

History of the American Baptist Women's Ministries in Kansas and Central Region 1920 – 2020

1829 -	Baptist Missionaries in Kansas
1869 – 1919	Women's Foreign & Home Mission Circles
1920 – 1945	Kansas Baptist Women's Union
1945 – 1970	Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society
1970 – 1979	American Baptist Women of Kansas
1979 – 1991	American Baptist Women of Central Region
1991 - 2020	American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region

Prepared by Wilma E. Engle, historian
American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region

Acknowledgements

This history was compiled from information in the four previous history books- 1829-2001, biographies, newspaper articles, historical documents, *History of Kansas Baptists* by W.A. Seward Sharp, historical secretary of The Kansas Baptist Convention 1939, thesis by Robert E. Starburg *Baptist on the Kansas Frontier*, etc. that I believe to be accurate in details. I have added to what was in the prior history books as I found information that seemed to add clarity.

Pictures were copied from various sources, including the old history books – so some are not very clear but give an idea of the subject. Each president provided information for her term.

My thanks to historians who have helped to compile this information and preserve it for posterity:

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Ethelyn Branum, historian 1993-2005

Phyllis Cline, historian 2006 – 2010

For a more complete understanding of Native American's involvement with and assistance to our Baptist missionaries, be sure to read the prelude to this history: “Witness of *Native Americans in Kansas and Indian Territory/Oklahoma – Tribal history, Baptist missionaries and indigenous Baptist leadership*”

I would encourage local organizations and associations to compile their own histories, if they have not already started to do this.

My thanks to the presidents - Janie Allen, Juanita Parker, Mary Etta Copeland, Barbara Westfall and Melissa Newberry for giving me the privilege of serving as historian and the opportunity to compile this information. I pray that it will be as inspiring to those who read it as it was to me as I gathered the information into one source.

Wilma Engle, historian 2010 -

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region

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ABW Geographical history

Nationally the American Baptist Women's Ministries is divided into three geographical locations – eastern, midwestern and western.

Central Region is part of the Midwestern Section which includes:
 Central Region – Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas; Great River – Missouri, Illinois; Indiana & Kentucky; Michigan; Mid America – Iowa, Minnesota; Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Our region was comprised of only Kansas until 1979 when Oklahoma and Arkansas churches were added. At that time, the name was changed to Central Region. The Crawford Association gained the Oklahoma churches in Muskogee and Tulsa, while the Grace Hill Association gained the Bella Vista, AR church. As the Crawford and Grace Hill Associations merged in 2014, these churches are all together now in the Crawford/Grace Hill Association. The Central Region ABW also welcomed the Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association (OIABA) during 2012 with its admission into the Central Region.

Central Region divided into areas but the women chose to remain with the associations.

Background history of Kansas...

1541 — New Worlds and Indian Territory

It began as a tug-of-war between cultures and empires. Spain wanted us. France did, too. Neither empire considered the native tribes already on the soil.



In 1541 the Spanish conquistador, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, came with an army of about 300 Spaniards, well mounted and about 1000 friendly Indians and servants. The object of this expedition was to explore the country north of Mexico, supposed to have much silver and gold, and to add it to the dominions of the Spanish Crown.

They were looking for Quivira which, according to his reports back to Spain, would have begun on the hills south of the Smoky Hill River near Lindsborg and extended to the junction of the Smoky Hill and Republican about twelve miles northeast of Junction City. They did not find gold.

The flint hills were the gold mines of the Indian. Knowing little of metals, he wrought flint, his best material, into various implements for his uses. Flint rock is soft when first dug but becomes hardened as exposed to air. He made arrow-point and spears, hoes, digging implements, sledges, axes, hammers, scrapers, knives and drills. Many were rough but some were smooth.

In spite of not finding gold, Coronado claimed the land for Spain and his Catholic priest claimed it for Christianity. Over the next six decades, other expeditions followed, bringing with them horses, disease and religion.

Claude Charles du Tisne came to the area in 1719 looking to create trade relations with the native people. Furs were in great demand across Europe so they traded guns, metal and alcohol for them.



On 9-27-1719 he set up a post bearing the arms of France and took formal possession of the country for the French King.

The tug-of-war continued as the French built a fort and trading post where Fort Leavenworth is now. The two empires claimed and reclaimed the land until finally, in 1803, another country laid claim to Kansas – the United States when they purchased the entire area in the Louisiana Purchase.

The land became a crossroads of trails and cultures – a holding ground for dozens of Indian tribes, pushed onto the soil from other parts of the nation until most of them were finally forced to the reservations in Indian Territory/Oklahoma.

Kansas official song: “Home on the Range”



In 1947 the Kansas legislature declared “Home on the Range” the official song of Kansas. The inspiration for Dr. Brewster Higley’s poem written back in 1872 is uncertain, but people identified Kansas as the home place. It was the center of the heartland.

Higley was seeking refuge and a little solace when he left Ohio in 1871 and homesteaded on the banks of Beaver Creek in Smith County, Kansas. On the Kansas prairie, he found peace. To pass the time, Higley often played the violin and wrote poetry.

His first home was a simple dugout – dirt floors, roof and walls. A year later, he built a cabin with three limestone walls; on the south wall, he put in logs. He kept the dirt floor and added two small rectangular windows on the south and north walls and built a door with a latchstring lock. One of his poems expressed his appreciation of his surroundings:



“Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam, where the deer and the antelope play; where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the sky is not cloudy all day.”

“Oh, give me the gale of the Solomon vale where life streams with buoyancy flow, on the banks of the Beaver, where seldom if ever any poisonous herbage doth grow.”

Two years later, Higley was treating a patient for a gunshot wound while another man waited – Trube Reese of Smith Center. Reese began thumbing through Higley’s books and came upon the poem. He reportedly told Higley: “This is plumb good, you should have it printed in the paper.”

So, in 1873, the Smith County Pioneer printed the poem with other verses such as this one:

“How often at night, when the heavens are bright with the light from the glittering stars, have I stood there amazed and asked as I gazed if their glory exceeds that of ours.”

That same year Higley presented the poem to Dan Kelley of nearby Gaylord who had been a bugler during the Civil War and had enough background in music to give it a distinctive melody.

Kelley then gave the song to Judge John Harlan and his family, who first played and sang it publicly. The Harlans added a chorus to the song: *“A Home – A Home – Where the deer and the antelope play – where seldom is heard a discouraging word – and the sky is not cloudy all day.”*

The song spread like wildfire throughout the West. It gained popularity along the cattle trails and in small-town dance halls where its melody and heartfelt words about home were quickly learned. By then, with the cowboy influence, the chorus of the song had shifted to *“Home, Home on the Range...”*

When Brewster Higley wrote his poem, the prairie was already rapidly disappearing. James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok was marshall of Abilene; buffalo herds were being slaughtered by the thousands and the animals’ carcasses left to rot on the prairie. Indians had been forced to live on reservations in Oklahoma.

“The Red man was pressed from this part of the west, He’s likely no more to return, To the banks of Red River where seldom, if ever, their flickering campfires burn.”

Dave Zerfas, a western balladeer from Manhattan says “It paints the hope of people who came here searching for a new life. It is a snapshot of the idyllic prairie before the buffalo were all gone. To me, that song is the dream of Kansas.”


HOME ON THE RANGE

Words by
DR. BREWSTER M. HIGLEY
(1910 version by John A. Lomax)

Music by
DANIEL E. KELLEY


Gentle Waltz ♩. = 56

C F C/E




1. Oh, give me a home, where the buf - fa - lo roam, where the deer and the
(2.) oft - en at night when the heav - ens are bright, with the light from the
3.-6. See additional lyrics,

Am Dm G C F



an - te - lope play. _____ Where sel - dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing
glit - ter - ing stars, _____ have I stood there a - mazed and asked as I

Dm7(b5)/A♭ C G C



word, and the skies are not cloud - y all day. _____
gazed, if their glor - y ex - ceeds that of ours. _____

C G7 C



Home, home on _____ the range, _____ where the

Am Dm/F G C F



deer and the an - te - lope play. _____ Where sel - dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing

Dm7(b5) C G C 1. 2.



word, and the skies are not cloud - y all day. _____ 2. How _____

Additional lyrics

3. Where the air is so pure, the zephyrs so free,
The breezes so balmy and light,
That I would not exchange my home on the range,
For all of the cities so bright.
To Chorus:
4. Oh, I love the wild flowers in this dear land of ours,
The curlew, I love to hear scream,
And I love the white rocks and the antelope flocks,
That graze on the mountaintops green.
To Chorus:

5. The red man was pressed from this part of the West,
He's likely no more to return,
To the banks of Red River where seldom if ever,
Their flickering camp-fires burn.
To Chorus:
6. Oh, give me a land where the bright diamond sand,
Flows leisurely down the stream;
Where the graceful white swan goes gliding along,
Like a maid in a heavenly dream.
To Chorus:

Baptist missionaries in Kansas

The Kansas and the Osage tribes, who were the original claimants, sold a large part of their land to the government. This was surveyed and allotted to the eighteen Emigrant Tribes that came from the east.



The boundaries of Kanas Territory as fixed by the Kansas-Nebraska bill were: The Fortieth Parallel on the north, Missouri on the east, the thirty-seventh Parallel on the south, and the crest of the Rocky Mountains on the west. New Mexico formed the southwest boundary. (The state was given its present form by the delegates of the Wyandotte Convention who prepared the constitution under which the state was admitted to the Union in 1861.)

When the Government began to consider the matter of removing the Indian tribes to a territory west of the Mississippi River, Rev. Isaac McCoy was appointed an agent of the U.S. Government to survey for the location of **eighteen of the Indian tribes that were being moved to Kansas.**

As a young man Isaac McCoy had a visionary calling to preach to the Indians. When he asked Christiana Polk to marry him in 1803, he told her they would be moving to the outpost of Vincennes, Indiana, so he could preach to the Indians.

One must admire Christiana's faith and trust in God. As a child, her mother and the three children were captured by the Ottawa Indians in Kentucky and taken to the Great Lakes region. It was several years before her father managed to rescue them. No information is known as to how she was treated but **God called them to serve as missionaries to the same tribe who had captured her as a child.**

They had many struggles and hardships, but Isaac conceived a plan of forming a missionary society for the preaching of the gospel on the frontier to both the 'reds' and the 'whites'. The plan was approved by the Wabash Association which appointed him as its missionary.

This was the beginning of the great work of his life. He was the pioneer among Baptists, fully consecrated to the Indians of the frontier. **Isaac McCoy has justly been called the Great Apostle to the American Indians. His wife, Christiana Polk McCoy, his companion and help-meet through all the years of suffering and service, deserves equal honor.**

Although having preached and evangelized for several years, Rev. Isaac McCoy received his first missionary appointment from the Baptist Triennial Convention in 1817

He was handicapped by not knowing the language of any of the Indians so had to rely on traders who were mostly Catholic and did not sympathize with his

work and did not communicate correctly. They refused to communicate anything religious. Finally, he secured help from Mr. C. Martin who, though not a Christian, was true to his employer and later became a believer and a trusted teacher.

It was a chance meeting that brought missionary Rev. Isaac McCoy and young Johnston Lykins together. A loose horseshoe had necessitated a stop at the Lykins' farm one day in 1818. Lykins was employed as a teacher in the Wea-Kickapoo Mission in the Wabash country at age 19. Lykins was awe struck with the success of the work and ministry of Indian Missions in Indiana and Michigan. In 1819 he joined McCoy and became an assistant and a missionary teacher. On 2-27-1827 he married McCoy's eldest daughter, **Delilah McCoy Lykins**, who became his missionary co-worker as well as his wife.

McCoy was the founder of four Indian Mission Centers in the Lake Region and from these centers he and his colleagues made contacts with, taught and preached among the Chippewa, Delaware, Illinois, Kickapoos, Miami, Ojibwas, Ottawa, Potawatomie, Sac and Fox, Shawnees, Stockbridge, Tuscarore, Wea and Wyandotte and possibly others.

In 1824 Isaac McCoy first came to Kansas to locate some of the Indian tribes. "To the West of Missouri," this removal was begun in 1825, and continued until 1843.

It was the dream of Isaac McCoy to establish a federation of all the tribes of the territory, and finally the formation of an Indian State. God had prepared him to lead these 'Red Men' into the new promised land of Kansas.

Luther Rice, the founder of Columbia College, showed himself to be a real friend of the Indians and a sympathizing brother to the missionaries. He warmly advocated the plan for colonization of the Indians, and kindly considered taking the missionary's sons into the College.

The apparition that continually haunted the missionaries was the encroachment of whites on Indian lands and the sale of liquor to the Indians, resulting in the most disgraceful orgies.

Isaac McCoy made two extended tours of exploration with his son, Dr. Rice McCoy, in 1828. At the conclusion of these tours, he made this entry in his journal.

"Whatever should be the result of our exploration or whatever might be the action of the government or of the Mission Board, the missionaries had resolved to transfer their labors to the west of the state of Missouri; and we hoped that the people of our charge in the Lake country would ultimately be drawn into that region. Therefore, in returning through the white settlements across the state of Missouri, I selected upon the town of Lafayette as a stopping place for Mr. Lykins and myself until we should be able to make suitable locations in the Indian Territory. We returned to St. Louis after an absence of fifty days."

Upon approval of the Mission Board for the establishment of a permanent Baptist Mission in Kansas and receiving approval and appropriations for its continuance, Rev. McCoy accompanied a committee from the Mission Board to

Washington to present a petition to President Jackson on behalf of the allocation of the Indian tribes in the west and the expense of their removal from the Lake region.

Baptist historians consider the arrival of **Rev. Isaac McCoy** and his wife, **Christiana Polk McCoy**, the “first recorded visit of a Baptist missionary to the Great Plains beyond Missouri”.

