



Mona's Musings

October-November

Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24

I've already had the opportunity to be the guest speaker of the Tri-River Associational Rally. The group met in Lebo, about an hour from my home on September 26. I was greeted by friends that I have come to love only because I am an active woman in our Women's Ministries. There were many more ladies in attendance than I expected; some of them drove almost two and a half hours to attend the meeting! That is what I call faithful. The breakfast and lunch were both luscious, and the fellowship was splendid. I will be speaking at the Luther Rice Associational Rally before you read this article, and I am looking forward to that meeting, also.

I can't believe it's already been two weeks since the Annual Gathering in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Time seems to slip away so quickly! The Gathering was a delightful event; seeing old friends, meeting new people, and seeing how the displays were set up and managed were meaningful. This was the first Gathering I have attended in quite some time, and it was a blessing. Since I had never been to Bacone College or Murrow Indian's Children's Home, I was VERY excited to be there. I met a couple of young ladies who are interested in starting a young women's AB Women's Ministries group at the college! Also, I met the Interim pastor at Bella Vista Church and got a couple of names of ladies who are interested in restarting their AB Women's Ministries! All of this leads me to understand the importance of attending our regional events and networking.

We had a wonderful boxed lunch for the AB Women's Ministries annual meeting. I hope everyone enjoyed their time of food and fellowship as much as I did! Our guest speaker, Betty

Martin, sat at the table where I was sitting. She was delightful. The highlight of the meeting for me was when Sherill Carlson presented a check for \$32,750 to the representatives of Rainbow Acres, our 2021-22 Project! What a thrill knowing that our Region responds to the call when we are behind in our giving! Way to go Central Region!! I'm excited to be your President!

The Double Good popcorn fundraiser was fun and successful. There were twenty of the National Executive Board members eagerly attempting to raise \$20,000 of which National AB Women's Ministries would receive half the proceeds. Even though we did not attain our goal, in four days, we did sell \$16,977!! Our executive director, Dr. Gina Jacobs Strain sent out an email expressing a big thank you along with a heartfelt message stating, "Your generosity of time, treasure, and talent affirms our ministries and will help us continue to share free webinars, scholarships, leadership training, and building beloved community." My special thanks to each person who took the time to purchase popcorn from my pop-up store. I had a goal of selling \$500; and I sold \$601!!

I continue to grow into the office of President, and look forward to seeing what all God has in store for me as an individual and as the leader of such a wonderfully, committed organization. May each of you find joy in being an American Baptist Woman, or as my friend, Debby White says, "A member of the All Beautiful Women's group!" Blessings upon each of you... and JOY!



*...God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly...
II Corinthians 9:6b-7a*

You are all such beautiful women! What a busy month it has been for me, and I imagine it has been busy for you, too. I've had the opportunity to be the guest speaker at the Luther Rice Rally held at Ottawa FBC on October 25. After sharing my presentation, Jan Sipe, President did an amazing job of transitioning into the business meeting. I am so excited to report that the members decided to collect money at their board meetings and rallies to support National AB Women's Ministries! Money will start being collected in 2023. I will work with our board treasurer, Alice Gruber, to understand how she will handle the money from the associations so our region gets credit for our giving at the national level. If other associations decide to do something like this, it would be wonderful, and I am more than willing to speak with any of you about this concept.

October 29, I had the opportunity to attend a day-long women's retreat at the Stilwell Baptist Church. May I just say that if any of you ever have the opportunity to attend a retreat led by our wonderful sister-in-Christ and Webmaster extraordinaire Jessica Henks, do it!! There were thirty women from various faiths worshiping in fellowship, studying and reading God's word, and enjoying delicious snacks and meals as we joined Ann Voskamp explore "The Sacred Way"...the way that God desires to carve HIS way in our lives. Oh, what a wonderful day!!

