

“RIPPLES”

FALL, 2009

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.**

To submit an e-mail address to be added to the list: Please reply to:
abwgrr@yahoo.com

Other information may be obtained from the GRR/ABW Ministries website: Go to
GRR Website (www.abcgrr.org) and click on the link to Women's Ministries.

Hilda Smith, President's Report

By now I hope most of you know that our Special Project for this year is to raise funds for a 15 passenger van for Kodiak Baptist Mission. But what do you know about Kodiak Baptist Mission? I have been there three times as a Volunteer in Mission through National Ministries and I will give you a brief introduction to the place.

The Mission began as an orphanage many years ago. Eventually, the orphanage was converted into a Home for troubled youth. About 2/3 or more of their funding came from government grants and various other government money. This meant that they were not permitted to teach the children about God, their main reason for existing. In 1996, when Evan Jones (father of the current Director, Trevor Jones) was the Director, they made the decision to no longer accept any government money, trusting God to supply their needs. I was there during that bleak time when all the children were sent to Government sponsored institutions and only one paid staff was kept on the payroll. Several of the others were able to volunteer their time and others had to seek employment elsewhere. They stepped out in faith and God has blessed their effort. Today they are once again a Christ centered institution, their funding coming from churches and private donations.

They are not currently a residential home. Most of their work centers on prevention rather than intervention after youth are in trouble. The programs they provide are many and varied. They have a Christian Day Care and Pre School, an After School program where the children can come until their parents get home from work, and a very busy summer of "Camp type" activities. During the year, children from some of the outlying villages fly in for a week of Christian education. Why fly-in? Because there are only about 40 miles of paved roads on the Island of Kodiak and so they can only come by plane.

Other activities at Kodiak are a Sale House. This serves three purposes. 1. There is a Coast Guard base located on the Island and when the people there are transferred it is more cost effective to donate their items than to pay shipping to move it elsewhere. 2. Kodiak has numerous fish canneries staffed mainly by Filipinos. They purchase many of the items at the Sale House to take back to their families at home. 3. It gives the Mission another source of income. The Mission serves as the location for the Government food distribution. Everyone who qualifies for food is eligible to go to the Sale House and pick out a free outfit for everyone in the family.

They have a Currier and Ives Christmas early in the season with horse drawn sled and caroling. The entire community looks forward to this. This is also the time when they have their Bazaar of handmade items. (You are invited to send your handmade projects to them for this event). They have a horse program to teach responsibility to the children.

I have touched only on a few of the things about KBM. If you would like me to come to your meetings or gatherings, I would be happy to do so if we can work out a schedule. Please plan to give generously to the Special Project to purchase a much needed van for the Mission.

Hilda Smith, jhsmith@grics.net

Kodiak Baptist Mission



Serving Jesus Christ on Kodiak Island since 1893

Doris Kaisner, Treasurer's report

What a privilege to share with you.....

Offerings from Retreat at Carlinville:

Operating Fund - \$1,072.50
National Support - \$585.53
Student Aid - \$680.50
Project: Break the Chains - \$1,395.70
Love Gift - \$730.28

We had 125 in attendance. I encourage you to put \$ away for next year. Rooms are great. We have golf carts to run us around as needed. Devotions, Bible Study Leader, Missionary, Praise Team ... it is a blessing over and again...

GRR Break the Chains total for 2008-2009 = \$16,006.17

GRR Break the Chains total for 2007-2009 = \$32,796.51

At the National Conference we learned that the National Break the Chains total was over \$402,000 with more on way.

The 60th Anniversary Endowment Fund Campaign is under way. We have a National Goal of \$250,000. This time they have chosen a motto - "Envisioning...for God's Purpose. The timeframe for this campaign is June 2009 to July 2011. This gives us some time to work on this project. Every church will be contacted.

Doris Kaisner, doris186@verizon.net

***Marcia Wimmer and Carol Garver,
Coordinators of Conference***

BLESSINGS, BLESSINGS, BLESSINGS

God was in our midst at this year's Women's Retreat at Lake Williamson, in Carlinville.

We were blessed with wonderful Bible studies led by Henrietta Brown.

We made new friends and reunited with old friends in our Mug & Muffin Groups. We learned that we share many of the same needs, concerns, and desires as individual women and as church families.