→ picture probably in about 1842



McCoy and Lykins arrived at the new settlement of the Shawanves (Shawnee) on the line of the State of Missouri in August 1829. The site granted to the mission by the government was at the northwest corner of the Shawnee village in what would become Johnson County. They at once had a conference with the Shawnees and arranged for opening a school among them. Illness and other circumstances delayed its opening.



Dr. Johnston Lykins erected the first mission buildings and served as superintendent and teacher for ten years.

Religious services were begun in the Mission House where the disciples from all the neighboring tribes attended. The Christian Indians had come from the East and at once were encouraged to meet at the Mission House for worship and instruction.

Reference was made in the history by Rev. McCoy, to the erection of the first Baptist Church building in the State of Kansas, located about one mile south of the Shawnee Mission house. The history makes it clear that the ‘church’ was organized in Michigan and reassembled and resumed its services in Kansas in 1832. It was located on a two-acre tract granted by the government on Section 8 T12, R25, about one mile southeast of the mission house.

The school was started in April 1833. It labored under many disadvantages but held its ground and after ten years effort was reported prosperous. In 1844 the school was broken up by a flood. The log building was moved by John Gill Pratt in 1848 to the hills 6 miles northwest where he re-established the Delaware Mission until they were removed to Indian Territory.

Dr. Johnston Lykins assisted Jotham Meeker in publishing the first newspaper. He was one of the founders of Kansas City, Kansas and served as the first full time mayor. He retired from the mission in 1845 and took up the practice of medicine. He died at his home in Kansas City MO in 1876 at the age of 76.

The Baptist Mission established in the Shawnee Indian Village had, historian Sharp records, “the first school, the first church, and the home of the first newspaper printed in the territory”.

On August 11, 1833 two Delaware Indians were baptized. The first to receive this sacred ordinance in the area of Kansas was **16-year old Charles Journeycake.** Within three weeks three young Delaware women were baptized.

Charles was later ordained as a Baptist preacher and organized a Baptist church among the Delaware in November 1871. The congregation, during its early years, survived a tornado that destroyed its church building in 1876 and an epidemic that killed a third of its membership. Eventually, however, the Delaware were moved to Oklahoma by the federal government and white settlers took over the church that Charles Journeycake had established. He was the last chief of the Delaware tribe. **(More details in the Native American history pp 15-19)**

Charles Journeycake (12-16-1817 – 1-3-1894) visited Washington, D.C. twenty four times on behalf of his people starting in 1854.

There is in the annals of Kansas no story of more utter devotion than that of Rev. Jotham Meeker and his wife, called by the Indians, “He who speaks good words.” Mr. Meeker arrived at the Mission House of Carey, Michigan, (Ottawas) on Nov. 24, 1825. He was then 21 years of age and very anxious to become a missionary. Rev. Isaac McCoy, a noted Baptist missionary, who was then in charge of the mission, employed him as an assistant.



In 1827 he was made superintendent of the Thomas Mission (Potawatomies) and was introduced to the Indians as “their minister”. In September 1830, he was married to **Miss Elnora Richardson** of Cincinnati, Ohio at her home in that city. In 1832, he, with his wife, went to the Sault Saint Marie mission in Michigan (Ojibwas & Chippewas), where they remained for a year.



In 1833 Jotham Meeker and his wife, **Elnora**, came with the Chippewas to the territory and joined the Lykins. **He was 29 years old and had developed a phonetic alphabet using 23 letters to print native languages**, which he planned to use to print religious materials and an Indian newspaper.

The printing press that he brought with him cost about \$500 and was the very first in the territory. (In today’s monetary value it would be about \$14,000.) The first document that he published in Kansas was a 24-page primer in the Delaware language. His phonetic alphabet made reading possible for several tribes.

Meeker and Lykins established the first newspaper in Kansas, the *Shawnee Sun*, in February 1834. **He printed the first newspaper to be published in an Indian language anywhere in North America, the “Siwinowe Kesibwi” in February 1835.**

The translation of the Bible in their language was Jotham Meeker’s best literary work.

In a letter to his brother in 1836 Jotham Meeker wrote, “Dearest brother, You deserve to know the plan on which I propose to labor...It is simply this: To teach the Indians wherever I can find them collectively or individually to read and write in their own language. To write and print...tracts for them. To revise and correct and change strictly to Ottawa a part or all of the...Chippewa Testament, and more especially, to preach to them the Gospel on all suitable occasions.”

Meeker moved to the Ottawa Baptist Mission in 1837 to work among the Ottawa Indians and was succeeded at the Shawnee Mission by John Gill Pratt. (Pratt’s son married the daughter of Chief Journeycake)

The government originally granted the Ottawa Indians 74,000 acres of the best land in Kansas. The mission farm was located about 5 miles northwest of the present site of Ottawa. For the first three or four years Mr. Meeker and his wife lived in a small log house of one room situated on the banks of the Marais des Cygnes river.



When he first went among the Indians they had never heard of the Bible. He taught them how to read and write and preached to them until every head of a family became a Christian and Baptist, while Mrs. Meeker taught the women how to sew and do all manner of household work. He taught the men how to till their land.

Jotham Meeker and his wife, Elnora, labored ceaselessly to improve the lives of the Ottawa, serving as ministers, nurse and doctor, business agents, marriage counselors, teachers, and, of course, spiritual counselors.

Three daughters were born to the Meekers. The oldest daughter, Mrs. Simpson, was the first white girl born in Kansas territory.

Over two decades, Meeker and his wife printed more than 65 works in 10 Indian languages. Meeker became a counselor, physician and advocate to Kansas Indians. One of his most important legacies was more than two decades worth of daily notes chronicling life on the frontier, as well as the developing social problems. “As to the labors among the Indians, I must say there are many obstacles in the way but the greatest of all seems to me the deadly cup.”

From his journals we learn that they were sick much of the time. By the time Elnora was 46 she had only seven teeth left in her head and none of them met. By that age she was gray-haired and stooped.

Meeker died in 1855 at age 51 – his body exhausted from hard prairie life – just months before border tensions between Kansans and Missourians turned violent. Elnora died in 1856. Both are buried in the old cemetery.

One of Meeker's converts, John Tecumseh "Taui" Jones, organized the First Baptist Church of Ottawa, composed entirely of Indians in 1858.

John Tecumseh "Taui" Jones, born of a white father and a Chippewa mother in Canada in 1808, was able to see the sides of both the Indian and the white settler. He attended what later became known as Colgate University. He became an interpreter for the government and came to Kansas in 1833. Here he married Miss Jane Kelly, a missionary who had come from Maine.

(More details in the Native American history pp 26-28)

(The Second Baptist Church was organized May 2, 1864. The name was changed to 'First' when the old Indian church became extinct.)

In 1838 nine hundred Pottawatomie Indians were forced to walk 681 miles from their homes in northern Indiana to Sugar Creek Mission in today's Linn County.

On April 12, 1841 **Rev. Robert Simmerwell and his wife, Fannie Goodridge (who was a missionary from Kentucky)** organized the second Baptist church in Kansas on April 13, 1841 for the Potawatomi and also a small tribe of Stockbridge originally from New York. They had been moved to Wisconsin and then eventually to Kansas. It was located south of Leavenworth.

The Simmerwells had worked at the Shawnee Baptist Mission in Johnson County from 1833-37. Having learned the phonetic alphabets that Jotham Meeker had developed for the Indian languages, Simmerwell translated the New Testament into the Potawatomi language.

Beginning with 1845 the Potawatomes were removed to the new reservation west and north of Topeka. In 1846 they opened a mission for the Potawatomi five miles west of Topeka.



← photo provided by Martha Robbins

The Potawatomie Baptist Manual Labor Training School was a three story, stone building with 12 rooms where Indian children were taught manual arts as well as reading, writing, arithmetic and religious subjects.

Student farm labor was intended to make this boarding school self-supporting. The building, completed in the spring of 1850, housed approximately 90 Indian children. Eleven years later, the school was closed due to funding failures and the civil war.

Rev. Simmerwell was a skilled blacksmith, a practical farmer and a good mechanic.

When the Indians were removed to Indian Territory most of the Potawatomes went there, but a portion of the tribe located on a small reservation

northwest of Topeka where they still live. (**More details in Native American history pp 19-23**)

In 1845 the Baptists of the South withdrew, because of a difference of opinion growing out of the slavery question. **They organized the Southern Baptist Convention.**

The wives of these early missionaries no doubt matched their husbands in heroism and supreme sacrifice. Each woman did her part of the noble cause of Christ and with this firm foundation we continued to build our Baptist work in Kansas.

“The Indian Missions of Kansas flourished for a time,” Seward Sharp writes, until Congress “passed the Missouri compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska bill and Kansas became the battleground between the advocates of freedom and slavery.”

The Baptists became the first religious teachers of the American Indians. Following is a list of the missionaries of the Convention who were appointed to labor among the Indians in Kansas:

Rev. Isaac McCoy and his wife, Christiana Polke McCoy; Rev. Johnston Lykins and Delilah McCoy Lykins; Rev. Alexander Evans, Mrs. Alexander Evans; Daniel French; Rev. Jotham Meeker, Mrs. Elnora D. Richardson Meeker; Miss Nancy Brown; Rev. Robert Simmerwell, Mrs. Fanny Goodrich Simmerwell; Rev. John G. Pratt, Mrs. Olivia Evans Pratt; Rev. David B. Rollin, Mrs. Sarepta Rollin; Miss Elizabeth Fuller Churchill, married to Rev. Francis Barker; Miss Jane Kelley married to Rev. John Techumseh Jones, an Indian preacher; Miss Elizabeth Stevens Morse; Miss Abigail Webster; Rev. Erastus Willard, Mrs. Caroline Morse Willard; Rev. Ira D. Blanchard, Mrs. Mary Walton Blanchard; Miss Sylvia Chase; Miss Elizabeth P Gookin; Miss Harriet Hildreth Morse; Miss Clara Gowing.

These served faithfully and led in the founding of churches among the Delawares, Wyandottes, Stockbridges, Miamis, Ottawas, Chippewas, and Potawatomes. Most of these churches were scattered and disbanded when the Indians were removed to reservations in Indian Territory. Some of these missionaries remained in Kanas and carried on Christian work among the rapidly incoming white settlers.

The First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kansas has the honored distinction of being the first Negro Baptist Church to be organized in Kansas.

In 1854 the Triennial Convention surrendered the work in Kansas to the American Baptist Home Mission Society. The first ten missionaries appointed were:

Rev. William W. Hall, commissioned October 1, 1854, to work in Lawrence and vicinity. He organized the First Baptist Church of Lawrence June 25, 1855 with seven charter members. On January 1, 1856 twelve members were added.

Rev. R. C. Brant, appointed to Lawrence in 1857. The services of the church were held in various halls for twelve years, including the Masonic Lodge Hall. On account of ill health, he resigned as pastor in 1859. Later he was appointed a general missionary.

Rev. W. O. Thomas, appointed to Lawrence June 1, 1859. Reported the first year that "their house of worship became too strait for them and the need of a larger house". The next year he reported, "church strengthened and encouraged".

(In April 1865 General James H. Lane deeded two lots to the church on the corner of Louisiana and Winthrop Streets, which were later sold to purchase a new site for the church)

Rev. James Gilpatrick, commissioned November 1, 1854, assigned to Topeka and vicinity. Formed a church at Bloomington that year. He was quite active when able to work but was very sick for several weeks. His wife died in 1855 and his services ceased in 1857. He organized First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas on March 1, 1857 with six charter members.

C. C. Hutchinson appointed August 1, 1859 to serve at Topeka. There were twenty two members added the first year. The church incorporated August 2, 1862. The church worshiped for five years in the home of Deacon Miller. He then built a store building and the church finished and furnished the hall above the store and worshiped there the next eight years. Then they met in the "Odd Fellows Hall" until the first church building was finished in 1874.

Rev. George Henderson labored at Leavenworth from February 1, 1858 for 18 months but no report on his work is available. In the fall of 1858, the Tabernacle Baptist Church was organized by Rev. Kermott. In 1860 the First Baptist Church was organized by Rev. Barrett. On May 1864 the 28 members of the two churches organized the Baptist Church of Leavenworth.

Their building was completed in 1871. Henry Ward Beecher, who occupied the pulpit many times in the early days pronounced the auditorium as the finest church auditorium west of the Mississippi. It had 1,600 sittings with a fine balcony. It was equipped with the first Mohler organ in this new West.

Rev. R.M. Fish, appointed to Brownville, December 1, 1857. He served about one year. He made the following report to the Society: "Prospects are very encouraging. Building a meeting house. Sickness prevalent."

Rev. E. Allward, appointed April 1, 1858. Assigned to Doniphan County. That year he reported the organization of churches at three stations. The next year he reported, "an unusual interest in the field". The next year he reported "a revival" and the third year "spirituality of the church improved". His services terminated about February 1, 1863.

William J. Kermott, appointed August 1, 1859. Assigned to Manhattan and vicinity. That year he reported, “Religious interest encouraging. People very eager to hear the gospel”. Next year he reported, “Revival, need of a church edifice. Embarrassed by sufferings of the people generally.” Next year, “Commenced building a church edifice, encouraged in view of progress made.” Next year, “Many valuable members gone to war. Pastor narrowly escaped assassination by Jayhawkers”. Resigned to enter another field the fall of 1862.

Rev. J. M. Lacky, appointed November 1859 to serve in Johnson County. The one entry of his report that year was: “Progressing; the suffering of the people and political troubles give but little time for true religion.” He resigned in 1861 and joined the army.

Some of the churches organized by these missionaries did not long survive the troublous times. There were other missionaries appointed by the Society in these early days and other preachers who came from the east to seek homes in Kansas, and who did much heroic work among the early struggling churches.