By the time you read this article, many of you have already celebrated Thanksgiving and are preparing for Christmas. I see colored lights everywhere I look and I think about gifts. This year, I am asking you to stop and consider giving one or two of your BEST monetary GIFTS to National AB Women's Ministries. I am asking you to please consider joining the sisterhood of the Violet Circle, named after a former executive director, Violet Rudd. Giving a one-time gift of one thousand dollars before the end of 2022 will automatically assure you are a Violet Circle member. Another opportunity to support National AB Women's Ministries is to become a Vital Partner. Vital Partners are people who give more than once a year to sustain our national organization. You can become a Vital Partner for less than a daily latte cost for a month! You may find more information about these two ministries at www.abwomensministries.org. Use the give tab. I truly pray many of you will consider giving one of your BEST GIFTS to the cornerstone of our organization.

December-January

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given Isaiah 9:6

Tomorrow starts a busy month for me and my family; tomorrow is the 5th birthday of my twin grandsons, next week is one of my granddaughter's 4th birthday, then there are children's programs, church activities, Christmas Eve services and then Christmas Day! Whew! I know many of you will be experiencing many of the same wonderful activities. It's just important that we take time to invite our Savior to go along on our journeys.

I had a wonderful experience happen today. I am keeping my five-month-old infant granddaughter, Margaret, for the rest of the school year, and I usually hold her while she naps. She'll be my last, so why not?! Anyway, when she awakened from her morning nap, she looked right into my eyes with her piercing blue eyes as if to say, "Grandmomma, I love you more than any other person at this moment." We must have stared into each other's eyes for 12-15 seconds. Both of us were just loving with our whole hearts! What a gift I was given!

It made me pause to think about how Mary must have felt when baby Jesus looked at her. She knew she had been given a special gift, but just imagine how Mary felt the first time Jesus looked eyes with her, as if to say, "Momma, I love you!" Margaret's loving stare and my imagination brought me happy tears. I stopped right there in the moment and thanked Jesus that I am getting to love on my baby girl everyday for the next few months!

Merry Christmas, dear friends! May you experience love this Christmas like never before. May the Lord God shine his face upon you and give you peace... and JOY for the coming New Year!



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Personal Development & Love Gift November

Just finished attending our SE Area Meeting in Humboldt, KS . I rode up with the Zo Baptist Church. What a wonderful time we had. Great program and Wonderful speaker. It was so good to be together after two years.

Then on September 30th a few of us attended the Annual Gathering in Muskogee. I mentioned in my report to the Women's group, about how wonderful it is to see Bethel Neighborhood Center and Murrow Children's home still flourishing after the changes that happened from the Pandemic.

We learned some things through out that time. How to become the electronic church. Some of it good, some not so good. At my age the Zoom meetings were good because of no driving to the meeting place. Also, being in contact with people thousands of miles away and actually talking to them personally. But how do we fit God in to all this? Our spiritual life has to be true and devout. How do we do this under these new conditions? Someone told me the new webinars for women are wonderful. My job as personal Development Coordinator is to encourage you spiritually. Find some of these new things that are available on line and make use of them. Enjoy what is there for us and remember to keep strong in your prayer and bible study. Find someone else that will be a support. I have a friend that prays with me regularly. (Truthfully, I do much better when she gives

Bible Book for November Habakkuk



Easy Peasy!
Save your \$1.00 bills where the serial number begins with a L or a G for your Love Gift offerings.

me that prayer support).

The Bible Book of the month is Habakkuk.

Habakkuk was no sugar-coated prophet. He was blunt and out-spoken. The things that aroused him occurred in the seventh century b.c. The prophet realized that God was going to use the godless military machine of Babylon to bring God's judgement on God's own people. Using a godless nation to punish a godly nation, it didn't make sense and Habakkuk was quick and bold to say so. He dared to voice his feelings, that God didn't know his own God business. Since that time we often pick up and repeat Habakkuk's bafflement. God we don't understand!

Read the historical details of Habakkuk for the month of November.