We were uplifted through a wonderful blend of contemporary and traditional music and worship.

You helped raise \$654.00 for "Breaking The Chains" by shopping at the Second Hand Rose Shops featuring used Christian Books and Beautiful Loved Jewelry.

We were blessed by the presence of our Karen Sisters and you continue to bless Karen families with all the wonderful donations through your White Cross donations.

We were blessed by the presence and enthusiasm of the American Baptist Girls.

WOW – what beautiful weather the Lord blessed us with.

The HER stories touched our hearts and souls.

Thank you for blessing us with your prayers, encouragement, and attendance.

PRAY that you will be able to attend the 2010 Retreat, ENCOURAGE all women of your church to attend, PRAY that God will continue to be in the midst of our planning.

SOOOO!!!! SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 4, 5, & 6, 2010

LAKE WILLIAMSON CHRISTIAN CENTER

**Full Time (2 nights-4 meals) \$155.00, Part Time (1 night-3meals) \$100.00,
Saturday Only (includes lunch & dinner) \$50.00**

Carol Garver
artzycarol@sbcglobal.net
217-446-0995

Marcia Wimmer
salad49@comcast.net
217-877-4128

COORDINATORS OF WOMEN'S RETREAT

**Rebecca Davis,
Associate for Love Gift & Special Project**

Special Project Report: The AB Women in the Great Rivers Region participated in the national two-year special project "Break the Chains." This project was officially concluded at the Woman's Day celebration at the 2009 ABC Biennial in Pasadena, CA. As of that date, a total of \$402,234.94 had been received, way more than the \$250,000 goal. Funds will continue to be received and used in ministries around the world.

The total received in the GRR was \$16,800 (2008) & \$16,006.17 (2009) for a total of over \$32,000!!

Our region special project for 2009-2010 is to raise \$15,000 to purchase a “gently used” van for the Kodiak Community Center in Kodiak, Alaska. Trevor Jones & the staff there are very excited about the possibility of having a new vehicle!

Love Gift Report: Love Gift is an ongoing offering and continues to be an over-and-above fund for continued support of our missionaries and ministries around the world. For over 75 years, starting with nickels and dimes and now with “L & G” dollars, we give a little extra for the kingdom of God. However, the yearly amounts are dropping and dropped significantly between 2008 & 2009.

As of June 30, 2008, national receipts for Love Gift were \$324,658. For the period 6/30/08 to 6/30/09, national receipts were down to \$290,606. A drastic drop! The GRR totals for the same periods were: 2007-2008 \$20,350 and 2008-2009 \$16,302. This also shows a considerable drop. We received \$730.28 at our 2009 retreat in June.

Remember there are many ways to maintain and increase your Love Gift totals: dinners, salad luncheons, bake sales, rummage sales, handcraft/Christmas bazaars. Put out those Love Gift boxes at meetings and dinners asking for donations. Have a special Love Gift Sunday and take an offering for Love Gift. Encourage everyone, including your teens and young people, to keep Love Gift boxes and place money inside in thankfulness for blessings (like good grades on an unexpected test!). Love Gift should be over-and-above, not “if there’s anything left!”

Rebecca Davis, beautifulrebecca@charter.net

Sharon Farral, Assoc. for Student Aid

Sallie Peck – GRR/ABW Scholarships 2009-2010

In the spring of 2009 we had three of our scholarship recipients graduate. Ben Wakefield and Vince Godfrey graduated from Northern Seminary. Celeste Roos graduated from William Jewell College.

We are pleased to have five students this year. As American Baptist Women we have a part in helping prepare American Baptist students to take their places of Christian leadership. Please remember these young people in your prayers and occasionally send them a birthday card or words of encouragement. A McDonalds or Starbucks gift card would make a nice treat.

We are giving one student to each area in hopes they will be remembered in that way. However, if you care to encourage all five, or if you know one of these students personally, please let them know you are thinking about them.