Later missionaries who served in Kansas included:

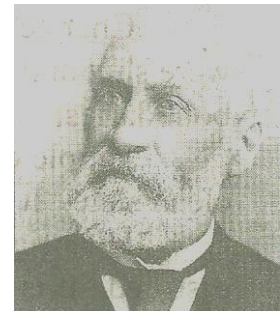
Mrs. John Clough Martin (Eva Gruen); Rev. Nils Parsons, Mrs. Nils Parsons (Emma Blick); Rev. James C. Richardson, Mrs. James C. Richardson (Lula E. Rock); Rev. William H. Roberts, Mrs. W.H. Roberts (Lora B.)’ Rev. Herbert F. Rudd; Rev. W.A. Seward Sharp, Mrs. W.A. Sharp (Florence N. Wooley); Rev. Paul A. Sornberger, Mrs. Paul A. Sornbereger (Emma Neumanas); Mrs. Erville E. Sowards (Genevive Sharp); Rev. Francis J. White, Mrs. Francis White (Ivy E. Thompson); Rev. John G. Woodin, Mrs. J.G. Woodin (Bessie Livers) Rev. Carl C. Wright.

Between 1854-1880 Kansas Baptists gave \$14,688.96 to the work of the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

Kansas was officially declared the Kansas Territory in 1854. About 2,000 people came to settle in Kansas during the first two weeks after it was declared a territory. Among those were Charles and Sarah Robinson. From 1854 to 1861, Kansas became the staging ground and the focus point for a nation struggling over the fundamental question: Could one race own another?

Charles Robinson was a leader in the free-state forces, governor of Kansas under the Topeka government of the 1850s and the first governor of Kansas in 1861. →

The Robinsons spent time in jail during pro-slavery trials. Their home was burned by Missouri ruffians and Sarah Robinson entertained guests as the state’s “first lady” by making do and borrowing homes in Topeka from state legislators.





Sarah was a feisty, articulate and a staunch defender of abolitionist politics. Her 1856 journal, "*Kansas: Its Interior and Exterior Life*," describes some of the couple's encounters in those tumultuous first few years in the Kansas territory. "Missourians have invaded the territory, and, by force, taken possession of the polls. They have tramped upon the right of the people to make their own laws. They have framed a code of laws that would have disgraced the dark ages. They have denied the citizens of the territory the right of free speech," Sarah wrote. She wrote about the hardships of prairie life – the weather, cholera, fires and other challenges. Charles Robinson died in 1894 and Sarah on Nov. 15, 1911. They donated much of their land in Lawrence to Kansas University.

The treaties that had been made with the Indians were forgotten in the struggle between the free-state and pro-slavery factions. Eventually (January 29, 1861) Kansas entered the Union as a free state and the Indians in the state were forced to move again, this time to Oklahoma.

We continued missionary work in Oklahoma until 1914 when the Oklahoma Convention voted to form a single alignment with the Southern Baptists. (see Native American history for details)

In the meantime, the first all 'white' Baptist Church in Kansas was founded in Lawrence by the Rev. W. W. Hall on June 25, 1855. The original church had seven members and led a tenuous early existence due to the political upheaval occurring in Bleeding Kansas during its early years. Its early meetings are assumed to have taken place in private homes of its members. Its first permanent home in a church building was dedicated on January 30, 1870.

This church remains the oldest Baptist Church with unbroken service in the State of Kansas.

On June 6, 1860, thirty three delegates, (18 ministers and 15 laymen) representing 23 of the 40 Baptist Churches in the Kansas territory, met at the First Baptist Church of Atchison, Kansas and were eager to organize themselves into an active fellowship for the promotion of the interest of Christ's kingdom in the Territory of Kansas.

"Most of the churches were in the northeastern part of the territory, where the largest number of people had settled and consequently belonged to the East Kansas or the Kansas River Association. In 1860 they reported a total of 25 churches with a total membership of 661.

"The three other associations in Kansas at that time were the Mound City, the Neosho Valley and the Nemaha Valley. Together they probably had about 15 churches and approximately 400 members. Thus, out of a population of more than 107,000 we had only about 1,000 registered Baptists. However, there were

undoubtedly many more who had not joined a Baptist church. According to one of the reports, there were hundreds of Baptists yet to be gathered into the churches.

“Even though the Baptists were only a small minority on the Kansas frontier, they were one of the strongest groups. Church membership was very meaningful in those days. It was a common practice in Baptist churches to ‘exclude’ any of the members who did not live up to the strict standard of the churches.

“It was not their moral standard, however, that made the Baptists so effective on the frontier. It was because the religion of the Baptists was understood and practiced by the pioneers themselves. As one historian stated, “...in church organization and in the character of their preaching, they were closely in harmony with the temper of the West. Their church polity was congregational, and the individual church was governed democratically. There was no gulf fixed between the pulpit and the pew. Before the Civil War their ministers in the West were often men of very little formal education, who received small remuneration from their congregations and who worked with their hands during the week just as did the people to whom they ministered. They taught a simplified form of Calvinism and appealed directly to the exact words of the Bible, rejecting all human authority and tradition. In this they reflected one characteristic of the West, its self-confidence, its self-sufficiency, its indifference to the past and its contempt for tradition. The Baptists insisted on personal religion and moral obligation...”

(above quotations regarding membership from thesis by Robert Starburg)

Opening address was given by Rev James M. Challiss, former pastor of the Cohaney Baptist Church in New Jersey using the text in Matthew 21:28, “Son, go work today in my vineyard.”

The name, The Kansas Baptist Convention, was adopted.

Behind the organization of the Kansas Baptist Convention lay nearly thirty years of active Christian ministry within the territory which now is called Kansas. They were so effective that even before Kansas became a state, the Baptists in Kansas were able to organize their own convention.

Many important decisions were made during the two and one-half days of this first meeting. Many of the delegates had never met before and some rode horses 50-100 miles to attend. The program consisted of sermons, discussions, and State business. Rev. I.S. Kalloch was elected president, the Rev. L. A. Alderson, vice-president and the Rev. E. Alward, secretary.

Some pastor’s wives and a few Atchison women attended the first meeting. From the very beginning women were the first to organize groups specifically for the study and promotion of Missions around the world. We read that they gathered funds and talked Home and Foreign Missions.

“Yet the Kansas Baptist Convention was formed in the midst of a very critical period. The country was still very young and sparsely settled, with only a few towns of any size. There were no railroads or bridges and only a few roads, so travel was very difficult. Church attendance for the family often meant a half-day’s journey each way and for many others it was impossible.

“There were many problems connected with the speculation in land, the Colorado gold rush, and the unsettled nature of society, but also in 1860, Kansas was hit by a drought. Usually the people had very little to eat, but 1860 brought a famine to the land. One writer has said, ‘Not a single roasting ear grew on their corn. For thirteen months not a drop of rain fell.’

“Besides all this, there was the slavery controversy. The territory was described in Congress and throughout the nation as ‘Bleeding Kansas’. W.A. Elliott explained the situation thus: ‘The whole state was one great military camp. Civil war, blood-shed, outlawry, border ruffianism, massacre and riots ran rampant throughout the territory. The clash of contending forces could be heard on every hand. They were days of terror, agitation and alarm.’

“Nevertheless, when the Baptists gathered at Atchison, they had high hopes and a great vision. It was reported at the Baptist convention, ‘During the winter months, news came from all parts of the Territory, that sinners were seeking Christ.’ The Kansas Baptist Convention was born in the midst of that revival.

“In fact, the Baptists were so optimistic that at their first convention, they took steps to establish a Baptist University. This idea first came up for discussion at a meeting of the East Kansas Association in 1858, at which time the possibility of a high school was also considered. By 1860 the idea of a high school had been dropped but a charter was obtained for a college to be called ‘Roger Williams University’. A board of trustees was selected and they appointed a committee to select a site. (quoted from a thesis by Robert Starburg)

The founding of Ottawa University

Great interest centered in the study of plans for establishing a Baptist University in the territory for the Ottawa Indians. The idea was presented by Rev. John T. Jones and his wife, Jane, who was a missionary from Maine. Jones had a white father and Chippewa mother so understood both cultures very well.

The seminal work of Jotham and Elnora Meeker, the prophetic vision of tribal leaders, and the engagement of John Tecumseh (Tauby) Jones and his wife, Jane, led to an eventual agreement between the Kansas Baptist Convention and the Ottawa Tribe to form a school for the benefit of the children of the Ottawa Indians.



The proposition was approved.

The original intent of the Ottawa tribe was to charter a boarding school for “the children of the Tribe between the ages of 6 and 18 who shall be entitled to be received at such institution, and to

be subsisted, clothed, educated and attended in sickness...to continue so long as any children of the tribe shall present themselves for their exercise.” The idea of the initial school soon extended to the formation of a university - motivated by the desire for higher education for tribal members as well as white students.

Through the leadership of Tauy Jones, the government set apart 20,000 acres of Ottawa land, and through his persuasive influence, Ottawa was selected as the permanent site with the understanding that the school would be available to both Indians and Whites, although the Indians would always be given free education in exchange for their land. The name was changed from Roger Williams University to **Ottawa University**.

The first building, now known as Tauy Jones Hall, was begun in 1864. The university was actually started in 1865 as an academy, largely attended by Indian students.

At first the Board consisted of four Indians and two white members. Later the Board was changed to 24 members and it was placed under the authority of The Kansas Baptist Convention. The Board authorized the sale of 5,000 acres of the land granted by the Government at \$1.25 per acre. There were 1,280 acres sold, then came the transfer of the Indians to the Indian Territory in 1867 and the remainder of the land reverted to the Indians except 640 acres adjoining the town of Ottawa which was deeded to the school.

A note with this picture said this might be part of the land that was donated. It is said that the Meekers lived in the large house and used the small building behind it as the printing shop in the last years of their ministry. →



The first building was finished in the spring of 1869 and classroom work was

transferred to that building. It was destroyed by fire in 1875 and rebuilt in 1876 and stands today as Tauy Jones Hall, aptly named after one of its founders.

(W.A.Seward Sharp, historian)



In 1863 Lawrence was a thriving town of about 1650 people. It was regarded as a stronghold of anti-slavery conviction and only 40 miles from the Missouri border, so raids were frequent. On 8-21-1863 Quantrill's raid was a defining moment in the border conflict. At dawn Quantrill (a young man in 20s) and his young guerillas rode into Lawrence where they burned much of the town and killed between 160-190 men and boys.

The following report from our missionary Rev. W.O. Thomas is the most lucid description of that murderous raid that we have seen. He says: *“The scene was terrible. Hundreds of bushwackers galloping to and fro with great rapidity, whooping like wild Indians, incessantly firing their pistols and guns at our windows and doors. One hundred and eighty buildings in flames; the dead and dying lying around in all directions. Some of the wounded in burning buildings, from which no one could take them; women and children frantic over the loss of husbands and fathers, sending up their piercing wails of anguish, but in all this a kind Providence watched over me and mine. I made no attempt to escape, preferring to die with my family, if need be, rather than leave them unprotected. Among the victims of the raid was but one member of our church, Mr. Samuel Jones, who was a useful Christian, having devoted himself to doing good as a colporteur, in the service of the Tract and of the Bible Society.”*

“This murderous raid caused the suspension of our regular meetings two weeks, during which period my time was occupied in going from house to house, administering the consolations of religion to the 84 new-made widows and 240 fatherless, many of whom had lost not only their protectors, but their homes.

“We have no place we can depend upon wherein to hold our meetings. Our upper room is now used for county officers and we have no other place to go to, as every room in the place is filled to the utmost capacity by families that have been turned out. Only let us have a meeting-house, and we shall soon have a flourishing self-sustaining church.”



In 1866 an invitation was extended to colored Baptists to send delegates to the 1867 annual meeting of the Kansas Baptist Convention.

←In 1866, when African-American men were given full military status by Congress, 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalries were designated as all black regiments. These soldiers were eventually known as ‘Buffalo Soldiers’, nicknamed by American Indians because of their strength and valor.

As early as 1869 Mission Circles were organized in Kansas

One result of the struggle of the Civil War was the fact women learned to work together in an organized fashion and so began the first Woman’s Mission Circles (Societies).

In 1871 the Woman’s American Baptist Foreign Mission Society was founded. They had wanted to organize as early as 1844 but met with opposition from the brethren and undoubtedly from sisters as well. Finally the needs of the

women of China and India brought our grandmothers to the realization that something must be done. The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society would not send single women out as missionaries. The men were sent and their wives just went along to help with the work, without pay.

Membership in the Society cost two cents a week and it was urged that this be an over-and-above gift. From the beginning the history reads that each State work was promoted through an appointed State Secretary, who gave it her prayers, time, talents and strength without any compensation. Each State Secretary was to work with the women of the Associations and local churches.

Some of these State secretaries were:

1873 – Mrs. E. C. Taylor of Topeka. Only the church at Lawrence responded with an offering of \$ 18.10. Mrs. E. Gunn, Atchison; 1879 Mrs. A.S. Merrifield, Newton; 1880-1885 Mrs. A.L. Vail, Olathe; 1886 Mrs. O.W. Van Osdell, Ottawa; ____ Mrs. M.E. Stevens, Chetopa; 1891-1894 Mrs. G.S. Warne, Ft. Scott; 1895-1896 Mrs. Henry Cocks, Rosedale; 1897 Mr. Emma McLain, Kansas City; 1898 Mrs. G. Grovener; 1899 - 1912 Mrs. W.M. Gray, Chanute. She also served for the Jubilee Campaign 1919-20 and again in the Continuation Campaign 1921-23.

Missionaries who served under the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society: Miss Lettie G. Archer, Miss Ida M. Bare, Miss Sara B. Downer, Miss Maza R. Evans, Miss Gladys H. Garnett, Miss Augusta M. Geisenhener, Miss Eva M. Gruen (Married John Clough Martin), Miss Emma S. Irving, Miss Emilie G. Lawrence, Miss Florence B. List (married Dr. H.C. Gibbens), Miss Millie M. Marvin, Miss F. Pearl Page, Miss Edna Ruth Paul, Miss Hattie May Price, Miss Genevieve E. Sharp (married E.E. Sowards), Miss F. Alice Thayer, Miss Harriett M. Brown, Miss Martha Covert, Miss Florence L. Golden, Miss Margaret Grant, M.D. and probably many more whose names we do not have.

