



# APRIL

Vol. 75 No.8

## Central Connection

Connecting with American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region

### Mona Huggins

Giving us the latest tea in AB Women's Ministries

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Psalms 96:11-12*

We had a wonderful winter board meeting on March 7-8 at Herington First Baptist! The Herington folks treated us well with plenty of hospitality and food! Rev. Callaway was able to provide the Saturday greetings from the church before we started. He said the church was excited to be able to host the Summer Conference.

Speaking of the Conference, plans are in the final stages! Martha Nelson, Conference Associate and Janet Crawl, Conference Intern have done a fabulous job working with the committee and getting plans set in motion. Please remember the date of the Conference is June 6-7. The guest speaker will be one of our very own Central Region Pastors, Rev. Jessica Henks! Please plan to make reservations soon as there is a special promotion for the early birds!

Conference registrations may be made one of two ways: online at [abwmcr.org](http://abwmcr.org) or by completing the form in this newsletter and sent to Lois Chiles, 201 Cottonwood Dr., Lansing, KS 66043. Be sure to indicate which workshops you wish to sign up for. Again, please become aware of the special promotion!

Editor, Jordan Fritz, shared that she sends out via email approximately 270 newsletters monthly and seven are printed and mailed by Rev. Janet Crowl, Associate Pastor of FBC Topeka. Thank you, Janet, for printing the newsletters for these seven individuals. If you are not receiving the Central Connection, please email Jordan at [jordyfritz5@gmail.com](mailto:jordyfritz5@gmail.com). She is more than willing to add you at any time.

Please contact Church and Community Associate, Rev. Sharon Ball-Robertson for a link to the Mary Gates Adkinson Scholarship application. Her email is [pastor.churchofhope@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.churchofhope@gmail.com)

If you have a young person in your church attending a Christian college or Seminary, in their Junior or Senior year, PLEASE let them know about this scholarship. Full-time students receive \$500 per semester and part-time students receive \$250 per semester. This application is time-sensitive! If there are no applicants that attend a Christian college or Seminary, others active in American Baptist Churches will be reviewed. Again, this material is time-sensitive!

I am very pleased to announce the board meeting offering of over \$380 will be in support of Murrow Indian Children's Home summer activities fund! The next time you see one or more of the board members, please tell them thank you for their generosity. If any one of you wish to make a contribution to this offering, please contact Vonda Brecheisen or myself; [vbrecheisen@Yahoo.com](mailto:vbrecheisen@Yahoo.com) or [huggins.mona@gmail.com](mailto:huggins.mona@gmail.com).

This is all for me this month. Please get out and enjoy the beautiful sunshine and warm weather.



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# Crawford/Grace Hill



The Crawford/Grace Hill Association held their Fall Rally at Community Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We were greeted by Rita Siglin and she and the ladies of the circle did a wonderful job with the morning snack, lunch and the program! The speaker was Rev. Ben Sullivan from Anadarko Christian Center. Since the passing of his father who ran the center, Ben has taken over the leadership of the center and continues to work all over the country for the Native American people. Each of our circles had a list of items that was needed for the center and brought them to the meeting. We totally filled his van with the items! He was very grateful!!

Our Spring Rally will be held at First Baptist Church in Chanute, Kansas. We are looking forward to welcoming Melissa Newberry as our guest speaker. She will be using our ABWM theme of "Be Strong, Be Courageous" and there will be interactive activities to enjoy! After lunch there will be an opportunity for everyone to create different types of greeting cards for each circle to take home and use for their members. We will finish the day with our business meeting.

We have all been working hard on different activities in each of our churches to raise money for the 2024-25 project. Many of us just finished and have either sent in our money or are ready to send it in soon.

Crawford/Grace Hill Board Meeting will be held at Coffeyville Baptist Church on March 21st in Coffeyville, Kansas.

Jennifer Babcock  
Crawford/Grace Hill Association President

# Mission and Service

Is your spring going as quickly as mine? And the weather can't decide whether it really is spring or maybe still winter, and the wind! I don't know if you follow Lenten devotionals or not, but Easter is coming and while the children look forward to Easter egg hunts, we Christians know what we need to hunt for—the peace and hope that Jesus left with us.

