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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

As I begin to write this article, my thoughts and feelings are quite conflicted. I am thinking “where do I start?” “what should I say?” “should I say something about recent events?” “should I not?” So, I’m going to just begin and see where it goes. I hope it will make some sense to you. This past week I have felt irritated, a little angry, disappointed, sadness on one side and on the other, I have felt praise, joy, gladness and kindness. I know I am not alone with these conflicted feelings. What is a believer to do in the face of this kind of darkness in our world? A darkness of perplexities and confusion – a darkness not of the heart but of the mind? We must listen to God’s Word...Trust in the name of the Lord. Well, maybe actually, the first thing we should do is nothing. I know that is a difficult thing for our lowly human selves to handle. There is a saying, “When you are rattled, don’t rush.” In other words, “When you are confused and do not know what to do, do nothing.” Slow your pace of life and keep anchored in God. The right thing is to simply trust God, for while we trust, He can work. Worrying keeps Him from doing anything for us. Only God’s peace will quiet our minds and put our hearts in a joyful place. God is good, kind, merciful plus more, more and more. As my pastor said on Sunday, God continues to bless us, surprise us, forgive us when we ask and provides a way to salvation. We all have a propensity to be evil, but God comes along with goodness and provides the way to salvation that changes our lives from that darkness to light. But for Jesus we would all be doing evil.

I am writing this article before we come together at First Baptist Church Salina for the Annual Gathering of the Central Region. The luncheon for our American Baptist Women's Ministries ladies will be held on Friday. I know that we will have over 70 women there to enjoy a good meal together, gather for business, share the project funds collected with Global Servant, Lori Mann and hear from Lori the things the funds will provide for. It will be a time of celebration and thanksgiving. This week I attended a Zoom meeting with alumnae of the National ABW Board. Since I served as National Secretary, Resource Coordinator and National President, I served with many that I saw on the call. During our time together, I learned more about ways to connect with sisters across the United States and Puerto Rico. Here are a few things you should be aware of:

- Every 4th Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm, you can join others in a prayer time by Zoom. Go to ABWMinistries.org and click on the Events tab and then prayer call. You will register (you only need to do this once) and then you will receive the link for each monthly session. You don't have to attend each session, but it is an option.
- There will be a seminar on "Belonging" to be held November 13 & 20. Check out the details for this on the national website.
- You can purchase on the national website, the "Belonging" devotional. Cost is \$25 each for the downloaded document. For that amount, you can print it only once. However, if you would like to have the ability to make unlimited copies of the devotional, cost is \$75. Information can be found on the website ABWMinistries.org.
- There will be a Women's and Girls Conference in Denver, CO on July 16-18, 2026.

More information will be forthcoming.

I will be meeting with other Association Presidents and with past alumnae of ABWomen's Ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico via Zoom again in the coming weeks. I hope to get more information that I can share in other newsletters. Know that I will be sharing with them how our Central Region ladies are such a blessing to the ministries we do in our local, regional and national endeavors. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. Blessings to each of you!

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Special Project 2025–2026

Greetings to my sisters in Christ,

I bet you're wondering how last year's Special Project went. Well, so am I! I'll find that out at our Annual Gathering, so I hope to see many of you there. I know that we are a generous group of women who strive to help others who are in need. So, I'll report back in November what that total was.

OCTOBER IS HERE! My absolute favorite time of the year. The leaves are changing, and the weather is cooling off. FINALLY! We start to clean out the old, faded blooms of our outdoor potted plants and prepare for the next season. Just as we prepare for the fall of the year, we are also into our next Special Project year. This is a time when we can plan and prepare for our local fundraising efforts for our projects we have chosen. If you have not heard they are **CAMP CHRISTY (Scott City, KS.) and the KODIAK BAPTIST MISSION (Kodiak, AK).** Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for each of them or a total of \$30,000. (Any additional funds raised will be split equally between the two projects.)

For Camp Christy we are raising funds for their use in furnishing a new cottage they are building. This money will help with furniture and appliances and will be used to house campers as well as volunteers.

For the Kodiak Baptist Mission we are raising funds for the preservation (maintenance) of their buildings on site. They are a lifeline for many in their community and are so appreciative of your generosity in picking them as one of our projects for this year.

You can check out both of these organizations at our ABWMCR website: **<https://www.abwmcr.org/special-project-2025-2026>** Please take the time to do that and add each of them to your daily prayers.

Special Project 2025–2026

As far as ideas for fundraising are concerned, our church De Soto Baptist, just held our annual All Church Birthday dinner and had a great turnout. This is an easy thing to do, hold a potluck dinner after your service and set a basket out for volunteer donations. I ask, “Who doesn’t love a great potluck!”

Fundraising efforts do not have to be elaborate just whatever works with your congregation. If you have any ideas and want to share with me, please do. I’d love to hear from you.

In closing remember: “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Phil. 2:4

Please send checks to ABWMCR c/o Vonda Breicheisen, 2504 Idaho Rd, Ottawa, Ks. 66067-9007

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Missouri River ABWM Fall Activities

My favorite time of the year is fall! And a favorite activity any time of the year is meeting with American Baptist Women.

Missouri River's Fall Rally is scheduled for Saturday, Oct 18, at Judson Baptist Church in KCK. Christmas in October is the theme, as we will put together Christmas shoeboxes for Operation Christ Child. Our goal is 24; we might do more, depending on time and the generosity of those attending. Each person is asked to bring one or two toys for the boxes, with other items supplied. After refreshments and a short business meeting, Rhonda Quillin, OCC KC West Area Team and Church Relations Coordinator will share about this ministry and get us started. Everyone attending is also asked to bring their favorite Christmas snack to share.

No matter the circumstances you find yourself in the midst of, I share this encouraging verse. Try to imagine how the Lord's voice would sound as He sings over you. I get goosebumps thinking about it! Zephaniah 3:17, NLT – For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

Connie Northup
President, Missouri River



Mission and Service October 2025

All churches should have your new White Cross information for 2025-2026. Do you look at the quotas and think “oh, no, another thing to do” or do you think “oh, yes, another thing we can do”. Every bit that we give to Bethel Neighborhood Center, Murrow Indian Children’s Home, or Anadarko Christian Center helps them so much. Internationally we are helping teachers in the Congo. When a person here in the US learns to read, they have so many resources to continue practicing and growing as we have books, all kinds of printed materials and so on to use. In the Congo, there are few books, and they are too expensive for ordinary people to purchase. Not even billboards to read! Teachers are trained to go out and either teach reading or help readers improve. What to do about books? Our solution is to give these teachers Bibles which they use as textbooks. Many are so excited to get a Bible, they decide to become a teacher just for this reason. In the early days in America a similar thing happened. Very few books were available, so Bibles were used to teach.

Remember to record the amounts you contribute and give to your Association White Cross person. These numbers really help me with next year’s planning. Thanks so much for your generosity.

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