Change was rapidly transforming the grasslands into farms and towns. Buffalo were shot and slaughtered by the thousands; Indians were pushed from the state's boundaries.

People of all faiths and cultures came to Kansas – believing 'out there' they had a clean slate. It was a chance to start over and rebuild lives.

Historian Carl L. Becker wrote, ***"The Kansas spirit is the American spirit double-distilled. It is a new grafted product of American individualism, American idealism, and American intolerance. Kansas is America in microcosm. Kansans thrive on the impossible."***

February 1, 1877 the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society was organized in Chicago. It came as a result of the realization of the sad plight of Native Americans and slaves in America. The American Baptist Home Mission Society also would not send single women as missionaries – even in the United States, so the women formed their own Woman's Home Mission Society. Kansas was among the first states to have a vice-president. Mrs. S. D. Alfred was the first vice-president but soon resigned as she felt the task was more than she could undertake at that time.

In 1878 Joanna P. Moore was the first missionary appointed by the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society. She was 46 years old. Few persons have devoted themselves so sacrificially to the Baptist mission cause as Joanna Moore. Born in Pennsylvania, she moved as a young person to Illinois where she became involved in a ministry to recently-freed slaves who lived on an island in the Mississippi River. There her life's work was shaped as she taught basic reading and writing skills and sought opportunities for manual labor training for her students.

Joanna & some of her students – 1898 →

Against stiff racist opposition, she founded a training school for black women in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Over the next three decades she established a series of “fireside Schools” to educate freed women. They included Bible study, literacy work, and children's missionary bands.

Joanna wrote most of the tract and Sunday School literature which was used in this extensive network of informal education centers. So thoroughly did she identify with her mission field that she asked to be buried in a black cemetery when she died.



As Mrs. E. Gunn finished her time as State Secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society, she assumed the role of vice-president of the Women's Home Mission Society and served during **1879-80**.

During **1879-'80** Mrs. A. S. Merrifield, Newton, was Kansas Secretary of Women's Foreign Mission Society.

In the **1880-81** annual meeting of the Kansas Baptist Convention 29 circles of Woman's Mission Societies were reported. However, nationally there were

2,387 adult circles and children's bands (East and West) contributing to the support of 56 missionaries, 98 schools with 2,839 pupils and 98 native Bible women.

In **1881** the women founded Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago to train girls who wanted to become missionaries. It was the first of its' kind. Enrollment was all female as at that time seminaries were closed to women. The curriculum included theology and Bible, medicine, Sunday School, parliamentary procedure and field work. In 1894 BMTS reported that they had enrolled 306 girls during 13 years. Many of the women became missionaries, both home and foreign, others became denominational workers or Directors of Christian Education.

During **1881-'84** Mrs. A. L. Vail, Olathe, was Kansas Secretary of Women's Foreign Mission Society.

In **1882** Mrs. J. R. Mulvane, Topeka, agreed to serve temporarily as the Kansas vice-president of Women's Home Mission Society. A number of branches were organized and the first associational directors appointed, as follows: Kansas River, Mrs. J. R. Mulvane, Topeka; Missouri River, Mrs. M. E. Challis, Atchison; Smoky Hill, Mrs. L. H. Holt, Clay Center and Mrs. E. M. Beach, Hays City. Up to this time the contributions had increased from \$11 the first year to \$140 the fifth year.

During **1882 – '86** Mrs. J. P. William, Lawrence, was vice-president of Women's Home Mission Society in Kansas

In the **1883** Annual it reads: "Your Board of the Kansas Baptist Convention feels deeply the need of more help from the women..."

In **1884** in fulfillment of a promise of long standing to send help to the hundreds of freed people in Topeka, Miss Rhoda Denman and Miss Helen Davison, students at the Training School, were appointed to the field by the Women's Home Mission Society. They were also detailed to assist some in general missionary work in the state.

During **1885-'88** Mrs. O. W. Van Osdel, Ottawa, was Kansas Secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society.

By **1886** the Woman's Mission Societies were thoroughly established as a part of the working force of the Kansas Baptist Convention.

In the fall Miss Anna Nelson was sent to assist Mrs. Williams in associational meetings, State Convention and visiting churches, both American and Swedish. Her work was very impressive.

In answer to urgent appeals from our Swedish pastors, Miss Peterson was appointed to do general work with headquarters at Topeka.

Realizing the great size of our state, the rapid growth and immense possibilities, it was decided at that time to divide it into two districts, Northern and Southern, each cared for by a vice-president. Mrs. Williams continued the work in the Northern District and Mrs. J. B. Tuttle of Newton was appointed in charge of the Southern District of the Women's Home Mission Society.

In September 1886, Miss Denman resigned to take up work as a teacher at Roger Williams University (which became Ottawa University). Miss Denman had done exceptionally good work among the children, and her words of parting were: "I shall look for a harvest from the seeds I have sown, although the reaping may be done by another.

In **1886** one of our Kansas girls gave herself to foreign mission work through the Women's Foreign Mission Society, sailing for her field of labor at Cho-fu, Japan, where she remained for 11 years.

By **1887** nationally women had started thriving work among the Negroes, Indians, on the frontiers, among foreign speaking groups, at Ellis Island, in Alaska and in Mexico. Moreover, they had also founded Spellman and Mather schools. They had started building a \$1,000,000.00 fund for the education of Negroes. For women, many of whom had only pennies to give, their vision was established.

Because of severe trials of her family stricken with sickness, Mrs. Williams asked to be relieved of her official duties as the vice-president of Kansas Women's Home Mission Society. Her resignation was accepted in November 1887.

In **1887** Miss Lucie Jansen was appointed to replace Miss Denman as a missionary for the Home Mission Society. She had been on the field but a short time when she wrote of a most gracious revival. **"On one Sabbath, 150 colored people were baptized in the Kansas River. Three hundred converts have joined the colored Baptist churches in Topeka."**

A few months after Mrs. Williams resigned, Mrs. Tuttle moved from the state and Kansas was without a leader for the Women's Home Mission Society.

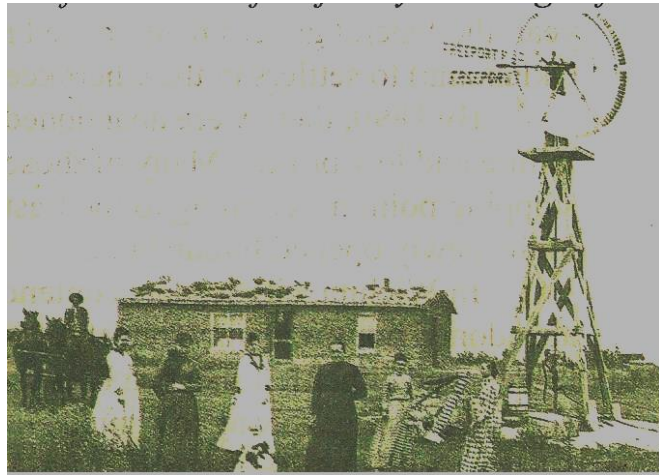
Also in **1887** Sadie Bonnie Morse, Ottawa, graduated from Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago.

The Women's Home Mission Society report in **1888** stated:
“Notwithstanding the hindrances occasioned by the lack of leadership, added to drought, financial collapse and various other calamities, the courage and self-sacrificing spirit of the Kansas sisters is evidenced by the fact that their contributions reached nearly \$1,000.”

Emma Hyde, Lawrence and Carrie Morse, Marysville, graduated from Baptist Missionary Training School in 1888.

In **November 1888** Mrs. E. S. Everett of Wichita was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Southern District of the Kansas Women's Home Mission Society.

This unidentified family standing in front of their sod house near Norcatur in Decatur County was very typical of rural housing in Kansas in the 1880s →



America was booming in the late 1880s and almost no city could keep up with Wichita, Kansas.

In 1887, only New York and Kansas City, MO generated more real estate sales than Wichita.

From 1881 to 1897, 203,000 people settled in Kansas. By 1889, Wichita's population had grown to 48,000. Six railroads linked the city to the rest of the nation. Six colleges and universities were built and two more proposed.

But then the bottom fell out. Horrific blizzards during the winter of 1886 paralyzed the prairie. Then drought followed and crops failed. Total impact wasn't felt until 1889 when the federal government opened nearly 7 million acres of Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) to settlers in the Cherokee Strip run. Other land runs soon followed. Despair gave way to panic. Mortgage foreclosures and sheriff's sales filled the newspapers. Farmers were forced to borrow money to get their crops in. When the crops failed, they were hit with foreclosures. It was desperate times.

In **1889** Mrs. I.D. Newell of Manhattan was appointed to serve the Northern District of the Women's Home Mission Society. She served from 1889-1895.

In **1890** M. E. Stevens of Chetopa was appointed the Kansas secretary of Women's Foreign Mission Society.

At this time, there were many Bible women and girls supported by Mission Circles in Kansas. Ten women each paid \$25.00 to the Women's Foreign Mission Society for life membership. Mrs. M. B. Elwell, Marysville, was Kansas Secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society.

Mrs. Everett resigned, and it was decided that the division line should be blotted out, leaving one vice-president in full charge of the state work, Mrs. Newell.

During **1891-'93** Mrs. G. S. Warn of Ft. Scott was Kansas Secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society.

In **1891**, according to the report of the Board of the Kansas Baptist Convention, the Kansas Woman's Home Mission Society had assumed the payment of \$1,000 toward the expenses of two district missionaries in Kansas.

The missionary messages of our own Kansas girls and the struggle of the early days to finance the work and the deep consecration with which the women carried on was all in a spirit of cooperation with the Kansas State Convention.

Reports of the chief hindrances of our mission work in Kansas was that drought had destroyed the crops, 'causing the removal of many settlers and poverty for those remaining.' Missionaries were withdrawn from old fields, and none appointed to new ones, 'leaving many churches without pastors and with disheartened memberships.'

One pastor said he had received \$2.50 in money and \$7.00 in produce in six months, but the Lord had blessed him by giving him souls instead of money, 18 having been converted and others revived.

Also in 1891 the Negroes organized their own convention.

Mrs. O.C. Charlton did extensive work in raising funds for the girls' dormitory while her husband was a professor at Ottawa University.

She traveled extensively in obtaining funds, including a trip to the east where she obtained gifts, including a gift from John D. Rockefeller. The Cottage was completed in the school year of 1891-92 after the Charlton's had



moved to a teachers college at Denton, TX but the cottage was named in her honor.

In **1892** there were nine associations, 13 mission bands, and 243 Mission Circles (Societies) reported. There were 35,000 Baptists in Kansas – 17,500 of this number were women.



In 1892 Miss Isabel Crawford, at age 27, a graduate of BMTS in Chicago, went into the heart of the Wichita Mountains and opened a work about 17 miles from the Rainy Mountain Mission where about 250 Kiowa lived. She described her welcome to this new field as follows: “It was an event in the lives of those Indians when your missionary appeared among them alone. The news spread like wildfire and for weeks they rode in from all directions to see if it were really true. They said, “A white Jesus man never sat down with us – one white Jesus woman come – all alone – and not scared. This is good. The Great Father talked to your heart – we will listen to all that He tells you to tell us and think about it over and over. We will call you no more woman, but sister.” She lost most of her hearing due to an illness so then communicated with the Kiowa using Plains Indians sign language.

In **1893** women were given a place on the program of the State Convention; both Societies had time to report. Missionary work and workers were increasing. To aid systematic giving, Mrs. Newell distributed cards with pledges for weekly gifts. She also organized the first women’s conference in connection with our associational meetings, and according to her reports was instrumental in getting reports of women’s work in the State Annual, claiming that a ‘specific work carried on by two-thirds of the Baptist membership is entitled to a proper representation in the records of the denomination’ and ‘that the pen of the Recording Angel should not be the only one to note the self sacrifice and words of love done by Christian women.’

In **1894** the Baptist Missionary Training School reported that they had enrolled 306 girls during 13 years. Miss Harriet Brown and Miss Blunt were sent to Japan. Miss Ella Webb, Kansas City, graduated from BMTS.

“the fact that Kansas had seven workers on the Home field and three students in the Training School stimulated both interest and giving.” The total contributions were several hundred dollars more than in any previous year.



←On **April 13, 1894** Miss Edith Hill was ordained at age 25 at the Eden (now First Baptist) Church, Pittsburg, Kansas. She was the third* American Baptist woman to be ordained. During her pastorate at the First Baptist Church in Pittsburg, she immersed 170 men and women. She also served as national evangelist for the Women’s Christian Temperance Union for 18 years and the American Women’s Republic ambassador to Europe.

(*In 1882 May C. Jones was ordained in Washington. In 1885 Frances E. Townsley was ordained in Nebraska.)

In **1895** it was requested that all present at the annual meeting remember the Sisters in Western Kansas who were always deprived of Annual gatherings so richly enjoyed by those present.

The following Kansas Girls had completed their Missionary training at BMTS – Eva Coy, Kate Coffey, Wamego and Ida Harris, Ft. Scott.

Silver “mite boxes” were made for distribution among Kansas women.
Each woman was asked for 10 cents a year for promotion work as well as postage for five letters.

During **1895-'96** Mrs. Henry Cocks of Rosedale was Kansas Secretary of Women's Foreign Mission Society.

In 1895 Mrs. Newell moved to Iowa and Kansas was without a vice-president of Women's Home Mission Society for nearly a year.

In **1896** a new leaflet was made for women “*How Can we Make our Missionary Meetings more interesting*”? Miss Harriet Brown, missionary in China, was the speaker at the annual meeting.

Eight Kansas women were called into Home Mission work:

Mrs. Carey (Oklahoma), Miss Elder (Seminole Indians), Miss Jacobus (Bacone School in Indian Territory), Miss Hyde (among freed people of the Chicasaw Nation), Mary Peterson (Swedish missionary for Kansas), and Miss Malmbury (general Swedish missionary).