December-January

The year is rapidly coming to a close. Are we ready to start the new year? Things are slowly getting back to normal even with the rumbling of Covid in the background. At times it seems like it never happened, but I'm sure those that lost loved ones or have long Covid, remember it vividly. Somehow, someway everyone was touched by this horrible disease.

God is still on the throne and He is still in command. We need to keep our eyes and prayers on Him. He alone has the answers. Maybe for the new year we need to put trust at the top of our list. When we go through these trials and tests, do we really trust in God to take care of things, or do we look to our Government leaders. We need to turn our eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will go strangely dim, in the light of his glory and love.

The Bible Book for the month of December is John.

John was in the family fishing business when Jesus invited his brother and him to join Jesus' circle of students. John became Jesus' closest friend, the only one of the male' followers who dared show up at his execution. He spent the next fifty years or more mulling what he had seen and heard and eventually committed to paper. His nickname as a young man was "Thunder boy" but in the end he thought of himself as the "one Jesus loved." In later life John took under his wing the young Christian communities that were mostly non-Jews and some of them second and third generation believ-

ers. As the only surviving witness of Jesus words and deeds, John was a treasure.

The Bible Book for the month of January is: Proverbs. Proverbs concentrates more on Wisdom, with becoming skilled in honoring our parents and raising our children, handling our money and to work exercising leadership, using words well and treating friends kingly and eating healthy.

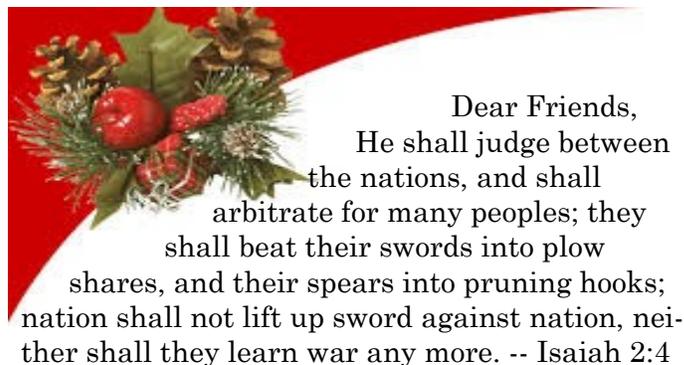
Attention to the here and now is everywhere present in the stories and legislation, the prayers and the sermons, that are spread other the thousands of pages of the Bible. Proverbs details it all in riveting images and aphorisms that keep us connected in holy obedience to the ordinary. Nothing takes precedence over God.

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Bible Book for December
John
Bible Book for January 2023
Proverbs



ABWM National News



Dear Friends,
He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. -- Isaiah 2:4

We pray that the blessing of preparation for Christ to return will bring you peace and joy in this Advent season.

May the peace of Christ be yours,
Wendy and Gina

Save the date for our upcoming *Let the Walls Fall Down* Winter Webinars, that focus on Racial Justice, our 2023 mission focus:



Thursday, January 19, 2023

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan, Pastor at St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Shannon Delay-Harris, author, retreat leader, and child advocate

Thursday, February 16, 2023 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Christine Smith, ABWM National President and Senior Pastor at Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc. in Euclid, OH

Learn more at www.abwomensministries.org/webinars



American Baptist Women National
abwomensministries.org



Newsletter

DECEMBER

AB GIRLS is having an upcoming event this coming year for 2023! We finally received word for Winter Jam about their concert dates. There are two dates one is on February 17th in Wichita KS & the other one is on March 3rd in Kansas City. The tickets costs \$15 per person. So, if anyone is interested or have further questions about the contact one of the leaders down below. We will decided on which date to go to, depending on where we get the most feed back from. We will send out permission forms at a different date. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns!

