

'RIPPLES

SPRING, 2007

A publication of

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN
of the

GREAT RIVERS REGION

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

**NOTICE: Please copy and share this information with
the women of your church.**

“RIPPLES”

PLEASE NOTE:

We are attempting to be good stewards of our resources. Therefore, we will no longer be sending the “**Ripples**” out via U. S. Mail. If you know of someone who does not have computer access, please print a copy and share with them.

Your help will be appreciated.

To submit an e-mail address to be added to the list:
Please reply to: rose.dunn@worldnet.att.net

Other information may be obtained from the GRR/ABW Ministries website:

Go to GRR Website (www.abc-grr.org) and click on the link to Women’s Ministries.

Some of you wanted the address for Kihomi. I took this off our GRR Women's Ministry website.

This is an example where info is readily available if you need it right away. Just check the website!!

If you are sending a package to Kihomi, address it to Kihomi Nzunga AGAPE FLIGHTS 100 Airport Avenue Venice, FL 34285

IF you are sending money to pay for the cost of getting the package to Haiti send the money this way AGAPE FLIGHTS Kihomi Nzunga CAP10266 100 Airport Avenue Venice FL 34285 This will assure the money being credited to the Nzunga's account.

As you know, they have to pay Agape Flights for each package by weight and for each letter as well. the suggested donation to Agape Flights is **\$3.00 a pound** . This will help Agape in their ministry as well as pay the amount the Nzungas have agreed to pay. **ANY** amount is valued, appreciated and put to good use.

A Word from the President:



My family would say, “When did you ever just say a word?” And they are probably correct. But there is so much for which to praise God!

Right now I am praising God for all the glorious ways in which we see God’s hand at work here in Great Rivers Region.

- **The wonderful response to the needs at Murrow Children’s Home. But we have to continue to remember them in prayer and with our gifts.**
- **The wonderful response to meeting the deficit within our women’s ministries here in Great Rivers Region.**
- **The opportunity to meet challenges that sometimes push us to learn more about relying on our Lord and to adapt to meeting the new needs that we see around us.**
- **The opportunity to do “something different” for our Women’s Breakfast at the October Convention – keep tuned.**
- **The learning we will do as we meet the challenge of our new project for the next two years – Break the Chains – in which our gifts will go to help the victims of human trafficking both here in the United States and around the world.**
- **The privilege of having Missionary Bill Clemmer with us at the conference in June at Lake Williamson. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear and talk to a man uniquely called by God and uniquely used by God in the Congo.**
- **The opportunities to fellowship, learn and be blessed at our conference in June.**
- **The opportunity to learn about Children in Poverty and see what this means in our communities as we explore this domestic missions theme.**
- **The great service Dr. Cheryl Henson is doing for us in keeping our website up to date. If you want to know some basic information about Special Interest Missionaries, important dates, conference information, student aid application forms, Ripples, etc., they are all there for you at the click of a mouse!**

We are so blessed. But being blessed we must bless others. I am sure if I spoke to each of you, I would be astounded at the ways God is using you to be a blessing. If your women are doing something special that God has led you to, email me or write me. We will celebrate it and share the information with others so we can all benefit.

During this pre-Easter time as we journey with Jesus looking towards the cross, we look inward to see ways in which we need to have mind and heart changes. We also look forward to once again celebrating the resurrection! It is because of the Resurrection empowerment that any small thing we do can have a global impact.



So let’s

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- **Keep working on White Cross needs**
- **Keep those school kits coming. Church World Service has sent out an urgent request since their supply is almost exhausted. The requests for school kits this year have already exceeded the requests from all of last year.**
- **Read about human trafficking and pray for our missionaries that are deeply involved in assisting women and girls caught in this devastation.**
- **Think about what you and the women of your church can do for needy children in your community – physically and spiritually.**
- **Look to Jesus and listen to his challenge to you as an individual to be his hands and feet in your little corner of His kingdom.**



Let everyone see you are Wild about Jesus!

