



MAY

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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

Doesn't she... sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends...and rejoices. Luke 15:8b-9

Have you ever looked and looked for something, but just couldn't find it? Well, that was me this morning as I looked for my May article for the Central Connection! I know in my mind what I had written, and after delving deeply into three computers, there was no rejoicing. I made the decision to write a new article! So, here I go... again, I think!

I hope all of you are enjoying this beautiful Spring weather and are able to get out and about. The trees here in the Eastern part of the state are just beautiful! God certainly knows how to color His world.

Easter was a cool and rainy day, but that did not stop me from celebrating the risen Lord! Many of you may not know that Rev. Jessica Henks was recently called to FBC Olathe, and I just love worshiping with her! She has many ideas and works tirelessly to bring them to fruition.

Summer conference is coming up NEXT MONTH. I sure hope many of you have sent in your registrations. Please remember that the 105th Anniversary Special offers a 50% off the registration fee if your registration is received by May 15. That's a good deal!

By the time you read this newsletter, I will have attended three associational rallies recently: Luther Rice at FBC Ottawa, Missouri River at Victory Hills, KCKS, and Tri-River at Lebo Baptist. I love attending rallies, and it has been my honor to attend many over the past three years. The only association I wasn't able to attend at least one rally was Roger Williams/Walnut Valley.

Association Presidents, please remember that AB G.I.R.L.S. have asked that your group create a basket of items that may be sold at the Summer Conference. This money will go into their account for future events. Also, remember the BEAUTIFUL quilt made by Sally Catlin. The starting bid is \$200, but it is worth so much more than that! It has beautiful purples, teals, etc., i.e. AB Women's Ministries colors, and is a King size. It was machine pieced and quilted by Sally who lives in Herington.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the summer conference! Please remember to get registered before it's too late. Our speaker will be Rev. Jessica Henks, FBC Olathe. Music will be led by the Praise Team from Herington! You may register online at: abwmcr.org

I am praying I will see you soon at the SUMMER CONFERENCE 😊 If not, I pray you will have a most wonderful summer! I will be writing my last article to you in August but also introducing your new President!



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Spring Rally 2025



Ten Ambitious Beautiful Women attended the Missouri River Spring Rally hosted by Victory Hills Baptist, KCK, on Saturday April 26. We were blessed with delicious refreshments, and 2024-25 Project Coordinator, Sheryl Stemmons presented a delightful program. Elections were held for President and Secretary/Treasurer. Sandra York and Connie Northup will be installed at the July rally as president and secretary/treasurer respectively. All were encouraged to attend conference June 6 & 7 in Herington, KS. Be sure and consider attending the project workshop where Sheryl will share some amazing stories about the two ministries chosen this year. \$120 was collected for project, and a box full of peanut butter was collected for Bethel Neighborhood Center.

Connie Northup, President, Missouri River ABWM

Mission and Service

Central Region ABWM supports 10 special Global Servants (singles and families) and this month I would like to highlight one of these couples and how they use their gifts in very different ways.

Larry and Becky Stanton are based in Hungary but Larry extends his reach into neighboring Serbia. Here are some of their thoughts..

Recently, Larry journeyed to Serbia, his heart full and his hands ready—carrying not only tangible aid, but the deep well of compassion and generosity that you have made possible through your faithful support.

Because of your kindness, he was able to purchase vouchers for food and hygiene products, allowing families to approach Easter with a sense of dignity and joy rather than despair.

Before the aid was distributed, Larry turned to our ministry partner, Pastor Zoltán, and asked, “How many people do you think we can help with these funds?” Zoltán’s reply was gentle, yet deeply stirring: “Two hundred souls.” Not just people. Souls. Each one a sacred story, a beating heart held dearly in the eyes of God. Each life—priceless, irreplaceable, known.

And yet, perhaps the most powerful gift offered on this journey wasn’t what was given, but what was shared. Larry spent time with men and women who so often feel like shadows in a fast-moving world—overlooked, unheard. But in those quiet moments—sitting side by side, listening without hurry, simply being—the ministry of presence came alive. It reminded us that love is not measured only in what we give, but in how we see, how we linger, how we carry Christ’s gentleness into every encounter.

While Larry travels, Becky is serving as an elementary school teacher. We’ve found soul care in simple things, like weekly visits to the local thermal bath (a very Hungarian tradition!). I always joke, as I sink into the steaming mineral water, “Ok, I’ll stay.” Because yes, teaching can be that hard some weeks. But God always gives me a reason to stay.

