



Fall 2011

American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles
 AB Women's Ministries of Los Angeles &
 American Baptist Congregations
 of the Southwest and Hawaii
 P. O. Box 1868
 Glendale, CA 91209
 Email: Lil@abcla.org



Associate for Love Gift

Denie Sturm ~ deniejosturm@aol.com



I recently received the latest figures from Valley Forge, and there is a slight increase in giving, which makes me feel that "things are looking up."

Love Gift boxes-I have some to send out or you can use your creative talents to make your own. When your fall program gets under way, distribute them to your ladies, or put them around the church for people to fill.

Remember LOVE GIFT monies are to be sent to:

American Baptist Churches USA
 P. O. Box 8538-189
 Philadelphia PA 19171

Be sure to include a "Monthly Report of Mission Support Form" with your church PIN on it. These are available from the Region Office—just call Lil at **818-839-6074** her new office number.

Important Dates Coming Up



- Saturday, Sept. 10 **Regional Office Open House & Dedication Service**, 10 am
 209 N. Louise St., Glendale
- Sunday, Sept. 11 **9/11 Remembrance Service—a Decade Later**, 5:30 pm
 First Baptist Church, 209 N. Louise St., Glendale
- Saturday, Oct. 8 **ABWM Retreat**, First Baptist Church, 1010 W. 17th S., Santa Ana, 8:30-3:00
- Thursday, Nov. 24 **Thanksgiving**—"Praise God from Whom ALL Blessings Flow!"
- Tuesday, Dec. 6 **Christmas Festival**—First Baptist Church, 209 N. Louise St., Glendale, 11 am

Volume 2011, No. 3

WOMEN ON THE EDGE



American Baptist Women's Ministries

of Los Angeles and the American Baptist Congregations of the Southwest and Hawaii

"Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, 'Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?' declares the LORD. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.' Jeremiah 18:5-6 (Entire Theme Scripture Jer.18-1-6)

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Vi Wiant ~ vmwiant@verizon.net



2011 Biennial Meeting – ABC-USA - San Juan, Puerto Rico – June 24-26
 National Women's Conference - Green Lake Conference Center - July 16-22

I was privileged to represent you at the Biennial Meeting of the ABC-USA in San Juan, Puerto Rico this past June. The meetings were held in the beautiful Puerto Rico Convention Center with the theme "Uplifted by the Potter's Hand" – *"Like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand."* Jeremiah 18:6b. The Biennial was three days packed full of singing, worship and business. Statements of Concern on Immigration Reform, The Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Holy Manners: Civil Discourse & Spiritual Discernment & Envisioning our Churches in the 21st Century were approved as well as the new ABC-USA bylaws. One of the highlights of the Biennial for me was the spirit of the delegates – everything was done without rancor and in a way that honored our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Women's Day program featured lively singing in both Spanish and English. The Bible Study on Luke 13:10-13 was presented by Rev. Yamina Apolaris, Executive Director of Corporación Milagros del Amor – a Christian Center established by the First Baptist Church of Caguas, Puerto Rico. In September 2010, AB Women's Ministries awarded a Break the Chains grant to the Christian Center for its new "Metamorphosis" ministry to immigrant women and their children. Rev. Apolaris is a powerful preacher and inspired the women with her message - "Touched, Lifted Up, and Freed". Lois Chiles, Campaign

Chairperson for the 60th Anniversary Endowment Fund, announced that over \$178,000 was raised. Gifts are still being received so if you haven't contributed it's not too late! Following lunch, the AB GIRLS of Puerto Rico put on an amazing program of music and dance. Several hundred women from Puerto Rico and the mainland joined together in worship and praise. Planning has already begun for our next Women's Day to be held in Overland Park, Kansas – June 21, 2013!

I attended the National Board meeting in Milwaukee, WI from June 12-16 where our days (and evenings) were spent doing the business of AB Women's Ministries. One of the highlights was the adoption of a new Mission Statement. Many of us felt it was time to rethink the statement that identified our mission more clearly. **Here is the newly adopted statement: "American Baptist Women's Ministries is Christ-centered, committed to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God."** Associations, Regions or local groups may adopt this mission statement or continue with the one we have used for a number of years.

The National Women's Conference at the Green Lake Conference Center (July 16-22) was a real blessing. The Rev. Karen Yee led us each morning in our Bible study focused on our theme scripture Jeremiah 18:1-6. Karen recently completed 15 years as associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Alameda,

CA. Our music and worship leader Hornrette Washington is a popular worship leader at regional and national gatherings. The Rainbow Acres Rancher Choir blessed us with a musical concert on Sunday evening. Missionaries Bill and Ann Clemmer as well as Jill and Mike Lowery spoke on Tuesday evening when our emphasis was on International Ministries. Workshops and seminars were held every day with many opportunities to learn and grow in our faith. A highlight of the conference was a celebration of Virginia Holmstrom's completion of 10 years as the Executive Director of AB Women's Ministries. We are certainly blessed to have Virginia as our Executive and we are thankful that she is now on the National Executive Council along with the other executives of our national boards.

Start planning now to attend the 2012 National Women's Conference to be held July 21-27, 2012 at the Millennium Maxwell House Nashville in Nashville, Tennessee. Come and be a part of a conference at a lovely hotel/conference center facility in a new location! You won't want to miss it! Early in 2012, watch for information about the events on our website at www.abwministries.org.

I'll look forward to seeing you all at our annual retreat on October 9th at the First Baptist Church in Santa Anna. See all the details on page 3 or check out our website www.abcla.org.

God bless each one as we continue to be sheltered "in the Potter's Hands".