Area 1 **Melissa Vivian** **Birthday: 2-15-89**
Judson University CPO 233
1151 North State Street
Elgin, IL 60123
1mvivian@student.judsonu.edu

Area 2 **Megan Redden** **Birthday: 10-13-88**
Ottawa University Box 750
1001 South Cedar Street
Ottawa, KA 6607-3399
larrythecuc@aol.com

Area 3 **Chelsea McDonald** **Birthday: 11-27-88**
Judson University CPO 569
1151 North State Street
Elgin, IL 60123
1cmcdonald@student.judsonu.edu

Area 4 **John Sasko** **Birthday: 1-19-91**
Judson University CPO 1013
1151 North State Street
Elgin, IL 60123
1jsasko@student.judsonu.edu

Area 5 **Matt Deball** **Birthday – 11-8-89**
Judson University CPO 106
1151 North State Street
Elgin, IL 60123
1mdeball@student.judsonu.edu

If you would like scholarship information please contact your area Student Aid Coordinator or

Sharon Farral, sharonwant2rv@netscape.com

Stephaney Smith, Assoc. for White Cross

White Cross request for 2009-2010 have been distributed. Area Associates for White Cross should be receiving the acceptances from their local church so they can determine if any requests need to be redistributed.

Overseas Purchase Plan cash requests and handwork requests this year will go to the Philippines and Republic of Congo. Overland recipients are Race Track Ministries in Columbus, Ohio, and Peoria Friendship House. Both overland recipients will accept monetary contributions or specified gift cards for materials. All request forms contain clear instructions for cash options, handwork specifications, and mailing.

Please consider getting your whole church involved. If an Area Associate for White Cross has difficulty getting your total allotments accepted or has requests for additional allotments, please contact me. My telephone number is 217/ 422-4712.

Benzena Barton, Coordinator for Missions and Service

The International Missionaries for the Great Rivers Region include

Revs. Gary and Mylinda Baits in Costa Rica

Scott and Tan Coats in Thailand

Revs. Nzuniga Mubudiga and Kihomi Ngwemi on assignment in Gilbert, AZ

Rev. Charles and Mrs. Ramona Shawver in Mexico

Benzena Barton, barton_zena@yahoo.com

Judy Allison, Coordinator of Church and Community

The statistics are staggering. Only 3 out of 10 twenty year olds, 4 of 10 in their thirties, and 5 of 10 in their plus forties attend church on a regular basis. Are we really letting people know how important they are when they come to church. Is it no wonder ABWM is having difficulty attracting the young women when there are so few of them?

According to the book titled HOW TO WIN THOSE UNDER FORTY WITHOUT LOSING THOSE OVER SIXTY by Hammet and Pierce, the older generation is going to have to start taking risks and doing some listening and changing in order to attract the younger generation.

Somehow the older generation has not convinced the younger generation that their faith is viable. What we need to do is find out more about them and not expect them to react the same way we do. WE NEED TO TAKE SOME RISKS AND GET OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE. That zone has been to stay in our “holy huddles” in the church and work and do God’s will within the confinements of our comfort zone. Where are our comfort zones? Staying in the same Sunday School Class for years, sitting in the same pew at church, listening to the same music, following the same worship rituals, etc. When did you last get out of your comfort zone at church? What young person are you mentoring in the faith? What young person have you talked with about your or their faith?

We need to 1) Find out where they experience God the most 2) What has been their most meaningful life experience 3) why? 4) what is missing in the church in their spiritual life? 5) what would make their faith more alive? 6) how can we make this happen for them? 7) who nurtures their faith life? And 8) what do they most remember about church—worship, Sunday School, Bible study, youth group, camp? How can we enrich their church experience?

According to the book, younger people want relationships, they will support individuals more than institutions, are more tolerant, work hard and play hard, have little time because both spouses work, fifty percent of marriages end in divorce, they buy now - pay later, and save little. Are these some areas that need attention and education? They are concerned about health and fitness, the death of the American Dream, the lack of financial security through job layoffs, lack of pensions, debt, struggling with how they will put their kids through college, taking care of aging parents and the list goes on. How are we meeting these needs in the church and in ABWM?

I hope I have touched on at least one area that you feel led by the spirit to work on in order to help our younger generations. With our new theme about PURPOSE we have come to realize that as we age our purposes change, but for the younger generation their purposes need to be identified and we need to help them fulfill their life's purpose. I pray that will be our goal this year.

Judy Allison, judykayallision@hotmail.com