During one such visit, surrounded by palms and warm waters, the Holy Spirit whispered something new: You’re not a pine tree, tall and rigid. You’re a palm tree—fun, flexible, joyful. A holiday in the midst of your students’ gray days. That image has stayed with me. I’m learning to embrace it—and stay rooted in this calling.

Special Project 2024-25

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

May Update:

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 \$8,563.15 (as of 3/31/25)

Many kids in Southeast Asia are struggling to survive. For those who have been abandoned by their families to sleep in the streets or are dropped off at the local temple there seems to be no hope. But our Global Servants are working to find these kids and give them a home and hope. They are also given the opportunity to get an education. Sometimes that means going to school and graduating from high school. Other times that mean the opportunity to learn a trade. In a harsh world they have a chance to grow and provide for themselves. But the kids that find their way into the lives of our Global Servants are given far more than that. When they arrive in these homes they get to hear about the love of Christ and the Good News of Salvation. They also get to experience that love from their house parents and teachers. The job of the Global Servants, teachers and house parents is not an easy one, but it makes all the difference to these kids.

As we raise money for the home and school for girls in Southeast Asia let us continue to give thanks for those who choose to serve in these homes. Let us lift them up in prayer that they receive the energy they need to help these precious and hurting kids, the wisdom to direct them in this life, and most importantly the opportunities to lead kids to Christ.

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” -Matthew 19:14

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. -Sheryl

Go to the CR-ABWM website for this year's promotional video:

<https://www.abwmcr.org/>

When you go to the CR-ABWM website you will find a tab at the top of the page marked “Special Project”. Hover your curser over that tab until you see a drop-down box. Click on “Special Project 2024-25”.

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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)

Mission and Service

After more than 25 years of teaching, and now several years of ministry in Hungary, I'm learning to meet each student and each day with less judgment and more presence. Contemplative prayer has helped me let go of the need to control or change things—and instead accept the holy chaos of the classroom as it is. There's joy in that. And healing too.

Still, there are days I doubt myself. I wonder if all the laughter and connection I share with my students means I'm not taken seriously, or worse, not a good teacher. But Larry, my husband and steady partner in ministry, always brings me back. He reminds me I don't need to teach like anyone else—I just need to be who God made me to be.

Right now, we are at 77% of the ongoing support we need to remain in Hungary and Serbia. International Ministries requires us to be fully funded to continue serving here. If our support doesn't increase, we may be required to return to the U.S. to focus on raising funds—something that would interrupt our ministry and the deep relationships we've built.

If you feel led to help the Stantons or any of our great Global Servants, please contact International Ministries. They have some great people there too who can help you.

Dianna Cook, Mission and Service
tedndianna@gmail.com 913-259-9626 or 913-849-3224



Ark Valley/Judson Association

The Ark Valley/Judson Association met on April 26, 2025 at the Gypsum FBC. The Gypsum/ Lindsborg ladies welcomed us with morning treats. Pastor Randy gave the welcome and opening prayer. McPherson was in charge of registration. Group singing was led by Linda Everhart. Peggy Griffith gave the devotions. The mini project for the day was the Gypsum Summer Youth program. Linda Everhart shared about the program and led in a dedication prayer for the mini project offering. We had a short business meeting and officer reports. Our general offering for the day was given to the ABWM CR project. Our speaker was Jo Templin sharing about Finding Courage in Grief: Supporting Others Through Loss. Jo gave us suggestions on things to do and not do, say and not say to help others in their grief. We can grief if we have lost a job, had to move, had to change churches and with the passing of a friend or loved one. She led the group in a time of sharing about losses they had experienced. We had a time of fellowship and lunch at the close of our meeting.

Linda Wallace

President Ark Valley/Judson Association





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. 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 are below, and if you would like their address, please send Jordan Fritz an email at jordyfritz5@gmail.com.

Blessings,

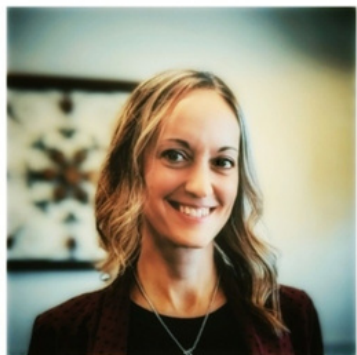
Pastor Sharon Ball, Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries
pastor.churchofhope@gmail.com

918-704-4967

Current Mary Gates Atkinson Recipients



Macy Greuter



Amy Marcoux



Elias Brosius



Megan Forster



Paige Campbell