Peggy Henry ~ henry-peggy@sbcglobal.net

Well the numbers are in for 2010-2011 and the report has been sent on to Valley Forge. They are not complete because only 11 churches reported. This includes 136 women, 6 men and 2 girls. The value of the Overland items sent totaled \$2223.00 and the Overseas money sent via the Purchase Plan totaled \$1304.50. The Overseas Purchase Plan request for our area remains the same at \$12,000.00 - so the reported amount is far from what is needed and requested. The money goes to China, India and Myanmar this year.

There are 11 churches that still roll bandages - we are asked to do about 1000 each year. This coming year they are to be 3" by 5 yards.

Thank you to all who keep on rolling!

Overland items (or you can send money or gift cards) go to Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS this year. They are celebrating 100 years of ministry

serving people in need from kindergarten age to adults.

The 2011-2012 requests have been sent out to 2 associations (LA Valley and LA South) and if your church is in one of those, you will get your request from your association coordinator. Otherwise you will receive the request from me - they are in the mail!

White Cross money always goes to Valley Forge and must be accompanied by a White Cross payment form (1/2 page form with white and yellow page - send both) with the proper line or lines filed in. Note that it now takes 70 cents per pound to send items on to the Congo.

Items for the Congo go to New Windsor, Maryland but money goes to Valley Forge.

If you don't get a White Cross request and would like to be blessed by this wonderful program - let me know, you can help the missionaries here at home and in the Congo and the Philippines too.

Associate for AB GIRLS



Ruth Duarte ~ ruthduarte84@yahoo.com



On July 8, 9 & 10, 2011 AB Girls joined with Hispanic girls Union de Ninas y Senioritas and had a wonderful retreat at Murietta Hot Springs. Theme was "She has done

all she could" John 12:3. Girls made tote bags with the theme and decorated them on Friday night. A skit was done to break the ice with the girls as well. On Saturday Norma Juarez did a workshop for girls 12-18 and I took 6-11 year old girls. We taught the girls they are a fragrance onto the Lord and not to let anything destroy the beauty within us. Then we decorated the room like a beautiful garden and made colorful flower pots and planted a seed in enriched soil and the elements that go with it to make it grow. We explained how God, Church, Prayer, the Word are OUR elements to help us grow as Christian young ladies. Over all it was a Huge Blessing to see returning girls growing in the faith

and watching them Love the Lord with all their Hearts and Souls and give it back to the Lord as a fragrance onto Him.



In August, AB Girls sang for Hispanic Women's Day in Lynwood with a craft ready for them to do afterwards. They enjoyed the delicious lunch and ice cream too. Green t-shirts were given to them from their funds that said "John 12:3 She has done all she could."

Ruth Duarte would love to have the opportunity to promote **AB Girls** around the ABCLA/ABCOSH Region.

If you have a Fall Rally coming up or your regular ABWM meeting, Ruth is ready and willing to come to your meeting and let you know what's happening with AB Girls. Contact her at ruthduarte84@yahoo.com

In order to provide you with a Registration Form that will be blank on the other side, we have placed it on the back of the address page of the newsletter. Please see details of Retreat below.

Registration Form - Please Print Information & Be Sure to Include Church Name

Full Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ ABCLA _____ ABCOSH _____

Registration Cost: \$40 per person (Includes Lunch) Registration Deadline: Sat... October 1, 2011

Please send this form along with a check payable to

ABW Ministries, ABCLA/ABCOSH to:

Mrs. Dorothy Sease, Registrar, 827 Alden Court, Redlands, 92373

Telephone: 909-792-1401

You may also register on line at www.abcla.org—see Retreat article on ABW Ministries page.

Coordinator of Personal Development/Events

Susan Hernandez - hernande_susan@yahoo.com

ABWM FALL RETREAT ~ Our theme this year is Heroines Journey!

Saturday, October 8 - Registration - 8:30 am; closing time - 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Santa Ana, 1010 W. 17th Street

Here we are with more than half the year already past. It has been a busy year so why not take time to do something to inspire and refresh yourself? Come and join us October 8, at FBC Santa Ana, I can promise you a time of inspiration, refreshment, fellowship, and fun at our annual **WOMEN'S RETREAT**.

We are privileged to have two women from our local area as speakers this year. **Lesley Walpus**, the Director of Women's Ministries at Hillside Community Church in Rancho Cucamonga, will lead our Bible Study. You may remember Leslie led the Bible Study at our 2008 Retreat (and she is Dorothy Sease's daughter). The ABWM 2011-12 Geographic Theme is South Africa



and we are so fortunate to have **Diane Irvin**, a member of First Baptist Church in Redlands who went on the **2011 Mission Encounter to Africa**, come to share her experiences with us.

You will be surprised at how in one short day, you can feel the presence of God so strongly in the middle of a busy city. See the registration form above or register on our region website. Cost: \$40 per person; Deadline: Oct. 1.

Don't forget: August we are studying the book of Deuteronomy; September we are studying the book of Amos; and the Baptist Day of Prayer is around the corner, the first Monday in November.

See you in Santa Ana, October 8th!

Our Geographical Study for 2011-12 is South Africa

There is a free study guide available from Judson Press—call them at 1-800-JUDSON or 1-800-458-3766 and request the Global Mission Study Guide: Footsteps in South Africa. Two of our region women went on the Mission Encounter to South Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo. Linda Lucas—member of First Baptist, Woodland Hills (909-621-4351) and Diane Irvin—member of First Baptist, Redlands (909-792-4627). Either of these women would be delighted to come to your women's group, circle, or association meeting. Give them a call!