America for Christ offering is usually taken in March-April—have you given yet? Also, you may give to our ABWMCR Special Project any time through August. Our Global Servants and Special Interest Missionaries always appreciate your support. Cards and gifts to 1003 West 9th Avenue Suite A | King of Prussia, PA 19406

International Ministries encourages ongoing monthly support for the Global Servants thus ensuring that a steady amount is available. It is very easy to set up an account. Internationalministries.org website has all the information, or you may call 610-768-2168 for information. The minimum monthly support is \$16 and up (yes, they have scammers too so had to set this amount). If you don't think you can give right now, consider your church or Sunday School class setting up an account for that special connection.

Have a great Easter Season and hope to see many of you at the Summer Conference.

Dianna Cook tedndianna@gmail.com 913-259-9626



# Bible Book of the Month

## Zephaniah

The Book of Zephaniah is a short prophetic book in the Old Testament, attributed to the prophet Zephaniah, who ministered during the reign of King Josiah of Judah (640–609 BC). The book focuses on God's impending judgment on Judah, surrounding nations, and ultimately the entire world, but also offers a message of hope and restoration for the faithful remnant. The book of Zephaniah teaches us several lessons:

### **1. God's Judgment is Certain**

Zephaniah warns of the coming "Day of the Lord," a time of God's judgment not only for Judah but for all nations. This serves as a reminder that God takes sin seriously and will ultimately bring justice.

### **2. God Judges Both The Wicked and the Complacent**

The book condemns idolatry, corruption, and immorality in Judah, but also targets those who are spiritually complacent people who claim to follow God but live without true devotion to Him.

### **3. God Calls for Repentance**

Zephaniah urges the people to seek righteousness and humility before judgment comes (Zephaniah 2:3). This highlights God's willingness to forgive those who turn back to Him.

### **4. Hope for Restoration**

Even though judgment is severe, Zephaniah ends with a message of hope. God promises to restore His people and bring them back to a place of joy and peace (Zephaniah 3:9-20).

### **5. God's Love and Faithfulness**

One of the most beautiful verses in Zephaniah (3:17) describes God's deep love for His people. "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love, He will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing." This reminds us that God not only corrects but also deeply loves and restores.

Key Takeaways:

God's judgment is real, but so is His mercy.

True faith requires humility and repentance.

Despite hardships, God's ultimate plan is restoration and joy for His people.

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# Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship

Scholarship Time

The deadline for the scholarship applications, May 1, is quickly approaching for the ABWM Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship. The application is available by emailing me to request it or by going online to [Abwmc.org](http://Abwmc.org). Feel free to contact me with questions. Also, our current scholarship recipients would be encouraged to receive a note from you as we approach the end of the semester. Final exams are stressful! Please let them know you are praying for them. Their pictures and you would like their address please send Jordan Fritz an email at [jordyfritz5@gmail.com](mailto:jordyfritz5@gmail.com).

Blessings,

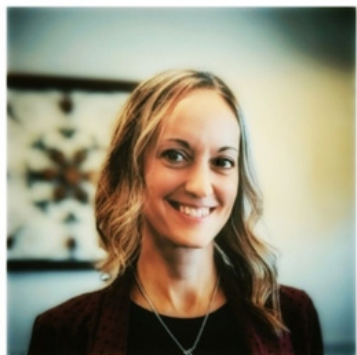
Pastor Sharon Ball, Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries  
[pastor.churchofhope@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.churchofhope@gmail.com)

918-704-4967

## Current Mary Gates Atkinson Recipients



**Macy Greuter**



**Amy Marcoux**



**Elias Brosius**



**Megan Forster**



**Paige Campbell**

# Special Project 2024–25

Central Region AB Women's Ministries  
Helping girls thrive through education

Total Goal: \$30,000

\$15,000: Homes and Schooling for Girls in Southeast Asia  
\$15,000: Talita Cumi Girls clubs in Central and South America  
(Any Overages will be divided equally to each program)

**Our current balance is \$6,922.15(as of 3/21/25)**  
**You all raised more than \$2,500 in the last month. Praise God!**

## **April Update:**

Luis, Sarah and Nora Matos have recently begun their ministry in Oaxaca, Mexico which includes one of the Talita Cumi Girls Clubs. Following is what they had to say about the way God is working through these clubs.

