VOLUME 77 NUMBER 2 OCTOBER 2026

CENTRAL CONNECTION

CONNECTING WITH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF THE CENTRAL REGION

Season of Change

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1



October….where has the summer gone? The date when Fall begins has passed and we are officially in the Fall season of the year. Fall is a season of change. The leaves turn, the air cools, and the days shorten. For many women, this time of year brings both reflection and renewal. It's a moment to pause and consider what God has been doing in our lives. As we embrace this season, we also embrace the opportunity to grow closer to Him.

In fall, the world around us transforms. Change can be unsettling, but it's also part of God's plan. Just as nature changes with the seasons, so do we. Embracing change means trusting that God has a purpose in every change – whether big or small. It can be difficult to accept change, especially when it's unexpected or uncomfortable. But, when we trust in God's timing, we see that every season has its purpose. Autumn is a reminder that we don't have to hold on to the past. Letting go of old things allows room for new growth. Whether it's a change in our personal lives or spiritual growth, change brings opportunity. Trust that God is using the season to shape you.

Central Region ABWomen's Ministries is changing too. Here are a few things that have been or will be changing this year in our focus, consolidation, and cost-cutting attempts.

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Season of Change Continued...

- The ABW Central Region Board will not have a position called "Corresponding Secretary." It was decided that most of the responsibilities assigned to that position could be merged into others. Instead of a Corresponding Secretary, we have chosen to have an appointed Directory Associate. That person will be responsible for collecting and distributing information for our Directory.

- The Directory will not be printed but only electronically managed. If you want a copy, contact your Association President or Janet Crowl, the Directory Associate or me and we can send you a digital copy. If you want to print, then it would be your choice.

- Central Region ABGIRLS Ministry is changing from G.I.R.L.S in Relationship. Leadership. Service to Ladies & Girls to Go Into Relationships. Love. Serve. We will do this in three steps: Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ. Using the gifts God has equipped us with, we will reach out to those around us…pick up groceries, bake something, be available to help in the hopes of blessing a girl or young mother. You too will be blessed in your endeavors. If you need additional information, contact Kami Minor, the ABGIRLS Coordinator.

- 2027 Spring Missionary Tour is also changing from Global Servants traveling church to church, to this spring on April 10 at 10:00 AM and April 20 at 7:00 PM Central time, a Zoom connection will bring Global Servants, Eric and Yuree Lembke into our homes/churches for a conversation about their ministry and how we as Central Region can be of help to them. Mark your calendar now. A Zoom link will be shared as we get closer to the dates.

Prayer: God, we thank you for the changing seasons. Help us to embrace the changes in our life and ministries and to trust in Your plans. When change feels difficult, remind us of your constant love and faithfulness. We place all our worries and uncertainties in Your hands, knowing that you are working all things for good. Thank you for being our strength in every season.
Blessings to each of you!

Lois Chiles, President
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Special * Project

A Prayer: Rejoice in the Lord Always! Again, I say Rejoice! For this is October 2026 beautiful "Fall" season and the earth and everything in it is Yours, O Lord! The harvest is bountiful, but the workers are few. All creation labors and not all people in the world recognize Your precious Gospel. Bless the efforts of the American Baptist Church Women's Ministry Focus of "Building God's Community." We are serving in Christian partnerships with International Ministries Global Servants, and Special Interest Missionaries—Home Missionaries, in our land and around the world. May we encounter open doors and hearts as our integrated ministry relationships, share the joys of the world's Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in our called fields. Allow our ministry and mission work to bear the fruit of more disciples for Jesus' healing of people and the land. "For we are co-workers, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). With confidence, we can build God's community together, with His wisdom and guidance, as co-workers in communities that reflects Heaven on earth. Let us rejoice and build together for God's glory. In Jesus' name. Amen!

With great consideration, we acknowledge and appreciate Paula Rhodes, 2025-2026 ABWM Special Project Associate, for her leadership abilities and remarkable job of keeping us informed and spiritually invigorated this past year. Also, the Central Region AB Women's Ministries Special Project 2026-2027 (Information and Project Flyer) is officially accessible on our website (www.abwmcr.org). Thank you to our Webmaster Jessica for her talented expertise and creative effort for your enjoyable online viewing experience. We are forward-moving into the second month of the "Project Year!" Therefore, please be in prayerful support for the Global Servants and all who will be blessed. Set a goal for "Project Giving" for your church. Please plan ways now to promote and receive monthly donations to accomplish your financial goal before August 31, 2027.