During **1896-1898** Mrs. Mina Everett of Topeka was vice-president and General Missionary of the Women's Home Mission Society until she resigned to take up work in New Mexico.

In **1897** ministers of the local churches were to be asked to allow women to speak three minutes in the interest of securing funds for the promotion of the State Woman's Missionary Work. **Woman's Missionary Circles were organized in the churches.**

Speaker at the meeting was Miss Johanna P. Moore, first missionary appointed by the Home Mission Society.

During **1897-'99** Mrs. G. Grovenor, Lawrence, was Kansas Secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society.

In **1898**, it was reported that there were 20 Junior Societies in Kansas and 'Farther Lights' Societies for boys and girls.

Two girls in Baptist Missionary Training School – Miss Harris, Fort Scott and Birdie Seeley, Coffeyville.

In **1898** Mrs. W. J. Sly of Kansas City became vice-president of Women's Home Mission Society in Kansas but before year end moved to Ohio.

In **1899** Mrs. W. R. Manly, missionary from India spoke on her work as a missionary. 54 delegates attended the annual meeting.

From **1899** to **1912** Mrs. W. M. Gray of Chanute was the Kansas Secretary of the Women's Baptist Foreign Mission Society. →



During this same time (**1899 – 1910**), Mrs. Mary E. Haines of Augusta was the Vice-president of Kansas Women's Baptist Home Mission Society.

In **1900** all women were urged to adopt the motto "A Circle in every church and every woman in the church a member". Pearl Page of Horton felt called by God to prepare for missionary service. Mrs. M. E. Haines agreed to raise the money for her support at Baptist Missionary Training School. The women resolved to gladly pledge themselves to bear a part.

Laura Seeley, Coffeyville, graduated from BMTS.

In **1901** Miss Kate Coffey of Kansas City, a graduate of BMTS spoke on how well the school fits women for service.

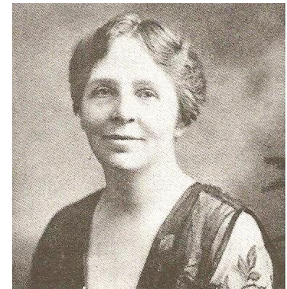
The **Kansas City Baptist Theological Seminary organized in Kansas City, Kansas on August 17, 1901.** (It became Central Baptist Theological Seminary) The Seminary's attitude toward women from the very beginning is probably unique among seminaries. It did not simply more or less graciously permit women to eat the crumb which fell from the children's table of theological education; **it ignored sex entirely as conferring special privileges or disabilities.**

As far as all its facilities were concerned there was "neither male nor female, but all one in Christ Jesus." **It did not touch the question of women's ordination to the ministry; it left that to the churches to decide.** But it did admit and invite women freely, without discrimination, on term of perfect equality to all its classes and courses. There is hardly any course from which women have not been graduated with distinction, and almost no study which they have not pursued, and with great credit.

We are thankful that our Circles are beginning to appreciate the fact that missionary knowledge is necessary to missionary interest and are planning to pursue a systematic course of study embracing World Wide Missions.

Missionary letters, photographs of missionaries, tracts and magazines were a valuable part of our women's mission circles. In 1901 Miss Abbie Childs, a Congregationalist, and Mrs. Henry W. Peabody, a Baptist, joined in the formation of Central Committee for the United Study of Foreign Missions. The publishing of missionary books became a big business for, after a time, a printing of 50 to 100,000 was not unusual.

Perhaps no books were more popular than *Western Women in Eastern Lands*, and *The Bible and Missions* by Helen Barrett Montgomery (1861-1934) who was a licensed minister, social activist, author and lecturer. She published a translation of the Greek New Testament and was the first woman president of the Northern (American) Baptist Convention (1921-22) →



Miss Childs died in 1902 and Mrs. Peabody became chairman for 28 years. The committee continued to function until 1939 when it was merged into the Missionary Education Movement which publishes all interdenominational study books.

In **1902** Miss Clara Cowles, Eldorado, entered Baptist Missionary Training School. Miss Pearl Page, Horton, graduated from BMTS. \$1,323.94 was given to the Home Mission Society. \$ 1,711.07 given to the Foreign Mission Society. 16 new societies were organized.

For four years (1902-'06), Dr. Margaret Grant of Ottawa served in the hospitals at Kit-Yang and Ka-Ying, China. She returned to America with her co-worker, Dr. Josephine Bixby, and cared for her until she passed on to her reward.

In **1903** Miss Pearl Page spoke on her call to missionary service and her aspiration, assuring her hearers that what to them seemed a sacrifice was to her a joy. She is teaching in the Sui-fu, China school for little girls. Isabel Crawford, a graduate of BMTS and a missionary to the Kiowa in Oklahoma, spoke at the annual meeting. **Mission study in the churches was begun.**

In **1904** Mrs. J. V. Latimer told of her going to China with her husband as a missionary. Mattie Covert of Emporia is attending Baptist Missionary Training School. \$ 2,046.11 was given to the support of Dr. Margaret Grant and Miss Pearl Page.

Also in 1904 the Kansas Baptist Convention voted to publish a State paper, *The Kansas Baptist*.

In **1905** there were five Kansas girls at Baptist Missionary Training School. Kansas women gave \$ 2,024.44 plus White Cross goods valued at \$ 203.17 to missions. Outfit for two out-going missionaries was \$175.00.

Florence List of Topeka went to Keng Tung, Burma, and after a residence of one year became the wife of Dr. H. C. Gibbens and was transferred to the American Baptist Foreign missionary Society. They were working at Mong-nai in the Southern Shan States, Burma.

Mattie Covert of Emporia went to Ning-Po, China, where she was involved in school and evangelistic work. Boxes of bandages and dressings were sent to Dr. Margaret Grant in China and also a box of supplies to Pearl Page in China.

In **1906** women were allowed two hours on the Kansas State Convention program – one hour each for Home and Foreign Missions. Included was a missionary speaker from Cuba and a missionary message on India. 140 attended the banquet. Seven Kansas girls are in Baptist Missionary Training School. Only two states have more – Illinois where the school is located and New York. Sarah Wahlgen, Kansas City, graduated from BMTS this year.

In September 1906 Minta Evans of North Topeka sailed for Vinu-konda, India. Before she was on the field quite two years her health failed, and she had to return to America. Her health improved and she returned to her ministry.

In **1907** Mrs. J. J. White, returned missionary in China, gave the address.

The Northern Baptist Convention was organized on May 17, 1907 at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC. A general meeting of all Baptist societies was called, and the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the American Baptist Publication Society and the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society responded. They formed a voluntary organization named the Northern Baptist Convention. (This later became American Baptist Churches USA)

Selma Olson of Herndon and Ollie Cowles of El Dorado graduated from BMTS.



In **1908** Miss Johanna Moore interested all in her great work among Negroes and she also told how she had managed for years and years to work for her Lord twenty four hours a day by supporting a Bible Woman on the other side of the world. Said Miss Moore, “When she is asleep I am at work, and when I’m

asleep she is at work so that every hour in the 24 is spent in an effort to save souls.”

A barrel of fruit was shipped to the Children at Morgan Park Home for foreign missionaries’ children.

Eva McCoy, Coffeyville, and Joanna Bossing, Lorraine, graduated from BMTS.

In **1909** study classes were increasing and attendance doubling and even trebling. There is a great desire to know more and do more for Missions. Kansas women gave \$ 4,594.69 to foreign missions. A new building at Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago was dedicated. →



The Woman’s two Home Mission Societies (east and west) united and were taken into the Northern Baptist Convention.

Jettie Jensen, Jamestown, graduated from BMTS.

In **1910** the annual meeting was at Atchison on October 11th. Miss Pearl Page, missionary in China, was the guest speaker.

Membership in the Society cost two cents a week and it was urged that this be an over-and-above gift.

During the last 11 years Kansas Baptist women have given \$ 21,659.91 to foreign missions and \$ 1,969.75 toward the building fund at Baptist Missionary Training School. \$ 3,005.93 was given this year to home missions.

Mrs. Charles G. West of Emporia was appointed Kansas vice-president of Women’s Home Mission Society

In **1911** Mrs. G. W. Cassidy wrote a paper and it was read, “Practical Methods in Circle Work”. The Wichita Mission Society has been eminently successful in many ways and Mrs. Cassidy shared the secrets of their success.

John D. Rockefeller was instrumental in founding the Ministers and Missionary Board. It was his belief that those who serve faithfully for many years should not be destitute when they were too old to continue serving as a pastor or missionary. In 1856, the first year on a job he gave away \$ 19.31 and it grew every year thereafter. In his lifetime he gave away over 2 ½ billion dollars.

In the spring of **1911** Nathana L. Clyde, (Argentine Baptist Church) a student at the Kansas City Baptist Theological Seminary, was appointed by the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society to work several days a week in the district known as "The Bottoms" in Kansas City, KS.



In this region of physical and spiritual poverty, people from 15 European backgrounds lived together in tumble-down, unpainted houses. From door to door the young missionary went inviting people to the Sunday School she had opened in a rented frame building known as "The Bethel". With every call, she was followed by an increasing group of ragged, unkempt children. A small Croatian girl, one of the first followers, enthusiastically offered to show the 'techa' where there was 'lots of kids'.

The next fall, classes in cooking, sewing, music and English were added to the programs at Bethel. In the summer she had a kindergarten. She was assisted in this work by Miss Emily Spain, Mrs. Ray York and other volunteers. Women throughout Kansas were sending boxes of clothing.

This became what we now know as Bethel Neighborhood Center.

In **1912** the annual meeting was at Arkansas City. Miss Ella Mae Lauren, field secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society of the West, spoke on her tour of the Orient.

To the 22,000 Baptist women and girls in Kansas, she said, "Be full of Bible truth, get on fire with knowledge, study conditions at home and abroad, get a definite policy, have a prayer list, study and pray for your State, association and local work. There is enough power buttoned up among these present to stir up Kansas. Let it out! Have a Standard of Excellence for the year and work up to it. Take time to pray, be silent before God and listen to His voice."

The Kansas Baptist Convention became a part of the Northern Baptist Convention in 1912.

In **1913** Miss Nathana Clyde told of her sad experiences in her house-to-house visits and of the wonderful work in connection with "The Bethel." She told about Daily Vacation Bible School and expressed appreciation for the boxes of clothing from Kansas women.

In 1913 the Woman's Missionary Training School, an integral part of the Kansas City Baptist Theological Seminary, was launched. They recognized that the trained pastor's wife is his best helper, a tower of strength beside him and back of him. Should she not be specifically training for her task while he is training for his?

Experience had showed that very often, for both ministerial students' wives and single women, not all the Seminary studies were needed, and that something

more, namely certain studies and training for the work which women as women, and they alone, can do in the churches and on the mission field, was necessary.

The school's greatest single usefulness, naturally, has been in the pastor's home. Its first chief "reason for being" was there. The names are too many to mention, but pastors' wives in country churches, moderately sized churches, great and important churches in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, California, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota and other states are bringing to bear on the problems of their husbands' fields the knowledge and skill acquired in our halls.

Students have done effective work in many areas including as missionary representatives including Miss Anna Belle Stone of Cuba; Miss Hettie Ulbrich of Mexico; Miss Ruth Curtis of Nicaragua; and Miss Isabel Crawford of the US.

There is also a huge list of educators, administrators, institutional and general workers, including Miss Nathana L. Clyde, the Seminary's first woman graduate, whose presence was one of the inspirations for the Training School; Miss Sybil Pate, Miss Gladys Hall, Miss Irbie Utz, Miss Ruth Baird, Miss Geane Roop, Miss Marion Rix, Miss Pauline Kaufman, Miss Oillie Pechous.

The Woman's Missionary Training School was entirely merged into the Seminary itself by 1940 with women being offered the same degrees with the men, though special courses were offered, adapted to distinctive work which they would perform for the churches.

A committee was appointed to consider State organization for the women.

RAILROAD CHAPEL CARS –

As Americans made their way across the country to the West aided by railroads, some Christian religious denominations saw this as an opportunity to expand their mission services to those living in these areas. The Baptist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic faiths used specifically fitted railroad cars called chapel cars, to provide religious services and as living quarters for the missionary pastors. The fronts of the cars were fitted out as churches on wheels with altars, pews and in some cases, stained glass windows.

By 1891, the first of the American Baptist Publication Society chapel cars made its debut. Based on the research regarding children's attendance of Sunday schools and church membership by Boston W Smith, businessmen Charles L. Colby and Colgate Hoyt donated the funds to outfit the Society's first car, *Evangel*, built by Barney & Smith.

Hoyt, whose brother, Wayland, was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis, was a vice-president and board member of many American railroads. While on a cross-country railroad trip, a discussion between the two brothers

became the beginning of the Baptist chapel car project. Hoyt also organized other wealthy businessmen into what was known as the “Baptist Chapel Car Syndicate”, one of these members was John D. Rockefeller.

The Baptist chapel car fleet grew to a total of 7 cars, all built by Barney & Smith of Dayton, Ohio during the years 1890-1913. The *Evangel* was dedicated May 23, 1891 at Cincinnati’s Grand Central Depot and made its way to St. Paul, Minnesota, where local church members provided linens, rugs, silver and dishes. The Baptist young peoples’ societies raised money to have the car’s windows screened, which sent it back to the shop for a time while they were fitted. The Estey company donated an organ.