Ruth

**Ripples Article
 Personal Development Coordinator
 Hilda Smith
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 Dixon, IL 61021
 1-815-284-6156**

I don't know about you but I, for one, am ready for Spring. Spring. It is my favorite time of the year. If you know anything about me, you know that I love to be in my garden, planting flowers, picking vegetables and, yes, even mowing the grass. We are also experiencing the Lenten season when we think about the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. We can celebrate this because we "know the rest of the story". We know that the cross was not the end. We know about Easter. Without Easter Lent and the crucifixion would have no meaning. Jesus loved us so much that he left his heavenly home and came here to die for us sinful creatures. What an awesome thought!!!! Who would not celebrate such Love? Think about this Love as you start your garden this year. If you do not garden, think about it when you see the tulips, daffodils, crocus and lilacs in bloom around your neighborhood. Think about the beautiful sights and fragrances and know that Jesus is far more beautiful and wonderful. Happy Easter!

**TREASURER
 Sharon Wear
 13214 Copper Kettle Court**

Saint Louis, Missouri 63146
(314) 878-8287

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all who increased support for the region to help eliminate the deficit! It is amazing how generous American Baptist women are when they know of a need. It seems everyone needs help.

Now, the region board has suggested that we, as a region, give \$4,000 for National Support. The National goal of \$200,000 is needed to be able to carry forward with our work as American Baptist Women's Ministries. The number of active women's groups is declining, but expenses carry on. That means that each church needs to increase giving for National support.

A way to help support our work is to become a Vital Partner. Just \$10 per month would be a great help. Great Rivers Region already has 16 partners. We could, or should at least, double that number. Send a check to AB Women's Ministries, PO Box 851, Valley Forge PA, 19482-0851. Include a note that you want to be included as a Vital Partner to help support our work.

Also, Please be generous with your contribution to the Special Project, the camps of the Region. The money will be divided equally between all three camps. The Lake Benton money will be set aside for scholarships or mileage as determined by the Springfield office.

Again I say thank you for all you do to help support our mission. But, we must remember that God is good to all of us.

This is my last Ripples article as Treasurer. Doris Kaisner has been nominated for the new term. I thoroughly enjoy working where I can be of help. God is so Good!

ATTENTION: THIS JUST IN CONCERNING OUR PROJECT:

At GRR Board meeting we decided how the money for Lake Benton will be used.

The money that was to go to Lake Benton Camp will go to the Region to be used in the expense of closing the camp and toward scholarships to campers in Area 4 and 5.)

I hope this does not cause you too many problems. Thanks for your help.

CONFERENCE - JUNE 8-10, 2007

Rise to new heights with us on JUNE 8-10th, 2007, at the AB Women's Conference , Lake Williamson Conference Center, Carlinville, IL!!

You are invited, no URGED to 'TAKE A RIDE ON THE WILD SIDE...AND HE WILL LIFT YOU UP!'

This is our last year to explore our Nat'l. theme: Born Again...to be WILD about Jesus! So wear your wildest animal print togs (they are right in style!) and come prepared to be air-lifted into an amazing ride, as we hear

from Dr. Bill Clemmer about mission work in the Congo; from Rev. Muriel Johnson about letting the Holy Spirit direct our daily lives; from Carol Garver and Janet Bailey with inspiring morning devotions; from

workshop leaders with a great variety of talents such as:

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES (but were afraid to ask)

Facilitator: Pres. Ruth Peterson

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (ABW EMPHASIS for 2007-2009)

Facilitators: Ina Mae Fakoury and Marilyn Oaks

CONCERNS in the CONGO - DR. BILL CLEMMER (Congo is our Internat'l. theme this year)

CHILDREN IN POVERTY - Facilitator Joan Criswell (This is our Nat'l theme this year)

'A TISKET-A-TASKET, WHAT'S IN YOUR PRETTY BASKET?' (CRAFTY!) Facilitator: Carol Garver

MAKING AN ABW MINISTRIES LOGO DOLL (Cost: \$9.00 for doll and materials)

Facilitator: Sharon Farral

HANDS-ON WHITE CROSS -Roller bandages for Congo. Facilitator: Mildred Shelton

This is just a tiny taste of the fare you'll ingest at ABW Ministries Conference, JUNE 8-

10th!! Throw in a dramatic presentation,lively music, Ice Cream Social, tasty meals,

GREAT fellowship, Resource Store, Swimming Pool, Paddle Boats, Games---Oh MY!! ALL

FOR \$135.00!!