***Please Mail Your Special Project Donation Checks to:**
Vonda Breicheisen (ABWMCR Treasurer)
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2026–2027 * ABWM Central Region GOAL * $30,000

(Any overage will be divided equally to each Project)

$16,000 to Thailand Cleft Palate Reconstruction Mission Project Goal - To connect children from the Mekong Region of Burma (Myanmar) with life-changing surgical care that would otherwise be difficult or impossible for their families to access (Psalm 139:14). With the help of local partners and medical networks, children are being given an opportunity for healing and a better quality of life through specialized medical care in Thailand. (IM) Global Servants, Kyle and Katrina Williams, work alongside with (IM) Global Partners to share the Good News with unreached and underserved populations. *For Ministry Journals and more information: www.internationalministries.org/author/kk-williams/

$14,000 to Aaron and Amy Estelle Trout Ministry Project Goal - To purchase a safe Mitsubishi L300 Utility Vehicle for day-to-day operation of "Tatay's Farm" for their work in the Philippines (2 Corinthians 9:8). They are sharing the Good News through education, health care, nutrition, and discipleship. Weekly Bible Class attendance averages 100 students and most are from the least reached people groups. They have traveled numerous miles on rough terrain for ministry efforts to transport lots of people, supplies, and food from their Tatay's Farm. Therefore, help is desperately needed to purchase a new vehicle for their continuous (IM) Global Servants Ministry and Mission work. *For Ministry Journals and more information: www.internationalministries.org/author/trout/

Our God is indeed a great God and apart from Him, we can do nothing! Jesus said: "We did not choose Him; rather, He chose us to bear much fruit in this world." The Global Servants are thankful to God for their work and our faithful partnership and prayers. As we serve as the hands and feet of Christ here on earth, our help comes from Almighty God for us to boldly acknowledge His goodness in the life of ABCCR—ABWMCR for becoming and "Building God's Beloved Community." Praise God!!!



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From the desk of the C & C Coordinator

UPDATED: Before we dive into the article, I am adding exciting news from one of our scholarship recipients: Parker and Tyra Henson received their gift wrapped up in a baby boy package named Thomas September 15th!

October is one of my favorite months. No more 100+ degrees weather. The colors are amazing as the sweaters come out and pumpkin and spices are in the air. Literally. Candles, soaps, coffee, cookies, pies. All the senses enjoy Fall. But it is also a season that people enjoy getting scared. People decorate their houses for Halloween more than they do for the 250th anniversary of our great nation! I mean…really?!!
But it isn't the scary sounds and sights of this season that scares me the most. The most terrifying element of our society today is something called AI.

He pioneered the technology that powers modern AI, and now he is sounding the alarm. Geoffrey Hinton, often called the "Godfather of AI," who is actually one of two "godfathers" explains why artificial intelligence is accelerating out of control, why governments and companies cannot slow it down, and what the rise of superintelligence means for jobs, inequality, and the future of humanity. Hinton reveals why AI may replace nearly all forms of intellectual work, how it could surpass human intelligence within decades, and why digital systems already have advantages humans can never match. He also warns of the risks to democracy, the dangers of wealth inequality, and the haunting possibility that AI could one day decide it no longer needs us." ~Steven Bartlett And yes, ChatGPT is AI.

Yoshua Bengio — the world's most-cited computer scientist and a "godfather" of artificial intelligence — is deadly concerned about the current trajectory of the technology. As AI models race toward full-blown agency, Bengio warns that they've already learned to deceive, cheat, self-preserve and slip out of our control. Drawing on his groundbreaking research, he reveals a bold plan to keep AI safe and ensure that human flourishing, not machines with unchecked power and autonomy, defines our future. (Recorded at TED2025 on April 8, 2025) This involves massively slowing down producing agentic AI, an AI that can think on its own, to pouring efforts into research to produce more "scientific AI", one that focuses on the good of society.



