference held at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Center, Long Beach Island, NJ on May 28 - 30, 2015. Check the website for registration forms and additional information at abwminnj.org - Is the American Baptist Women's Ministries of NJ website. Our goal is to provide up-to-date and easy access information about our ministries. My email is moyerjb@msn.com.

We hope that you have nominated women for the national Shine the Light award. At conference we will be having our own version to honor women, groups and churches who shine Christ's light in the world. Please bring photos, displays or articles of a specific ministry or project that best demonstrates how the individual or group is Christ's light-bearer for us to share these on our wall of fame.

Introducing Jenn Leneus

2014-2017 Coordinator of Young Adult Women's Ministries

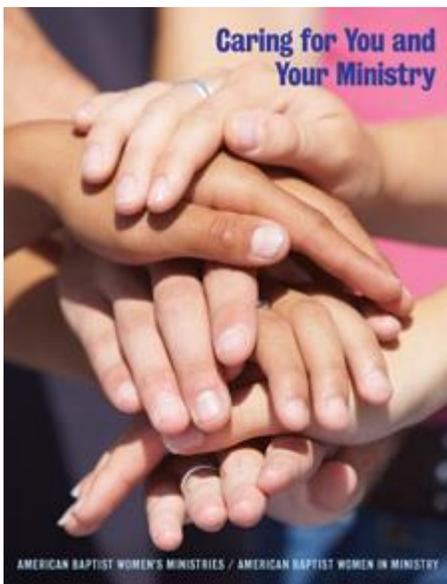


Jennifer Leneus, member of Haitian Baptist Church at the Crossroads, Newark, New Jersey, has served in her church's ministry as the youth president, worship team leader, Sunday school teacher for 18-30 year olds, and as an interpreter. She was secretary of the Youth Federation Committee for the Haitian Alliance of ABCUSA for three years. Jenn helped to plan AB Women's Ministries' conference for Young Adult Women at Phoenix, Arizona in 2013, and has been a member of ABWM's Transformed by the Spirit Action Learning Team focusing on engaging younger generations of women. She was a co-presenter this spring for ABWM's first webinar series for young adult women, and is on the planning team for the Intergenerational Retreat in July. In addition to her

voluntary service in American Baptist ministries, Jenn is a graduated practical nursing student and is working toward her Bachelors in Nursing.

On the state level, Jenn will be coordinating the Young Women's event at our annual conference in May at Harvey Cedars, LBI. Be sure to welcome her when you see her around our state. She is happy to come and speak to your congregation. Jenn can be reached by email at leneusjenn@yahoo.com or by phone (973) 873-3858.

From Our White Cross Coordinator, Judy Garrison



WOW!! How did it get to be January 2015 already? The White Cross year is well under way. I hope you have all planned when and what requests you are able to fill this year. We have requests this year from Philadelphia Park Race Track Ministry and Baptist Children's Services for our Overland white cross. One change has occurred since the paperwork was sent to you. I sent email earlier informing everyone about this. I will repeat it in case it didn't reach everyone.

Baptist Children's Services has combined with ChildFirst Services. The two organizations both operate group homes for teenagers who are in the foster care system – they serve 140 children, 98% of whom are from Philadelphia. They have 19 group homes throughout Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, Berks, Carbon, Northampton, and Wayne counties. The teens are usually court ordered to be placed as they don't have adequate parenting where

they currently reside or they are orphans with no one to care for them. The teens placed with them are housed, attend school, receive counseling, have their medical needs addressed and are given nurturing care, some for the first time in their lives. For many of the children, the case managers work with the children and their extended family to locate a family resource for them. For others they give them training and support to go on to college and/or independent living. They still need the requested items that all the churches were sent earlier. Please send your donations to Nancy McCullar, ChildFirst Services, Inc., 7248 Tilghman St., Suite 110, Allentown, PA 18106. Nancy can be contacted – phone 610-717-5706 (her cell is 484-894-9259). Email nmccullar@childfirstservices.org. We received many other request for Overseas. If you did not receive a request this year please email me and I will pass your information to the appropriate chairperson in your area.

I also would like to share information about the Drop Off site for CWS kits. Hamilton Square Baptist Church will accept these items the last week of Feb, Mar, and April. The truck will pick up Items on April 28, 2015 so you MUST deliver them before that date. Contact Emma Stype (609-439-9566) to arrange to meet her at the church for drop off. You may drop off CWS Baby Care, Hygiene, School kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets ONLY. You may not bring roller bandages – even though these are mailed to New Windsor, MD.

