



Vol. 76 No.8

Central Connection

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

Lois Chiles,

ABWomen's Ministries President Giving us the latest information in
ABWomen's Ministries Central Region

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Spring is a beautiful season. Winter's cold weather turns to sunny warm days and the bare trees begin to come back to life with green leaves. The ground that looked barren suddenly brings forth a stalk that soon bears a flower. All of that brings hope, uplifting our spirits too. The beauty of God's creation surrounds us and we are filled with renewed energy to give back to Him our love and devotion.

There's an old story about two cracked pots. One was perfect in every way and the other had cracks and broken places. Each day a women filled the pots with water she had collected and carried them down the path to her home. The first pot felt proud that she had never spilled a single drop of water. The other pot felt ashamed because no matter how hard she tried, she lost a lot of water along the way. One day the pots overheard the women talking with someone who lived nearby. The neighbor exclaimed, "The flowers along your path are so beautiful! What is your secret?" The woman answered, "One of my pots is broken and the water that spills out nourishes the flowers on that path as I walk by every day."

That story reminds me that even though I am a broken vessel, He uses that brokenness to bring nourishment to me and others. We often think that we must take what is broken and make it perfect in order to be used by God and to bless others. But God thinks in a completely different way. He takes what was once perfect, His Son, and made Him broken in order to bring us healing. So, if you are sitting there wondering if God can use you because your life has taken a turn and it is not as it should be, and your heart is hurting, know that your greatest hurt will probably be your greatest ministry. Like the disciple Thomas who doubted until he touched the scars of Jesus, some people in your life need to see your broken places more than your victories.

We all are like the second pot in the story. Our April showers can really lead to May flowers because God sees purpose in our brokenness even when we don't and He can use it to bring forth beauty that blesses those around us.

I hope you have begun to make plans for the upcoming Summer Conference to be held at First Baptist Church in Topeka, KS. We will come together June 5-6 for a wonderful time of fun, fellowship and growing spiritually. Registration forms can be found on our website: www.abwmcr.org or they were sent in our April issue of the *Central Connection*. If you are not able to access either of these places, ask your church secretary or someone within your church to help. An early bird special provides 50% off your registration fee if you send it by May 15. We also have just learned that hotel rates will be going up soon due to the World Cup coming to the Kansas City area. I'm just saying...it might be wise to get your room secured as soon as you can. I hope to see you then!!.



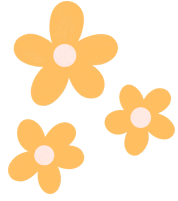
Lois Chiles, President

Contact Info:

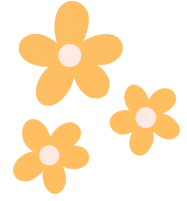
Address: 201 Cottonwood Dr. Lansing, KS 66043

Phone: 913-683-8680

Email: Lchiles@kc.rr.com



SPECIAL PROJECT 2025–2026



HAPPY SPRING TO ALL!!

This month I'm sure you are wanting an update on our Special Projects. Progress has been amazing so far and we are making great headway towards our total goal of \$30,000 for Kodiak Baptist Mission (KBM) and Camp Christy.

As you know our goal is \$15,000 towards each mission. Money collected above and beyond the \$30,000 will be split equally between the two missions.

Our support will help Kodiak Baptist Mission with the preservation of their facilities and for Camp Christy the support will assist them in furnishings for their newest cottage, the Rozel Cottage.

We have four months to go, and I'm happy to report that:
OUR TOTAL as of APRIL 11th is: \$21,360.73

I know that this is fantastic news, but we do not want to become lax in our efforts to achieve our goals. The race is not yet over. So, please continue sending in your checks to:
ABWM-CR,
c/o Vonda Breicheisen, 2504 Idaho Rd,
Ottawa, Ks. 66067-9007

Also, remember that you can go to the ABWM-CR website and find promotional videos for each of our projects that you can share with your groups/churches. Both missions are doing great things in their communities, so let's keep the momentum rolling!

Together we can do this!!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

Paula Rhodes, Project Associate
Contact Information:
Email: Pjrhodesx4@gmail.com
Phone #: (913-208-5317)

It's a Weird Sunday

"Weird" describes something strikingly odd, strange, unusual, or unexpected, (Google, AI)

This is dedicated to those of us who have attended a specific church for MANY years.

It's a weird Sunday when....

- You are greeted when you walk into the worship center instead of being the greeter.
- You and your spouse can go to the church in the same car, at the same time, because no one has a meeting afterwards, or has to arrive early for administrative duties or Sunday school prep.
- You have three extra hours on a Sunday morning to do whatever because you don't need to be at the church until, say, 15 minutes before service or Sunday school (– depends on how much fellowship time you desire).
- You have to ask where the restrooms are.
- You need to read the bulletin to know the order of service and weekly events.
- You hope you are not sitting in another person's regular seat.
- You worry if your attire is too casual or too dressy.
- You don't know anyone and no one knows you.