From the desk of the C & C Coordinator Continued

Right now we still have agency. Most risks are focused on fear. We still have love. We can all get engaged to steer our societies in a safe pathway in which the joys and endeavors of our children will be protected. One area of protection that we must inform ourselves, especially seniors, are AI generated scams. Microsoft reported last year that it took down nearly 500 malicious web domains last year and stopped approximately 1.6 MILLION bot signup attempts every HOUR! (CBS News 8/2025)

How to protect yourself from AI generated online scams:

- Really pause before making that online purchase. For one, don't make that purchase if you are Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired. (HALT) It's more likely to be an emotional purchase anyway.
- Websites highlighting a limited stock or items that are almost gone are likely a scam.
- Look for typo's, especially in the website's URL.
- If you are shopping on a social media site, close out and try to go to the site independently.
- Check the reviews. If all of the reviews are 5 star and glowing language, that is usually something fishy going on.
- Use a separate credit card than you use for anything else but online purchases. I have had my number to my debit card remotely stolen, as in I still had the card in my hand, twice in the last year and I have learned how very easily your numbers can be phished. If your card is a credit card, not connected to your bank account, it can have fraud detection built in and you can easily dispute the purchase.

After all of this, make sure that you pass on these items to your children and grandchildren. At the end of the day be wise, and remember Whose you are!

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you: I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

~ Isaiah 41:10

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Bible Book of the Month

Several years ago, our theme focused on the first words found in the opening of Joshua. As you read the book of Joshua this month, there is something I would like us to consider. When the Lord called Joshua, it wasn't exactly the most favorable of circumstances. His friend and mentor had just died and all of those who came into the wilderness four decades ago were no longer with him. I am sure that he felt very alone and isolated.

Yet, he was not. There was one other person who completely understood what he was going through, Caleb. They had bonded over a spy mission into the Promised Land, they both remembered life before YHWH's deliverance and they both knew loss. While we are not given access to his feelings, I am sure there were many moments he gave thanks that he didn't have to face this calling by himself.

Dear sisters, may we find hope and comfort in the knowledge that the God of Joshua and Caleb is still the same God today. He still has created us for relationship, and it is of His design and purpose that we don't have to go through challenging times alone. Hold on to that, plant that in your heart, and give God the glory for this unwavering truth.



Love Gift

1932. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. Radio City Music Hall opened. The Dust Bowl took root and American Baptist Women responded to a financial shortage by creating the Love Gift. From the first coin given to the creation of the cardboard Love Gift box, until this very day, AB Women of the Central Region have given over 3.8 million dollars since 1937.

We have the opportunity once again to continue the legacy as we look to meet this year's Love Gift goal of $25,000. There are many creative and fun ways to be a part of accomplishing this goal. One is to keep any dollar bills that have an "L" (love) or "G" (gift) on them. Another way is to invite your entire church to become involved through creative fundraisers.

As we look forward to how God will invite us to a continued partnership, let us pause and express gratitude for those who have come before us. They are a part of our story and the story of Love Gift. May we continue to remain faithful to the call and the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina. While this may be a new concept, it has been interwoven into various practices of the church for nearly eighteen centuries. Lectio is the Latin word for reading and Divina is the Latin word for divine or sacred. Essentially, it offers an intentional and more in-depth way to read Scripture. Instead of simply reading a passage, this ancient practice creates the opportunity for reader and text to be in dialogue with one another.

The approach is rather quite simple, yet it will require time and intentionality. There are basically four steps: Read (a Scripture passage), Reflect (on what you have read), Respond (what did you notice), Contemplate (sit in silence). As a caveat, I would invite you to explore various approaches and thoughts regarding this spiritual exercise of engaging with the Bible.

Each month we will be highlighting a specific book of the Bible. What a great opportunity to apply this practice as you engage and interact with the featured scripture. In doing so, perhaps consider keeping a journal to capture the thoughts, questions and observations that arise for diving a little deeper into the life-giving Word of God.

May the Author and Perfecter of our faith draw near to you as you draw near to him through the intentional interaction with His Word.

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