Instructions drop off: Pack kits in boxes with only one type of kit in each box. Indicate the type of kit clearly on the outside of the box. Secure the box with packing tape. Tape a label on each box showing Name of Church, address, phone #, email, contact person. Number and type of kits in the box. This info should be on each box you drop off. For more information and what to include in each type of kit go to cwsglobal.org/kits. or phone 888-297-2767. If you have any questions, concerns, or need anything else regarding White Cross, please contact me at (609) 259-2070 or jgarrison136@gmail.com

ABW NJ ELECTION OF OFFICERS UPDATE

Each year our challenge is to find women to serve on our State Executive Board. We are currently looking for officers including Conference Coordinator (unexpired term). Please contact Joan Moyer at moyerjb@msn.com or call her (609) 706-9074. Please prayerfully consider using your gifts to benefit NJ women. The slate of officers will be presented at the Love Gift / Spring Rally in March.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

2014-2015 MISSION FOCUS
AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

From 2004-2011, the number of unaccompanied children arriving in the U.S. averaged 7,000-8,000 annually. In 2012, that number rose to over 13,000 children; in 2013, it was over 24,000. In 2014, the projection is that over 60,000 children will attempt to find refuge in the United States. What the numbers don't reveal, however, is that the population of unaccompanied children arriving in the United States is changing: now there are

more girls, more younger children, and more victims of trauma.

Romans 12:9-21 calls Christians to a most radical love. We are to extend hospitality to all, reaching beyond our own comfort zones and fears. We are to outdo one another in showing honor and mutual affection, and we are to overcome evil with good. Scripture tells us again and again to defend those who are unable to defend themselves, and to show our love of Christ through loving others. The children seeking asylum need us desperately; our faith compels us to respond.

American Baptist Women's Ministries is focusing in 2014-2015 upon this critical issue. Over the next several months, you will receive by email and through our website information and resources to help you study to this issue in your women's and girls' ministry groups, your congregation, and personally. The crisis at the border demands our immediate attention and response. Children need our help; families need our support and advocacy; nations—including our own—need our prayers.

Plan now to attend the next virtual mission encounter hosted by AB Women's Ministries, "Crisis at the Border," March 2-6, 2015. The week will focus on the critical issue of unaccompanied children who have traveled from the Northern Triangle and Mexico to find new life in the United States. Each day has a theme exploring a particular facet of the issue. Virtual mission encounters include emailed daily activities for you to do within the normal schedule of your day; evening conference calls with special guests; meeting others online who share your passion for mission.... All you need is an Internet connection, an email address, and a phone! Can't be on a call every night of the week? That's okay—calls are recorded and made available to paid registrants to listen/view at your convenience. Register now at www.abwministries.org/vme.

NATIONAL AB Women's Ministries	UPCOMING EVENTS
World Day of Prayer	March 6
International Women's Day	March 8
Girls Leadership Academy	Overland Park, Kansas June 25-29
AB Women's Ministries Annual Meeting	June 26
Women's Day	Overland Park, Kansas June 26
BWA Women's Leadership Conference	Johannesburg, S Africa July 17-21
BWA Congress	Durban, S Africa July 22-26
AB Women's Ministries Sunday	September 20
Virtual Mission Encounter on Bullying	October 5-9
Baptist Women's Day of Prayer	November 2
World Community Day (CWU)	November 6
Human Rights Celebration (CWU)	December 10

From our Executive Director of AB Women's Ministries, Virginia Holstrom

AB Women's Ministries grieves every act of violence against a woman; at this moment, we particularly grieve with our Kachin Baptist sisters as they grieve the brutal rape and murder in Myanmar (Burma) of two Kachin Baptist women, volunteer teachers in the Kachin Baptist education mission. Maran Lu Ra, aged 20, and Tangbau Hkawn Nan Tsin, aged 21, had been commissioned by the Kachin Baptist Convention to teach in a village school and had been engaged in this volunteer mission for about two years. They were attacked in their hostel bedroom on the Kachin Baptist church campus in the village by soldiers of the Burma Army the night of January 19. American Baptist Women's Ministries sent a letter of protest and advocacy for the protection of the rights of the vulnerable in Burma to Secretary of State John Kerry.



Please be in prayer for the family and friends of Maran Lu Ra and Tangbau Hkawn Nan Tsin during this time of great grief and loss; please also be in prayer for the Kachin Baptist Convention as they hold memorial services and seek God's guidance in the days to come. Pray for the Kachin people as they continue to struggle for justice in their homeland, and be in prayer, particularly, for women throughout the world who live with fear every day. May Christ's peace reign.

March 8: International Women's Day



Since 1975, March 8 has been declared International Women's Day by the United Nations. By adopting a resolution marking the observance of Women's Day, the General Assembly of the United Nations established a priority for the active participation, equality, and development of women to further economic development and social progress around the world, and the acknowledgement of the contribution of women towards strengthening international peace and security. As International Women's Day has grown in countries around the world, it has come to be a day for uniting, networking, and mobilizing for change. Many places hold educational summits on issues of women's rights and women's development, celebrations of accomplishments thus far and setting a roadmap for the future, and advocacy events around economic empowerment and increased political participation.

For more information about International Women's Day, visit www.un.org/en/events/womensday/. This year's International Women's Day theme is "Equality for women is progress for all." Many organizations set up their own themes for International Women's Day-an Internet search will give you ideas, or get together with other women in your neighborhood or congregation and choose your own theme. If you participate in or plan an event for International Women's Day, let us know. Email info@abwministries.org with your stories and pictures.

Subscriber Information for email edition...

Leader's Reader is your source for counterpart information, leadership helps, and news. It is distributed by the AB Women's Ministries National Office and is available at: www.abwministries.org. The next issue will be distributed March 2015

The information you need for ministries with women and girls.