After 35 years at the same church, in various leadership roles, I will not pretend I know how to visit a church. But I do know I will not be alone. My husband will be with me. 😊 More importantly, the Holy Spirit goes with me, and will help me discern if the word preached is true, if the fellowship is genuine, and if the activities compliment my personality, so I may continue to serve and grow in the Lord. There is no desire to hurry, no reason to "jump into" the activities. I need to allow time to grieve and to be refreshed by my Savior and Lord. There are so many verses that come to mind, but this passage best speaks to my heart at this time, especially the last sentence:

Psalm 143: 8, 10 – Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing.

Connie Northup, Missouri River President

Contact Info:

Address: 3336 N 79th St. Kansas City, KS 66109

Phone: 913-660-8939

Email: connienorthup@gmail.com

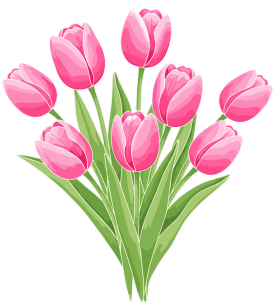
Missouri River Spring Rally

Missouri River ABWM held its spring rally on Saturday, April 18, at the Big Biscuit in Shawnee, KS. Ten wonderful women attended, including three from Luther Rice ABWM. This is the last rally for Missouri River; there will not be a summer rally; and come September 1st, Missouri River will officially merge with Luther Rice ABWM. The Missouri River churches will have a choice whether to continue to participate, or choose another association that is closer.

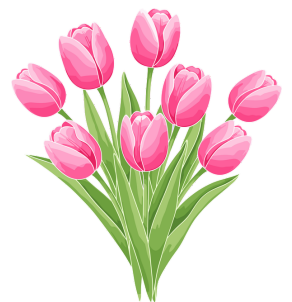
After being seated at 9:30 am, business meeting information was passed out while food orders were taken. Conference information was discussed. Those who attended the brunch and filled out the conference registration will have it paid by Missouri River/London Heights. Connie Northup, Missouri River President, shared a summary of a March 28 Proverbs 31 devotion from Tracie Braylock entitled The Courage to Proceed, based on Joshua 1:9. "God is with us in our rumbles, relationships, and risks, and always ready to help navigate the route on which He has placed us." We do not need to get stuck, but can courageously proceed through changes and chaos.

Connie introduced Kate Steele, Luther Rice ABWM president and gave her the Missouri River Banner. Kate also shared upcoming Luther Rice rally information, and will be contacting the Missouri River churches in the near future.

All those present enjoyed the food and fellowship and look forward to conference.



Connie Northup, Missouri River President
Contact Info:
Address: 3336 N 79th St. Kansas City, KS 66109
Phone: 913-660-8939
Email: connienorthup@gmail.com



Luther Rice Spring Rally

FBC DeSoto hosted the Luther Rice Spring Rally Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

There was a time of fellowship and snacks before the meeting. The meeting started at 10:00 am. Karen Wall serenaded us with piano music and played for hymn sing and offering. Ida Wilson gave a great history of the America the Beautiful hymn.

Dan and Sarah Chetti were our guests. Dan spoke to us of the times and experiences of their years in the Middle East. Dan referred to: Seeing Jesus in the culture as a Mid Easterner and the Light on the hill for all to see. (Matthew 5:14-16).

Items were collected for the ABW Girls Basket for auction at Conference. Theme is BUILDING...Unity through Faith.

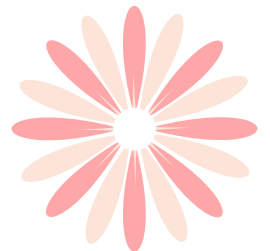
Luther Rice and Missouri River Associations will be merging September 2026.

Hope to see everybody at ABW Summer Conference. The Luther Rice Summer Rally will be July 28, 2026 Tuesday 6:00 pm at FBC Paola. Paola is planning the Hawaiian party! The Fall Rally planned Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Elm Grove Chiles. Please put these dates on your calendar.

The meeting adjourned to a wonderful salad luncheon and desserts. Thank You FBC DeSoto!



Kate Steele, Luther Rice President
Contact Info:
Email: kaws3958@gmail.com



Mission & Service

Dan and Sarah Chetti have recently retired as global servants based in Lebanon for almost 30 years. They have been in several churches in Kansas lately sharing some of what their ministry was and what is to come. Both Dan and Sarah were part of the seminary in Beirut before expanding their focus. Lebanon is unique among the middle eastern countries in that Christian students may openly come and are accepted before returning to their home countries. Most countries don't allow church buildings so they are mostly house churches or meet in the open under trees. Not having a building doesn't stop them from worshipping – how many of us despair because our “ministry” isn't as big or showy as somewhere else.