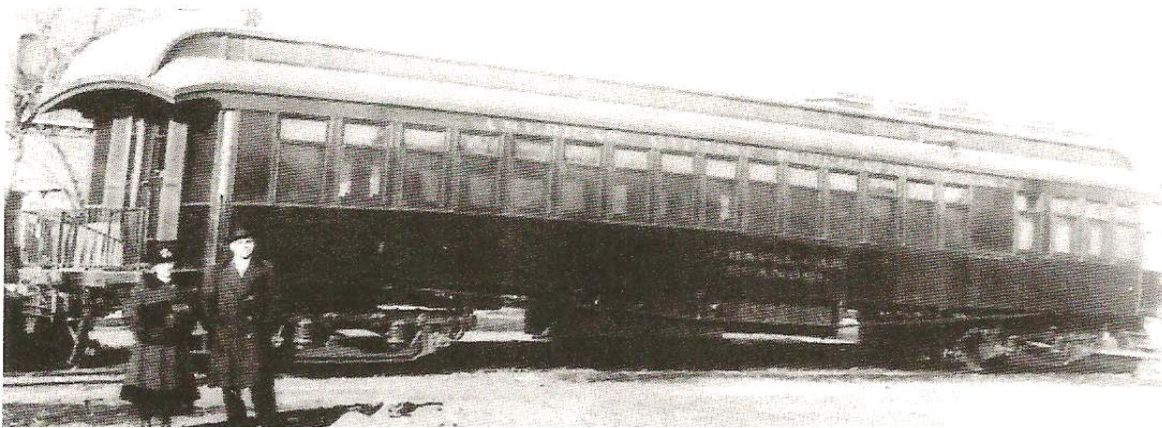
Boston Smith, who was initially aboard *Evangel*, had been provided with a letter from William Mellen, the general manager of the Northern Pacific Railway, which granted him and the chapel car free passage throughout the railroad’s system. However, just as Smith was to set out on his first trip, railroad officials inquired whether the chapel car had been fitted with special wheels designed to prevent accidents. The railway’s rules were that all special cars be fitted with them instead of the ordinary iron wheels used by other railroad cars. The *Evangel* was equipped with plain iron wheels, but was allowed to travel as far as Livingston, Montana, before the wheels had to be changed.

At Portland, Oregon in December 1891, Smith turned the car over to its first missionaries, the Wheelers. By 1892, the chapel car was called upon to serve the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. In 1894, *Evangel* was brought to serve the Southern United States.

The *Evangel* made its appearance in Kansas in 1897 in charge of Rev. E.S. Stucker, a native Kansan. The same year came The *Messenger of Peace* in charge of Rev. S.G. Neil and his wife.

From 1901 until 1924, the chapel car *Evangel* traveled the rails of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska before being retired to Rawlins, Wyoming, where the old car was incorporated into the design of the local Baptist Church by 1930. The church, Chapel Car Bible Church has started a remodel project in hopes of uncovering parts of the original train that have been hidden and to highlight the chapel car and its missionary history.

The church is open for visitors to view the chapel car upon appointment. It is located on the corner of 12th and W. Maple Street in Rawlins, WY.



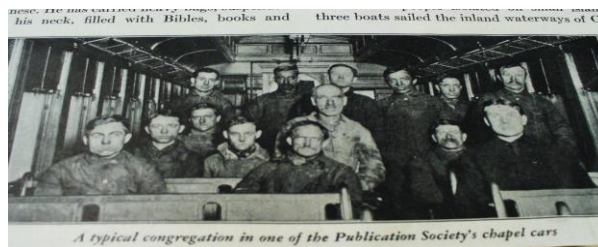
Chapel car ministry - in Kansas

Nov. 1910 - April 1915 –Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Killion ministered across Kansas in the Chapel Car Evangel. The chapel cars were made to be able to have church services in them. There was an old pump organ and a pulpit in the front of the ‘church’. Beyond it was tiny living quarters for the minister.



← Living quarters of Chapel Car Grace.

Typical
congregation at a
chapel car
service →



Diary of the
Killion's told interesting stories of
conversions.

Feb 1911 in Herington. ‘Among the best meetings were those held in the car at the Rock Island Round House each noon and midnight. One of the most beautiful sights is to see the men, coming to the car just as they are, and as they listen and are convinced of sin, to see the tears flow down their faces dirty with honest toil.’

March 1911 Mrs. Killion in Lyons while Mr. Killion was gone due to death of his mother. 30 were received into the church by Pastor Moore.

In April 1911 they went to Ellsworth where there was no pastor.

In August 1911 they went to Neodesha where there also was no pastor.

In September they went to Lenexa. The church had just been organized in November and they only had 16 members. They were able to help build and dedicate free from debt a neat and substantial meeting house 24x40 seating 160 people at a total cost of \$800.

In November 1911 they moved on to Arkansas City where they labored with a very prayerful band of believers.

In January 1912 because of the restrictions in getting transportation in Kansas it seemed best that the Chapel Car ‘Evangel’ be used in Haskell, OK for a time. It is a town of about 900 and seven years old on the Midland Valley Railroad

between Tulsa and Muskogee, therefore close to the oil fields. They did not have a place to worship. They owned two lots so raised money towards a building and on July 18th broke ground for 32x50 church including floor and belfry. It will seat 260. They plan to have ready by August 11th.

In January 1913 the Chapel Car was in Liberal, assisting Pastor A. W. Ihde. In July 1913 they were at Elkhart, the newest town in the state. The first conversions in the town and the first session of Sunday school was in the Chapel Car but they were able to build a 24x40 building with a fine belfry. Then they moved on to Rolla, holding meetings and raising money to build. They all want a church but are very poor. They drive five or more miles to the chapel car. "Elkhart is growing more rapidly than Rolla. On May 10, the first freight came in; and on June 4, they had 90 buildings, 31 tents and 13 house wagons and everything 'full up'."

In August and September 1913 the Chapel Car was in the shops of the Kansas City Southern Railway Co. at Pittsburg, KS.

In October they held noon hour services in the shops where the car was overhauled and repainted.

In January 1914 the Chapel Car was at Olathe where there were fifteen additions and the church was greatly strengthened. Then they moved on to Weir.

In March 1914 they were at Galena where Pastor Hageman had diligently cultivated the field in advance of their coming. More than 50 were received for baptism and nearly half that many more in other ways. About 25 men have joined the church, some of them among the most influential in the city.

The Chapel Car then went to East Topeka and work was carried on about the great Santa Fe shops there in connection with the Seward Ave. church.

In December 1914 they had one of their best meetings with the North Ottawa church. From the very start the Spirit of the living God was with them. Sixty joined the church and after the chapel car left another 5 men joined.'

The meeting at Kansas City (Turner) was owned and blessed of God. Some 28 came out for Christ and most united with the church. Lansing has been without a pastor and during the worst weather of February they attended faithfully and 10 accepted Christ. Rev. J. J. Hulme of KC Seminary was called for fulltime preaching. He will come on Friday and stay over Sunday, holding prayer meeting and two services on Sunday. At the present time this is the only regular preaching by a pastor in the town.

March 1915 we were in Belleville where Rev. W. G. Carey had just come as pastor. Bad roads did not allow the country folks to come in but 12 united by baptism and letter.

Not sure how long the Evangel served in Kansas. Rev. F. I. Blanchard took the Evangel through Kansas to Nebraska. The last stop was Rawlins, WY in 1925.

In 1914 both Women's Home and Women's Foreign Woman's Missionary Societies met together. Over 200 were present. They organized the states of the Northern Baptist Convention into ten districts. Kansas, with Iowa and Nebraska, was called the West Central District, or the K.I.N. District.



Mrs. R. W. Ramsey, Atchison, KS was the first president of the K.I.N. District. The district slogan was “To-get-her (together) for Jesus sake.” The motto was “Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Many outstanding Kansas leaders served during the years of the district work: Mrs. W.P. Lambertson, Mrs. M. E. Wasser, and Mrs. J. N. Atkinson served as Mission V.P. of the District and thus also served on the board of managers of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, and Mrs. Lambertson and Mrs. Atkinson served on the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Mrs. Atkinson edited the West Central District New Bulletin called “Log-O-Kin Ship” which carried summaries from district officers and chairmen and the corresponding work in each of the three states; as well as promotional plans, and letters from the home and foreign missionaries assigned to each of the three states. The bulletin was mailed to the president of all local churches in each of the three states.



← This K.I.N. picture was taken on the steps of the State Capitol in Topeka, KS on May 1, 1936. Governor Alfred Landon is the man to the left.

(The districts were discontinued in 1937)

In **1915** The Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society organized the **World Wide Guild.**

Instrumental in its founding was Mrs. Henry Peabody → (born at Belmont, KS, 1861), Mrs. Helen Barrett Montgomery and Mrs. Andrew MacLeish. This was a new name for the Young Woman's Mission organization.



← **Alma Noble's** story is of a life enthusiastically outpoured in service for Baptist girls and in devotion to Christ from the time when she became the moving spirit of the World Wide Guild at its beginning in 1915 to her retirement in 1938. Her vision, radiance and initiative were felt increasingly in a program which grew until it touched girls of many races and many lands. Until her death in 1948 her faith in girls and her love for world mission were alive and contagious.



Her executive insight was especially marked in her ability to discover latent talents in girls and to fire their dedication to a great cause. Scores of the women leaders in our churches, members of woman's boards and denominational committees, missionaries in the home land and overseas are the flowering of the program she developed and of the spirit of service she inspired.

Miss Olive Russell of Derby was appointed as State Director of World Wide Guild. From its beginning there was significance in the name W.W.G., for it was intended to bind together groups of Christian girls in our churches and girls in mission lands where out missionaries were serving.

Kansas promoted the organization of the Guild chapters. In April there were 11 conferences held in Kansas. The apportionment for 1914-15 for Women's Home Missions was \$ 4,600.00

Worth-While-Girls of the W.W.G., Working With God – for the Whole World's Good.

In **1916** Mrs. Frank White, Shanghai, China, spoke of her work among the women in China. More time was given to the missionary program than ever before. Mrs. Clyde spoke on "Evangelism through Social Service." The "Five Year Program" was presented. Goals were:

1. a million additions to our churches by baptism
2. a missionary force of 5,000 men and women in America and non-Christian world.
3. Two million dollars for endowment of Benefit Fund for Ministers and Missionaries (Kansas share - \$75,000.)
4. A life dedicated to Christian work in every church in the next five years.

In **1917** the annual meeting was in Kansas City, KS. Miss Jennie Somtunzie, a native of South Africa spoke to the women. The State Rally of the World Wide Guild met in the First Baptist Church Oct 13-14 before the convention.

The Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, early in 1917, organized the **Children's World Crusade**, a new missionary educational work for the children. Kansas Baptists promoted this program of Missionary Education for the children.

In **1918** the wide spread epidemic of influenza prevented the annual meeting of the convention.

White Cross work was introduced into the Woman's Societies.

In **1919** the annual meeting was held in Wichita. The world of World Wide Guild was discussed by Miss Olive Russell, State Secretary of World Wide Guild.

200 women attended the banquet. The new White Cross work of the Woman's Societies was the general theme of the evening. Mrs. H. E. Goodman of the Woman's Foreign Board was the speaker.

During World War I, women in the churches assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, bandages and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. As they met these needs, the women became convinced that similar methods would be of great help in the work of Christian mission. In 1919, following the end of the war, two American Baptist women organized the White Cross Service League, "channeling the war effort into support for Baptist missions", as they explained.

Foreign & Home Mission societies united in Kansas organization of women.

In **1920** the motion was made by Mrs. Wortman that the Baptist women of Kansas have a Union State Organization (uniting of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society of Kansas and the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society of Kansas).

The name recommended was "**The Kansas Baptist Woman's Union.**"

The object of the re-organization was to develop an intelligent interest among the Baptist women in Kansas in World Missions and in the work of the local church and community; and, to co-operate more fully with the State Convention, the Board of Promotion, the West Central District, as well as the two National Woman's Mission Societies.

Secretary of the Convention, Dr. J. T. Crawford, brought greetings from the Convention Board and expressed appreciation for the organization of the Kansas Woman's Union.

1920— 1921 Mrs. Robert W. Ramsey



First Baptist Church, Atchison

Mrs. Ramsey served as the first president of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Union. She was the wife of an Atchison business executive; a world traveler; she visited the Holy Land and many of our mission fields abroad. She was an outstanding speaker and teacher.

Mrs. Ramsey was also the first president of the West Central District and a member of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Through her influence we were privileged to have Mrs. Helen Barrett Montgomery, first woman president of the Northern Baptist Convention (1921-22) speak to the Kansas State Convention, Topeka, in 1921. Mrs. Ramsey was a delegate to the World Council of Churches in Copenhagen.



Beginning in 1919 and ending in 1921 was the Jubilee Celebration of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 50th year. Mrs. W. M. Gray of Chanute sponsored the campaign in the K.I.N. District. More than \$25,000 was given. This money built the first and only hospital in Assam for women and children and was located at Gahati. The plans were sponsored by ←our missionary from Kansas Millie Marvin, and later Dorothy Kinney (Mrs. Fred Chambers, Central Baptist Seminary), as doctor in charge of the hospital.



Mrs. Gray then promoted the continuation campaign as the woman's part of the 5-year program of the Northern Baptist Convention and the Kansas women gave over \$16,000. **These gifts known as over-and-above gifts of love and were the first projects of our women.**

Mrs. Ramsey resigned in January 1922 to visit her daughter in Europe. She returned to Kansas and attended several State meetings including the 25th anniversary meeting held at El Dorado in 1945. She passed away at her home in Colorado in 1948.

The following served on the Board of Managers during Mrs. Ramsey's term of office:

Mrs. J. W. Bayles, Salina (board member); Mrs. J. T. Crawford (constitution); Mrs. U.M. Griffin, Ft. Scott (treasurer); Mrs. C. Illsley, McPherson (board member); Miss Kate T. Lee, Wichita (recording secretary); Mrs. John McKee, Clay Center (supt. of white cross); Mrs. Joe Mooney, Wichita (literature sec'y); Mrs. J. J. Patterson, Winfield (dir. of Children's World Crusade); Miss Olive Russell, Derby (sec'y of World Wide Guild); Mrs. S.E. Price, Ottawa (1st vice-president); Mrs. F.E. Schofield, Girard (3rd vice-president); Mrs. B.F. Tilley, Emporia (2nd vice-president); Mrs. J.R. Waddington, Topeka (corresponding sec'y) Mrs. M.E. Wasser, Horton (asst. sec'y/ director Home and Foreign Missions) Mrs. E.S. Weeks, Garden City (board member); Mrs. M.L. Wortman, Winfield (sec'y/ director Home and Foreign Missions)

Jan-Oct 1922 – Mrs. C. Illsley of McPherson served as the second president after the resignation of Mrs. Ramsey to visit her daughter in Europe.