“Talita Cumi Girls Clubs are making a huge impact in the lives of the girls in Oaxaca! If you’ve heard Sarah speak about the clubs, she often talks about a girl’s orphanage in the city that is benefiting from the program. Because of the relationships the mentors and program coordinator have built with the girls, they found out that four of the girls were having birthdays in February. Program coordinator, Noemi, invited Sarah to come with her to celebrate with them. They had purchased pizza, cake, and soda to bring to the girls. It was a joy to be there, and it was also heart wrenching to hear some of the questions the girls asked and hear some of their stories. The highlight was playing freeze tag with the girls and a 50-year-old woman with a disability who has been a resident since childhood. Seeing them smile and laugh brought joy to Sarah’s heart. Please pray for these girls. May God work in mighty ways in their lives and that they know God loves them and God sees them.”

# Special Project 2024-25

Central Region AB Women's Ministries  
Helping girls thrive through education

The mini libraries will educate these precious girls and give them greater opportunities in this life. But the mission of the Talita Cumi Girls Clubs is to share the greatest gift with each girl, the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. As we prayerfully give to help support the education and physical needs of these girls, please continue to pray that God will use each resource given to lead these girls to a relationship with Him.

More information may be found online at <https://www.abwmcr.org> for this year's promotional video. When you go to the website you will find a tab at the top of the page marked "Special Project". Hover your cursor over that tab until you see a drop-down box. Click on "Special Project 2024-25".

I would love to talk with you about any questions you might have or help you come up with ideas for promoting this year's Special Project. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Central Region Project Associate: Sheryl Stemmons  
PO Box 190 McLouth, KS 66054  
785-840-4239  
[fbcmlouthoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmlouthoffice@gmail.com)

Send Project offering money to: Vonda Brecheisen  
2504 Idaho Rd. Ottawa, KS 66067-9006  
Or give on-line at [ABWMCR.org/Special-Project-2024-2025](https://www.abwmcr.org/Special-Project-2024-2025)





# AB GIRLS

**AB G.I.R.L.S. Girls Only Fall Retreat:** On November 16th several of our wonderful AB Women welcomed AB G.I.R.L.S from across the area to Olathe FBC. The day was filled with laughter and fun as the girls made new friends, created delightful crafts, played crazy fun games, and enjoyed a devotion together. Regional President Mona Huggins was on hand to share what it means to be an AB G.I.R.L and a future legacy of ABW leadership.

## **Upcoming events:**

**Young Christians Weekend:** AB G.I.R.L.S in Junior and Senior High are invited to join us for Young Christian's Weekend in Branson, Mo. The event is held at Silver Dollar City April 4-6. Cost is \$100 which includes \$77 entrance into the event, 2 night's hotel, meals, and transportation. See Kami to sign your girls up for this life changing event!

**ABW Summer Conference** – As always, we are looking forward to an impactful ABW Summer conference. The AB G.I.R.L.S. are especially excited to host the annual Auction which will benefit our ongoing activities throughout the year. We are welcoming any donations to the auction from our generous ABW groups around the region. I am asking each Association to contribute a basket. Thank you for your support!

**AB G.I.R.L.S. head for Summer Camp:** What would summer be without summer camp? It's a long-standing tradition for a reason! What better time to renew friendships, create lifelong memories, and have an adventure that can impact a life for all eternity? All AB G.I.R.L.S (and boys) are welcome at camp! This year the theme is "EPIC FAIL." We will study the many biblical accounts of those who "fail" in a big way, yet God still uses them mightily. Our kids need to know that they can "get out there" and try, even if they fail! God can use our efforts to His glory – even when things don't go as expected!

Any questions please contact Kami Minor.