The Conference Brochure will give you specifics on what items to bring for the Congo and Murrow Indian

Chirdren's Home. Get them at your Area Meeting, church, or from the enthusiastic and excited Conference

Chairs, and sign on for the Ride of your Life!!!!

NANCY DAVISON, FRAN GREENFIELD, MARILYN OAKS

Plan now to attend conference and bring a friend!

It should be a great time to be “*Wild about Jesus*”

What Great Rivers Region women are doing locally

Here are some of the activities that might be considered Church and Community activities reported by our GRR women that they had done last year. Here you can see some of the Baptist women's work that goes on with little fanfare in the name of Jesus. This list of works was included in the reports sent to our President from women's groups telling how they were measuring up as an AB Women's Ministries ~

- ◆ Springfield MO University Heights Church sponsored Parent's Night Out, offering to baby-sit in the home or have the parents bring the children to the church where they were fed and entertained.
- ◆ Another group had an afternoon meeting and after pairing up, called on all the nursing home residents of the church to give them a "care" package and brief visit. All then returned to the church for refreshments and a report on each person visited. They drew names to send a card monthly to that person and keep in touch.
- ◆ One church had a Saturday morning brunch for all women in the church, inviting a neighboring church as well and focused on the topic "Pain Management" with a scriptural text of "Who Touched ME?"
- ◆ Several churches have started scrapbooking groups inviting friends and neighbors to join in.
- ◆ Many delivered meals on wheels or some such program for shut-ins.
- ◆ Several gave school supply packets and/or backpacks to needy children along with mentoring and "buddy reading" at local elementary schools.
- ◆ Others gave mittens and hats to the schools.
- ◆ Many sewed quilts, cancer caps, layettes, lap quilts and knit new-born caps and sweaters.
- ◆ Another church provided quilts and pillows for fire victims. Local charities included homeless shelters, Ronald McDonald House, American Red Cross, facilities for the handicapped, children's homes, nursing homes, needy families, local missions, local hospice, and many others.

Did you see an idea that would work for your group?

Mission and Service Coordinator March 2007

Did you know when Christ prayed for us, believers, His prayer was that we would be missionaries!

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message...May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me

–John 17:20-21

We have the privilege and the responsibility of telling the world about Jesus. We witness in our own life setting. And we send and support those who have left the comforts we enjoy to serve Christ.

In October we had the privilege of hearing our SIM Dr. Kristina Gutierrez, missionary to Nicaragua, spoke at our Women's Breakfast in Chesterfield, MO. She spoke at my home church, also. We were so blessed.

I shared the work of Christ in our Arizona Missions at the Area 1 Fall Gathering. In April I will be traveling to Benton, IL, to speak. Please invite me to speak to your group about mission for Christ in Arizona or Alaska.

The GRR Mission Conference in January was at the new Cherry Hills Baptist building. NM leader Victoria Goff shared a workshop on the Baptist Blitz to build 12 homes in 12 days in the area devastated by Katrina. This will happen April 23-May 5. Dr. Laura Parajon told of her work with children in Nicaragua. Because of unclean water about 1.4 million children have worm, parasites. This can be cured, prevented, by giving children a pill twice a year. The total cost per child is five cents. Here is a good children's or VBS project.

Many of you have helped supply food, school supplies and money for our Murrow Indian Children's Home. Your generosity is much appreciated. This will be an ongoing need.

If you have not become involved with a Missionary Partnership Network please pick a missionary, or more than one, and contact that missionary to partner with them.

Gifts of the Heart School Kids are urgently needed because of the many disasters world wide.

Reminder: Campbell's Soup products save the UPC code along with the logo (kidc or pencil) beside the UPC code.

Love and prayers,

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COORDINATOR OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

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Our copy of the ABC-USA 2007 Biennial book arrived with such an abundance of information. If you have a copy, the following information will be a repeat but for others, I have copied from the National Ministries articles inviting all to join in transforming communities for children because I believe this aides us in our local goals and work plans for church and community.