This fall AB GIRLS were able to attend the annual gathering conference at Bacone College in Muskogee Oklahoma. We had a board that showed what we did this summer and upcoming events as well. We created 20 packets that had contact information, newsletter, jump drive, and fundraising. We were able to give out 19 packets to churches and raised around 282 dollars during this event from selling popcorn and receiving donations from people as well. We would like to say thank you for all the people who bought popcorn and who donated as well!



We appreciate everyone who helps supports AB GIRLS and if that is by donating, volunteering, or buying items from our silent auctions or from popcorn sales. We are super excited for the coming events and also for praise weekend this coming year! We hope that some of you are able to make the Winter Jam concert with us this year if not we hope to see you at Praise Weekend!

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Historian Notes

It has given me great pleasure to research and try to get a relatively complete history of our Central Region American Baptist Women's Ministries from 1829 to current. (You can view up to 2020 on our website)

Maybe one of the reasons I love history is because I have lived so long and have had so many wonderful friends. Each one has been so special in his/her own way. Unfortunately for me, many have already gone on to their heavenly reward.

Thus, since we never know God's plans for us, I would love to invite any who are close to Wichita to a 'come and go' reception for our 70th wedding anniversary celebration on January 28, 2023 from 1-5 pm hosted by our four daughters. I know travel at that time of year is difficult so don't feel obligated as a note with memories of times together (and maybe a current picture) via e-mail, text or regular mail will be something I can review frequently and enjoy almost as much as a visit.

We are blessed with a family of 45 although our son and two sons-in-law are already enjoying personal time with their Lord. They are scattered over several states but all try to get together at our home at least once a year and most are here at least twice yearly. We are truly blessed!

In case I haven't told you lately – each one of you is very special to me!!!

Thank you for your service for our Lord!

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Church and Community

Fall/winter weather has finally arrived in Western Kansas and it reminds me of all the bountiful blessings that the Lord has put in my life. Beginning on November 1st I always start my month-long thankful list.

Each day I journal at least one thing I can thank God for. As we reflect on what the Lord has blessed us with it's a great time to look at our churches and communities to see if there is someone in need. Maybe it's a young woman or family in your church who you can invite to lunch, a food or clothing drive you can donate to, or simply a smile you can give to someone. The possibilities are endless!

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Paul writes Rejoice Always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. As your local and associational ABW groups plan for fall and winter activities, service projects, or rallies I encourage each woman to pray and reflect on at least one woman you can invite to join you.

Continue to pray for your Pastor and church that through the important work of your church you can reach the community and spark a revival. One of the first things I can thank God for everyday are the friendships I have made throughout my ABWMCR time. This season remember the Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship students through prayers, cards, or simply reaching out to learn more about them.

Finally, if your local or associational groups are doing something to serve your community or church, I would love to hear about it. I plan on highlighting the awesome things you're doing for other women to see!

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Association Announcements and Reports

Luther Rice Association

Luther Rice rally attendees singing praises to God. 10-25-22



ABWMCR President, Mona Huggins visiting with Luther Rice treasurer, Jane Anderson and other friends from Appanoose Baptist Church. Luther Rice President, Jan Sipe is also at the table.



Tri-River Association

On September 26, Lebo Baptist Church hosted our Fall Rally. As women began to arrive for the rally, we were all greeted with a very warm welcome, a festive meeting room, and a scrumptious buffet of goodies to get the morning started!

Pastor Dick Odum opened our rally with a moving devotion (promising it wasn't going to be a sermon, but if he would have preached a sermon, it would have been great!). Leeanna Thomas led the group as we lifted our voices to the Lord in song. We had a great group of ladies totaling 38! At the Fall Rally, Tri-River receives an offering for the operating fund, and we collected \$332.

The highlight of our Rally was our speaker, Mona Huggins. Mona is the new Central Region ABW President. Mona shared with us her calling to accept the position of president. With a great PowerPoint presentation, she reviewed the mission, purpose, vision, and core values of ABW ministries. Mona has been in fervent prayer about her leadership role, and shared her three-year goals for ABW ministries. After the meeting, I emailed her to see if she could send me the PowerPoint so I could pass it on to all the Tri-River churches—those in attendance and those not able to attend. Mona was gracious and sent it to me to disburse! Ladies, we have this in front of us, so with God's guidance, we can all work together and make a difference!