1922 – 1929 Mary Gates (Mrs. J. N.) Atkinson



Mrs. J. N. Atkinson was elected third president of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Union at the annual meeting at Hays, Kansas in 1922. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Topeka, and the wife of an outstanding Baptist layman and business executive.

She promoted the fifteen goals of the Standard of Excellence offered by the Woman's National Societies of the Northern Baptist Convention (now American Baptist Churches USA).

In 1922 the Home Mission Society, sensing a need to help the foreign born in our land, started the Christian Americanization Department which in later years has developed into our valuable Christian Friendliness Department.



← In 1923 the first Guild assembly was held at Ottawa.

Mrs. Atkinson served as the first W.W.G. House Mother for five days with 59 girls in Ward Science Hall, Ottawa University, during the Kansas Baptist Assembly. That same year some 225 girls came for the evening banquet.

Guild House Party at Ottawa
Oct 27-28, 1928 →



In 1924, the Kansas State Convention president praised the promotional program of the women. He said, "Their organization in the state is so improved they challenge all our forces to enlarge in a united advance for the Savior."

In 1927 Kansas women raised their goal of \$10,000 to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society. A total of \$500,000 was raised nationally. The Golden Tree of opportunity was developed as

golden leaves, at one dollar each, were pasted on the bare branches of a tree poster. “The leaves were for the healing of the nations.” Rev. 22:2.

Among the outstanding national women to visit Kansas, attending the all-day session of the women at the State Baptist Convention were Mrs. Helen B. Montgomery, president of the Northern Baptist convention (1921-22) who conducted the first mission study class in our state; Mrs. George C. Moore, president of the Woman’s American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; Mrs. H. E. Goodman and Mrs. Leslie Swain, both of the Woman’s American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (Mrs. Swain was later president of the Northern Baptist Convention) Mrs. Howard Colwell has many times been with Kansas women as have many of our national officers and chairmen.

A Christian Citizenship Department was added to the list of State Departments in 1927; **the first world Day of Prayer was observed in 1929.** We voted to accept the plan of the Secretary of Missionary Education and Reading; Mrs. Carrie Thompson, Clay Center, state secretary, awarded the Traveling Library of five books which the state women provided to the association for having read the largest number of missionary books during the year.

Hoping to inspire greater interest among our women, we adopted a state slogan, “Individually interest the uninterested.”

The idea of the Scholarship-Refit Fund came from the fertile mind and generous heart of this honored president. It was adopted in 1928. The plan asked each woman to give ten cents a year through her local society to help finance a working scholarship preparing a girl for missionary service. A \$200 scholarship for the Baptist Missionary Training School, Chicago, and a \$150 scholarship for our Kansas City Seminary (now Central), Kansas City, Kansas, was available each year.

A theme adopted in 1929 was “Following the Vision” Acts 26:18-19 **“A vision without a task makes a visionary; a task without a vision makes a drudge; but a vision and a task makes a missionary.”**

She ended her term in 1929 – the year Kansas Baptists celebrated its 100th anniversary of mission work in Kansas. At the closing banquet when Mrs. Atkinson retired as president, Mrs. R. W. Ramsey, past president presented her with a lovely gold wrist watch from the Kansas Baptist women in loving appreciation of her devoted service, “pure gold for timely service, well done.”

The following women served with Mrs. Atkinson on the Board of Managers during her term of office:

Mrs. Henrietta Balka, Topeka (sec'y W.W.G.); Mrs. H.Q. Banta, Oberlin (college counselor); Miss Alice Boomer, Fairview (reading contest sec'y); Mrs. J.T. Crawford, Topeka (acting sec'y of literature); Miss Jeanette Emert, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. James Fisher, Wellington (field sec'y W.W.G.); Mrs. U.M. Griffin, Ft. Scott (treasurer); Mrs. R.H. Hammond, Hutchinson (sec'y literature); Mrs. Ida Holt, Topeka (sec'y literature); Mrs. Alpha Ingle, Salina (2nd vice-pres.); Mrs. W.P. Lambertson, Fairview (recording sec'y); Miss Kate T. Lee, Wichita (recording sec'y); Mrs. Paul Lange, Lawrence (sec'y-dir. Home & Foreign Missions); Miss Georgia Matthews, Garden City (sec'y Children's World Crusade); Mrs. C.M. Medearis, Kansas City (reading contest director); Mrs. John McKee, Clay Center (supt of white cross); Mrs. M.A. Neagle, Wichita (1st vice-pres.); Mrs. Joseph Paul, Ottawa (2nd vice-pres.); Mrs. S.E. Price, Ottawa (college counselor); Mrs. W.N. Rishel, Spearville (sec'y missionary education); Miss Olive Russell, Derby (sec'y W.W.G.); Mrs. W.C. Simons, Lawrence (ass't sec-dir); Mrs. J.H. Sowerby, Iola (2nd vice-pres.); Mrs. W.M. Stallcop, Winfield (1st vice-pres.); Miss Fay Stevenson, Topeka (sec'y W.W.G.); Mrs. Harry Tuttle, Wichita (dir Children's World Crusade); Mrs. J.R. Waddington, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. S.V. Westrick, Topeka (sec'y/dir. Home & Foreign Missions); Mrs. Blanche Whiting, Hutchinson (sec'y Children's World Crusade); Mrs. A.D. Williamson, Ottawa (sec'y Americanization)

Mrs. Atkinson served for 15 years on the West Central District (Kansas-Iowa-Nebraska) Board, including being its president in the closing year of 1937. Under this service she was on both the Woman's National Boards. By virtue of serving on the woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society board **she was privileged to give the commission to Miss Eva Gruen** (later married Rev. John Clough Martin) in her church in Emporia, Kansas, to go to South India in 1932. (picture probably in 1950s)→

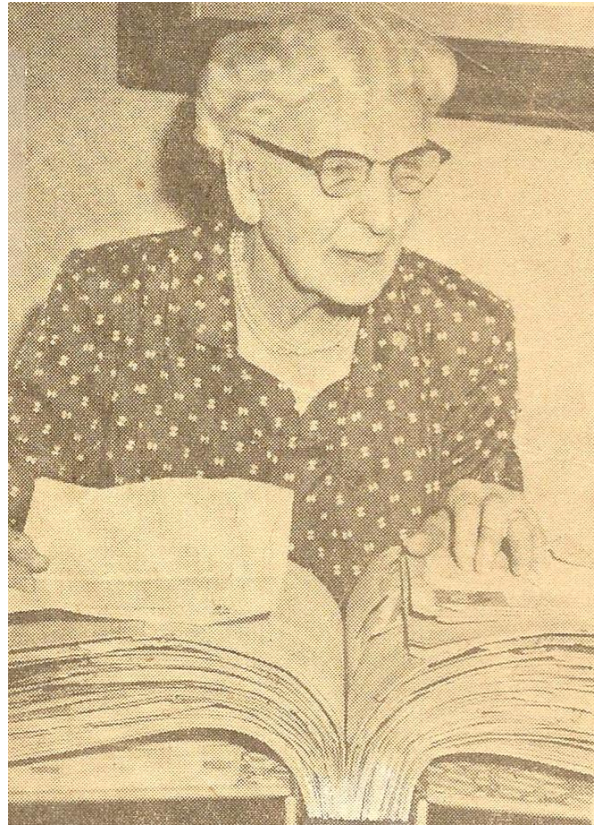


Mrs. Atkinson headed the first dormitory committee for the needed girl's dormitory for Ottawa University in 1938-39. She served four years as State Treasurer of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Union and edited the Woman's Page of the Kansas Baptist for two years.

Mrs. Atkinson was the first president of the Woman's Advisory Council of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary founded in 1942 by Dr. H. E. Dana, President, and Mrs. M. E. Medaris, then Dean of Women.

In 1946, Mrs. Atkinson wrote the letter asking Kansas women, through the Scholarship-Refit plan, to share in making a trailer-car possible for the Martin family for South India that they might live as a family as they toured some 400 villages. Kansas women responded with \$3,127.82.

She was honored by the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society at Atchison, Kansas, during the State Convention in 1958 as Historian Emeritus and finished compiling "*A Book of Remembrance*" of Kansas Baptist Mission work, which is now at our Central Region office.



1929 – 1937 Mrs. J. H. Sowerby



Mrs. J. H. Sowerby was a gracious lady and wife of a pastor who served at First Baptist Church of Iola for many years. She served as the fourth president of the Kansas Baptist Women's Union and served longer than any other president.

She especially emphasized the value in the missionary program and leadership of our World Wide Guild organization in Kansas. She emphasized subscribing to and reading *Missions Magazine* and the *Kansas Baptist*. At the 1935 State Convention held in Ottawa, Kansas, the Kansas women helped to observe the 75th anniversary by presenting a pageant "Past Epochs of Missionary Accomplishments".

Mrs. Sowerby attended and assisted with the conferences when the Missouri River held the first School of Instruction for officers and chairmen in the state.

New plans were developed out of the Ottawa Assembly Woman's Conferences into Associational Schools of Instruction. These were one-day area meetings where plans were promoted by a team which included a State officer and associational officers.

Out of these efforts developed **the first House Party held at Ottawa University in 1933 with 50 women attending.** Mrs. Sowerby in her quiet kindly way encouraged many women to accept leadership in the local, association and state missionary work.

The Kansas women presented her with a purse of \$100 at the time she retired.

The following women served on the Board of Managers during Mrs. Sowerby's term of office:

Mrs. J.N. Atkinson, Kansas City (sec'y-dir & treasurer); Mrs. H.O. Banta, Oberlin (college counselor); Mrs. J.C. Burress, Hutchinson (sec'y Children's World Crusade); Mrs. J.T. Crawford, Topeka (sec'y literature); Mrs. U.M. Griffin, Ft. Scott (treasurer); Mrs. A.S. Jewett, Kansas City (vice-pres); Mrs. W.P. Lambertson, Fairview (recording sec'y); Mrs. A.E. Martin, Kansas City (prayer chairman); Mrs. Georgia Mathews, Garden City (sec'y Children's World Crusade) Mrs. George R. Merritt, Ottawa (vice-pres); Mrs. Joseph Paul, Ottawa, (sec'y white cross); Mrs.

H.H. Pennypacker, Emporia (assoc. sec'y-dir); Miss Fay Stevenson, Topeka, (sec'y W.W.G.); Mrs. Carrie Thompson, Clay Center (sec'y missionary education & reading); Miss Claudia Webb, Topeka (sec'y W.W.G. & White Cross dir); Mrs. S.V. Westrick, Topeka (assoc. sec'y-dir); Mrs. A.D. Williamson, Ottawa (Americanization sec'y); Miss Marguerite Young, Clay Center (sec'y missionary education and reading)

Mrs. Sowerby also served as 2nd vice-president of the West Central District 1927-28 and Foreign Missions Vice-President of the Kansas Baptist Women's Union, 1941-45.

From the *Open Door*, April, 1943, Mrs. Sowerby, Foreign Missions Vice-president wrote:

“Let us make sure we are right, and then go forward full steam, never relaxing in prayer, giving, sending until every nation shall acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord.”

Mrs. Sowerby passed away at her home in Iola, Kansas September 24, 1952.

1937 – 1941 Mrs. H. H. Pennypacker

First Baptist, Emporia



Mrs. Pennypacker had many faithful years of service in her local church, association and state. She was the Associate Secretary District President; a member of the Board of the West Central District from 1931-36 and on the board of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society for several years.

She gave generously of her time and money for the ongoing of the work. Her interest was centered for many years in the children's work in her local church.

Her husband was a Santa Fe conductor and Baptist layman.

In 1937 it was voted that the Kansas women enter upon a campaign to raise money to build a Girls' Dormitory at Ottawa. The plan matured, but the war in 1941 prevented the building operation for several years.

She emphasized the continuing need of sending barrels of fruit to Sunset Home at Concordia; furnishings as needed for our Seminary at Kansas City, Kansas, and Bethel Neighborhood Center.

She promoted the Scholarship-Refit and worked to secure girls for missionary training. During her term of office Kansas was host to the Northern (now American) Baptist Convention at Wichita. The Kansas Baptist Woman's Union Board with local church committees were hostesses at a lovely formal tea for the two Woman's National Boards at the home of Mrs. W.C. Coleman.

1937 was the first year the Love Gift offerings were recorded as a part of the Unified Budget.

In 1937 the "League of Interpreters" was introduced at the annual state meeting at Pratt by Mrs. Howard Wayne Smith of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society. Association women prepared themselves to speak in local churches on Baptist Foreign Mission work.

Also in 1937 all states dropped the use of the name secretary-director-president. Money used by the districts was given to the states for a few years to bring association presidents to the state board meetings for promotional purposes.

In 1938 the second House Party was held at the College of Emporia, Emporia, Kansas.

In 1939 the Speakers Bureau was launched by the Woman's Home Mission Society.

In 1941 the World Wide Guild became part of the Baptist Youth Fellowship organization and for several years Guilds for girls were discouraged in Kansas.

Mrs. Pennypacker's humble Christ-like spirit was an inspiration to all who knew her. When she retired in 1941, because of the illness of her husband, the Kansas women presented her with a beautiful silver tea and coffee service.