Dan's emphasis is on these young Christians who will be taking their faith and skills back home. Currently Enduring Love supports 27 pastors and their families. Dan is continuing to serve with this group even after retirement.

Sarah felt called to help the migrant women domestic workers in Lebanon and started the Insaaf Center. They help with medical care, food, skill classes and spiritual needs of these ladies. Last year a young lady, Melanie Baggao, came to the seminary to teach English as a second language. Sarah approached her about becoming the director of Insaaf when she retired but Melanie said no. Unknown to each other, both Sarah and Melanie were praying about what direction to take. Awhile later, Melanie accepted the position and will be carrying on the work of Insaaf as well as her teaching. Isn't God good.

In closing, I was talking to Sarah about what their retirement meant and she remarked on feeling so close to the women who had sent cards and letters over the years. Sometimes they felt out of touch but these reminders of others praying for them meant so much. I am sure all our missionaries and global servants feel the same so keep up the correspondence. The International Ministries website offers a way to contact each one so that is another way to encourage and keep up with what is going on around the world.

Dianna Cook , Mission and Service Associate

Contact Info:

Phone#: 913-259-9626

Email: tedndianna@gmail.com

Address: 32404 Oak Grove Rd., Paola, KS 66071

Bible Book of the Month

Nahum

The **Book of Nahum** is a short prophetic book in the Old Testament that focuses on the coming destruction of the city of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. Nahum was a prophet who delivered God's message during a time when Assyria was powerful but cruel, known for its violence and oppression of other nations, including Israel.

The main message of the book is that God will judge Nineveh for its wickedness. Even though Assyria had once been used by God as a tool to discipline other nations, it had become arrogant, brutal, and unjust. Nahum describes in vivid, poetic language how Nineveh will fall—its defenses will fail, its people will panic, and the city will be completely destroyed.

At the same time, the book also offers comfort to Judah (the southern kingdom of Israel). Nahum reminds them that God is just and will not allow evil to go unpunished forever. While God is patient, He ultimately brings justice against wrongdoing. For the people of Judah, this prophecy is good news because it means their powerful enemy will no longer threaten them.

The Book of Nahum also teaches important lessons about God and our relationship with Him. It shows that God is both powerful and just—He stands against evil but also cares for those who trust Him. This means people should respect God's authority and live in a way that reflects His values, such as justice, humility, and kindness. The book also reminds us that God is patient, giving people time to change, but that patience does not last forever if wrongdoing continues. In our relationship with God, Nahum encourages us to trust Him, especially during difficult times, and to rely on Him for protection and justice rather than taking matters into our own hands.

Overall, the Book of Nahum teaches that God is powerful, just, and caring, and that a strong relationship with Him is built on trust, respect, and living according to what is right.

Jo Templin, Personal Development Coordinator

Contact Info:

Address: 2508 North Longfellow St. Wichita, KS 67226

Phone: 316-644-2565

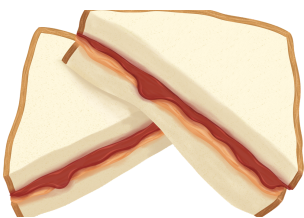
Email: Templin_2@hotmail.com

Ark Valley/Judson Association

The Ark Valley/ Judson Association Spring Event was held at the Minneapolis FBC on April 25, 2026. The Ada/Minneapolis ladies hosted the meeting. The ladies were greeted with coffee cake and coffee. Linda Wallace Association president welcomed the ladies. Group singing was led by Lucille Sidener and Linda Wallace accompanied by Jana Van Meter on guitar. Karen Freeman had the devotion sharing about Daniel. Sherill Carlson gave us a crossword puzzle; the answers were all things about summer conference.

She encouraged all of us to attend conference. During the business meeting we elected officers for 2026-2027, and voted on the budget. Jennifer Schneider gave a prayer for the elected officers. The officers all gave reports. It was exciting to hear we have given over \$22,000.00 toward our 30,000.00 goal for project. Jennifer was our speaker for the day. She shared about upcoming meetings in the region.

Her power point was beautiful pictures from the 4-Ten mission trip to Kodiak. The group helped with animal camp, lawn care, moving and organizing the craft room. Our mini project for the day was Summer Cafe which feeds the children in Ottawa County during June and July. Lots of peanut butter, jelly and sandwich zip lock bags were given to help with the project. At the close of the meeting lunch was served by the Ada/Minneapolis ladies.



Linda Wallace, Ark Valley/Judson president
Contact Info:
Email: lindamaewallace@hotmail.com