After reports were given by the various areas, we installed officers for the year 2022-2023.

The Lebo Baptist women treated us to an amazing lunch buffet, complete with soups, sandwiches, salads, desserts, and more! Many, many thanks for their time and work hosting our rally!

Our Tri-River Spring Rally will be held on April 24 at First Baptist Church Manhattan. We look forward to being together again in 2023.

Gayle Smith, Tri-River President

This page is for announcements and reports of the Associations. Please send me your rally announcements, pictures and happenings of your different associations. It will be good to give ideas to other associations.

Missouri River Association

Connect. My star word from conference. My first thoughts: “What in the world...???”

Definition: bring together or into contact so a link is established; join together so as to provide access and communication; link to a power or water supply; to join or fasten together usually by something intervening. Hmmmm.....something intervening. How about “SOMEONE” intervening.

I have had five months to meditate on this word. I have not yet found “connect” in the traditional Bible translations, thought it may be in more contemporary ones. Google gave me a “list of 39 verses about connect” in the Bible, and the one that stands out for me is John 15: 4-5, where Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.

We connect to people everywhere every day: those we live with, those we work with, the cashier at our favorite coffee shop or bakery, the stranger exiting Walmart when we enter, our church family. I am the link, providing access to a power source, and Jesus intervenes through me to connect to anyone, everyone I meet.

For Summer Rally, on July 30, Missouri River Association made connections in Fellowship Hall at London Heights. We learned how to “leave” connections through estate giving presented by Rev Tim Schwartz. We brought donations for the Caring Connection Collaborative, which has a food pantry, clothes closet, and provides other services to the community at Turner Baptist.

On October 15 we will meet for our Fall Rally at Victory Hills Baptist. A representative from Kansas City Dream Center will share with us its purpose and connections with the homeless and needy. Donations of toys and canned goods for Christmas will be collected for KCDC. We connect through giving to Love Gift and missionaries. We connect with each other at conference and gathering. God continues to show me all the various ways “connect” is important in my life.

My “connect” star is taped to my jewelry box so I see it every morning. My thoughts now: “Who will you connect me with today, Lord?”

Connie Northup, President
Missouri River Association

2023 Summer Conference

While the Lord has not yet revealed to us the location for the 2023 Summer conference, we know that He has something awesome in store for us. We know this because He has provided us with an awesome Bible Study leader, Dr. Sunne Ryse Smith. If you feel a bit thrown by how to pronounce her unusual name, keep reading to the end of the article.

Dr. Smith is the founder and lead consultant for Inspiration Matters Consulting. As a skilled and highly effective Doctor of Psychology with over 20 years in the field of psychology and education, she is well regarded as an organization builder and people-centered leader. Dr. Smith, a former school district executive, assisted in managing the emotional supports for 40,000 students in New Jersey’s largest school district. In addition, she led over 20 schools in creating support systems; reimaged a national certification program for school climate professionals; supported social justice leaders and professional athletes in refining their organizational vision and structure; brokered partnerships between organizations with similar missions. . Her passion for helping schools create powerful experiences for young people motivated her to work with non-profit organizations that focus on the needs of school aged children. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and psychology; and a Master of Arts and Doctorate degrees in psychology. Throughout the course of her professional journey Dr. Sunne-Ryse has been consistently described as a thought-provoking, intuitive, results-driven professional, and passionate with a gift for motivating people to think, be, and do Big.



That is copied directly from her website, <https://www.inspirationmattersco.com/who-are-we.html>, an excellent resource if you want to learn more about her., She has never been to Kansas before, so we will definitely make her feel Sunflower welcome!! How do you pronounce her name? Dr. Sunrise Smith

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