The Children in Poverty initiative resources suggest that there are many ways to address the needs of children in poverty. " National Ministries' initial priority is public education and its role as the primary route for most children – especially children of poverty – into full participation in the economic, political and community life of our society. The quality of a child's education is pivotal to all other aspects of a child's life and future. One of the best things we can do to help children grow in wisdom and stature is to provide them a quality education. Sadly, that is not now happening. Too often schools serving those most affected by poverty offer the least to their students. There is much that we American Baptists can do to address present inequities in the quality of education – from partnering with local schools to becoming engaged in advocacy with those who shape education policy, from school board members, to state legislators, to members of Congress."

What are the needs in your community?

"Children living in poverty have many needs. You may already be providing services. That's great ! You are encouraged to look at the schools in your community as a key factor in lifting people out of poverty. A good education is the single best predicator of moving out of poverty. A good education is also every child's birthright. By raising concern for good schools for all children, a major effect will be realized for all – but especially those affected by poverty."

In a recent news spot on national television, the reporter highlighted how educational opportunities or restricted opportunities were enhancing or hindering the progress of three different children each a different age. Since these children were all children of poverty, their daily life experience in the home and recreation part of their day profoundly altered their educational efforts. But the one intervention in each one's life was having one other older person take an active interest in their progress by providing mentoring, a listening and caring friendship, opportunities for broadening life experiences all of which assist in providing a "worth fulfilling" relationship.

"We know that children are poor because the family systems in which they live are poor. We don't want just to alleviate the problems associated with children living in poverty; we want to obliterate the root causes of poverty." American Baptist Women's Ministries is providing resources to help us broaden our understanding of ways that we can engage in changing those things that hold precious children back.

WHITECROSS

3/08/2007

The time is the present. The future will reap the benefits from the Good we do today. Our commitment to follow His commandments and teachings is truly a BLESSING, to those who are hungry, homeless, those in need of medical help, and clean healthy water to drink, and those in need of what we can do to help ease the pain of poverty. Jesus promised salvation to all who obey and give help to the least of the Kingdom.

Through our prayers we find courage and strength to do our very best in Mission and White Cross service and work. May we continue to take up the Cross and follow Him. The Greatest of commandments tell us to Love God and our neighbors(includes the world as our neighbor). The Church World Service needs School Kits, and Baby Kits, The hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo need more Roller Bandages to mention a few of the vast number of needs in this troubled world. Habitat for Humanity still need American Baptist and others to help in Hurricane Recovery Blitz Build 4/22 to May 5, 2007. Contact Victoria Goff, National Ministries Victoria.goff@abc-usa.org; PHONE: 800-ABC-3USA x2449 for more information.

Thank you for all you do and for giving your best in the service of Christ who gave His all for us.

Yours in Christ,
Mildred Shelton, GRR White Cross Associate

ewshelton@centurytel.net
#636-561-4392

Ruth Peterson checked with Chris Marziale in Valley Forge and she said we could send small items to the Congo. White Cross has an agreement with the Brethren Service Center and they will mail thing into the Congo for us. The additional cost is \$2 per pound. Ruth suggested we shorten the list and send more of the lighter items . . . as well as ask people to donate toward the shipping cost.

Here is a revised list of items to bring to Conference:

For Congo

pencils, pencil sharpeners,
ball point pens, gum erasers
embroidery floss, yarn
thread, pins, needles,
patterns for crocheting, knitting or
counted cross stitch
cloth for counted cross stitch

Plus donations toward the
\$2.00 per pound shipping fee

For Murrow Children's Home

Paper Tableware
Toilet Paper
Bathing supplies:
towels, washcloths, soap, comb,
toothbrosh//paste
shampoo, deodorant
Bedding: twin sheets, pillow cases
Sports Balls
Baby Layettes and bath items
Story books for all ages
NIV Student Bible

Apologies to Dorothy Middleton:

Dorothy Middleton our Coordinator or Love Gift and Project Promotion sent me an article for the "Ripples." I copied it to my computer and thought it was in a nice safe place.

When I attempted to retrieve it, unfortunately, I could not find it. Consequently, the article she sent me is not included in this issue of "Ripples."

I know she wanted to remind us to keep giving to Love Gift and send the "L" and "G" dollars so we could support our missionaries. As you may know, giving to missions is not keeping up with inflation in many parts of the world and our missionaries need our support.

There are videos about the current project for our Camps available. Contact your Area Project Promotion person if you wish to view it.

Sorry for the mix-up. It is all my fault. Dorothy did her job.

Rose Marie Dunn