The following women served on the Board of Managers during Mrs. Pennypacker's term of office:

Mrs. J. N. Atkinson, Kansas City (treasurer); Mrs. Lowell Bailey, Lawrence (corresponding sec'y) Mrs. Ward Bayles, Topeka (recording sec'y); Mrs. Elmer Ferguson, Wichita (student counselor); Mrs. L.E. Goodwin, Ottawa (assoc. sec'y, missionary education & reading); Mrs. B. P. Heubner, Ottawa (sec'y, missionary educ. & reading); Mrs. A.S. Jewett, Kansas City (recording sec'y); Mrs. Leland Lawrence, Topeka (sec'y literature); Mrs. A.E. Martin, Kansas City (prayer ch); Miss Vernice Miller, ElDorado (sec'y, W.W.G. & white cross director); Mrs. E.E. McFarlane, ElDorado (sec'y literature); Mrs. Henry Ralstin, Wichita (vice-pres home missions); Mrs. Paul Rankin, Lawrence (student counselor); Mrs. L.L. Roberts, Chanute (Christian friendliness ch); Mrs. J.B. Schwitzgebel, Kansas City (vice-pres); Mrs. J. H. Sowerby, Iola (foreign missions vice-pres) Miss Faye Stevenson, Topeka (W.W.G. sec'y); Mrs. W.V. Westrick, Hutchinson (white cross director); Mrs. Paul Worthington, Wichita (sec'y Christian citizenship)

Excerpts from Mrs. Pennypacker's presentation of Officers Training at the Eastern House Party in June 1943 as the Home Missions Vice-President, Kansas Baptist Woman's Union:

"A leader is not one who bears a flying banner but one who steadily, day by day bends willing shoulders to the load of responsibility greater than others are asked to carry."

"A leader points the way but equally important are the ones who follow. One cannot succeed without the other. Both are necessary to the achievement of successful ends."

Mrs. Pennypacker died on February 19, 1954

1941 – 1948 Hazel E. (Mrs. James B.) Schwitzgebel



Mrs. Hazel Schwitzgebel was a member of the Argentine Baptist Church when she was elected vice-president of the Kansas Baptist Women's Union in 1937.

Her husband was a Y.M.C.A. Executive Secretary and a Baptist layman.

Mrs. Schwitzgebel was elected the 6th president of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Union at the annual meeting at Newton, Kansas, in October 1941.

She had been sharing many of the responsibilities because of the serious illness of Mr. H. H. Pennypacker, husband of the previous president, but the challenge of greater service "was something to humble one as I would be following the paths of such fine leaders."

The Master never calls Christian women to service without His promise, "I'll be with Thee." With this promise and the able leadership of the officers and chairmen and the assurance of the encouragement of Kansas Baptists, we entered upon our new duties with enthusiasm.

Before the year 1942 we were in World War II, and we were keenly aware of the situation; not only on the Mission fields, where the scene was changing hourly, but we faced a new situation in our local churches. Our men were going into service and many of our women were taking over the work in offices and war plants.

Many who had been most active in state, association and local work all over our denomination had to be replaced.

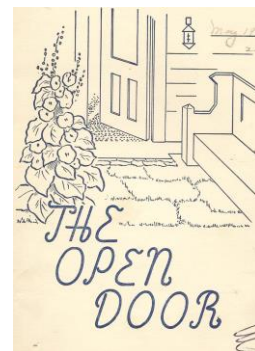
Gasoline and railroad travel was restricted, and seats in trains and buses were reserved for military personnel. Women decided to pool their gasoline so they could attend association meetings and house parties.

In the past years Kansas women had only one Party to meet the needs. Because of travel, it was planned that we would have two House Parties in the summer of 1942. The Ottawa University House Party was attended by 115 out-of-town guests. At Camp Christy the House Party was held in connection with the Family Assembly; 40 women and 18 Guild Girls attended.

Mrs. Schwitzgebel's first desire was to publish a bulletin of some type to help association and local leaders. "*The Open Door*" was the answer of this first dream. Five hundred copies were financed by her son.

It was voted to publish the “*Open Door*” three times a year on the subscription plan of \$.50 per year. The last issue was May 1950.

“Doors are important in life. Open doors are symbolic of opportunity, fellowship, and universality; while closed ones signify limitation, hostility and exclusiveness. The Christian may follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in bearing a witness to Jesus Christ or she may see the door of opportunity close because of some personal inconsistency or unchristian act which speaks so loudly that people cannot hear what she wishes to say.”



The theme for 1942-43 was ‘Love’ and our Gift Boxes had become Love Gift Boxes.

The Kansas women gave \$4,961.61 for the World Emergency Fund and \$6,388.00 in the love gift boxes for the Unified budget. Eight new societies were organized.

At the annual meeting held in Topeka in October, it was voted to send each of our Foreign Missionary specials and the one Kansas Special in Alaska a gift of \$25 from the Scholarship-Refit Fund. This seemed to be the only way we could show our great concern and love for those serving for us in the war-torn areas. White Cross was needed but very little could be shipped at this time.

At our Spring Board meeting, held at Ottawa University at the time of the Ministers’ Retreat, we were honored to have as our guest the wife of the President of our Northern Baptist Convention, Mrs. Joseph Robbins. Dr. Robbins addressed the dinner meeting of the two groups.

Mrs. C.A. Wizarde, our State Christian Citizenship chairman, reported that at Christmas time (1942) gifts were sent through her department to Japanese Evacuees in Relocation Camps. *Beverly Fink told us in 2015 that her mother had sent gifts from her church & a girl sent her a bird as well as her picture, which she treasured.* →



(Do you think it might be possible that one of these gifts might have been given to Dr. Juitisi Morakoiwa, who later became our National Director of Evangelism of the American Baptist Home Mission Society for the American Baptist Convention? He was in one of these camps with his mother.)

The Northern Baptist Convention was not held in 1943 because of the War. Each of the State Presidents went to Springfield, Illinois, at the invitation and expense of the Woman’s American Baptist Home Mission Society, Woman’s

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the national Committee of Woman's Work. A great deal of information and inspiration were crowded into three days and each returned home much better fitted for service in the years ahead

In 1943 four girls were on Scholarship at the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago: Elizabeth Snodgrass, Toye Noton, Alice Gruen and Viola Berry.

In 1943 two House Parties were held: one at Central Baptist Theological Seminary and a part-time House Party at Camp Christy in connection with the Family Camp. Each was well attended.

In February 1944 a plan was promoted for "Guest Days" which would reach out to the local societies. In the spring of 1944 with the cooperation of the associational presidents, 45 guest days were held with an attendance of 2,000. Sixty-five ministers and women from three-fourths of our churches were present. The teams included national leaders, missionaries, state and association leaders.

The theme for 1944-45 was "Thy Peace". The Eastern House Party was held at Bethel College, Newton, and the part-time House Party for the western part of the state at Camp Christy.

In 1944 it was again voted to send \$25 to each of our Foreign missionaries and to our Home Special in Alaska and \$10 to each of our Home Mission Specials.

In August 1944 Mrs. R. L. Woods, Miss Pauline Ritner and the president attended the first Mission Conference at Green Lake Assembly.

In October 1944 it was voted to appoint a committee to amend the Constitution and bylaws to conform with the National Leader's Guide: to change the name from Kansas Baptist Woman's Union to Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society.

Tenure of office was to be a term of two years and not to exceed six years; that instead of having a board meeting in February, 1945, the money be used for promotion.

A meeting of all association presidents and the Executive Committee was called for November 2-3 in the interest of the World Emergency Forward Fund.

Other business voted on:

- (1) that the House Parties be self-supporting as far as possible;
- (2) that the President of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society be sent to the Northern Baptist Convention, travel paid by the two National Woman's Boards,

- (3) that we send the *Book of Remembrance* to our Special-Interest Missionaries, and
- (4) that we continue Guest Days.

In November 1944 at a meeting of the 34 state presidents, Mrs. Schwitzgebel was elected to serve as Chairman of the State Presidents organization and to be the representative of the presidents on the National Committee of Woman's Work.

In the spring of 1945, 35 Guest Days were held with 2,500 women attending. There was no National Convention held in 1945 and all State Presidents were invited to New York City to meet with the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, and the National Committee of Woman's Work. The Boards paid the travel. From that year, 1945, travel has been shared by these three boards to bring the State Presidents to the National Conventions. Every department of the work was presented and missionaries were commissioned.

At the House Party held at McPherson College, 200 women attended, over one-half for the first time. Kansas women had a surprise visit from one of its very own missionaries, Eva Gruen Martin and her two sons. → Mrs. Martin spoke of her work in India and told of the great need for a house trailer. Other states were working on this project and Kansas women voted to set aside a special Sunday for "The Eva Gruen Martin Trailer Fund." Over \$2,500 was added to this fund from Kansas women.



At the part-time Camp Christy house party, 25 women attended the classes for credit on Woman's work.

At the annual meeting, October 15, 1945, held at El Dorado the 25th anniversary of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Union was celebrated at the time of the Kansas Baptist Convention.

A birthday skit was presented, "His Spirit kindled the flame of crusade for Kansas Baptist women". Each past president took part, with the exception of Mrs. Sowerby. A birthday tea was given for over 400 women.

All proposed changes to constitution and bylaws were approved.

In 1946 thirty-five Guest Days were held with an attendance of 2,300 women. One of the high lights of two of our Guest Days was the attendance of the President of our Northern Baptist Convention, Mrs. Leslie Swain. She was honored at a luncheon in Wichita.

The goals for the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society in 1946-47 were (1) organize a World Wide Guild, (2) the *Missions Magazine* in every home, (3) take your Woman's Mission Society Year Book to the House Party.

In 1946 the state convention gave \$1,000 to the women for their promotion work and five of our girls were on scholarships at the Baptist Missionary Training School and one at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Over \$500 was used for missionary refits.

Theme for the 1946 House Party was "Thy Will". Guest missionaries were ←Dr. Marion Criswell, China – Fannie Goodgame, → Home missionary.



Miss Irene Jones, home base secretary of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society challenged the women with her message "Thy will through me in brotherhood."



On February 12, 1947 all Kansas women were invited to attend an open board meeting at First Baptist Church, Topeka. They were guests of Mrs. Frank Carlson, wife of the Governor of Kansas, at the Executive Mansion from three to five o'clock honoring Mrs. John C. Killion who addressed the 250 women attending. Governor and Mrs. Carlson are members of First Baptist Church of Concordia.

At the House Party, June 1947, it was announced that the women had given over \$35,000 for furniture at the Women's Residence Hall at Ottawa. (Years ago they had helped to secure the \$65,000 for the building fund.) After the furniture was bought and paid for, the remaining cash was used for pictures, lamps, etc.

Through a special fund drive Kansas Baptist women secured the money needed to buy a car for Maza Evans to use in Assam. It was dedicated in February 1948 and shipped to Assam from New York City.

Maza Evans→



Mrs. Schwitzgebel was given a retirement gift of a chest of Lunt Sterling Silver, American Victorian pattern.

The following women served on the Board of Managers during the terms of Mrs. Schwitzgebel:

Mrs. Lowell Bailey, Lawrence (recording sec'y); Miss Mary Bateman, Kansas City (world service sec'y); Mrs. Edmund Batten, Kansas City (*Open Door* subscriptions); Mrs. Herbert Beatty, Arkansas City (Christian friendliness); Mrs.

M.C. Birdsall, Ft. Scott (foreign missions vice-pres); Mrs. Harry B. Brown, Wichita, (spiritual life); Mrs. J.C. Burress, Hutchinson (Children's World Crusade) Mrs. J. R. Culbertson, Sterling (literature); Mrs. Harlan Deaver, Sabetha (scholarship refit vice-pres); Mrs. Elmer A. Ferguson, Wichita (treasurer); Mrs. B. P. Heubner, Ottawa (missionary education & reading); Mrs. Paul Hudson, ElDorado (recording sec'y); Mrs. G.L. Huggerth, Concordia (corresponding sec'y) Mrs. W.E. Johnson, Dodge City (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Charles Johnson, Topeka (student counselor); Mrs. E.P. King, Topeka (treasurer); Mrs. Harold Law, Kansas City (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. L.C. Lawrence, Topeka (literature); Mrs. Preston Leslie, Wichita (missionary education & reading); Mrs. Harold Lewis, Newton (Foreign Missions vice-pres); Mrs. Forrest McLoud, Wichita (white Cross); Mrs. George McVey, Parsons (Christian citizenship); Mrs. O.D. Oyer, Ottawa (Children's World Crusade); Mrs. Maynard Peck, Ottawa (vice-pres); Mrs. H.H. Pennypacker, Emporia (Home Missions vice-pres); Mrs. H.M. Pickler, Stafford (spiritual life); Mrs. H.W. Ralstin, Wichita (Home Missions vice-pres); Mrs. Paul Rankin, Lawrence (student counselor); Miss Pauline Ritner, Atchison (scholarship-refit vice-pres); Mrs. L.L. Roberts, Chanute (Christian friendliness); Mrs. W.T. Rogers, Canton (recording secretary); Mrs. John Shea, Wichita (W.W.G); Mrs. L.M. Sipes, Kansas City (student counselor); Mrs. J.H. Sowerby, Iola (Foreign Missions vice-pres); Mrs. W.H. Tolliver, Kansas City (Christian friendliness); Mrs. S.V. Westrick, Hutchinson (White Cross); Mrs. C.A. Wiziarde, Great Bend (treasurer); Miss Martha Jane Wood, Ottawa (world service sec'y); Mrs. R.L. Woods, Wichita (corresponding sec'y and vice-pres); Mrs. Paul Worthington, Wichita (Christian citizenship)

Mrs. Schwitzgebel remained very active in women's work, becoming the first National White Cross Chairman of the National Council of American Baptist Women. She served for ten years on the board of the American Baptist Home Mission Society and on the boards of Ottawa University, Bacone College and Anadarko Christian Center in Oklahoma, Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Kansas, and the Board of Promotion of the Kansas State Convention. Her interest in world missions continues. She served on the constitution committee in preparation for the new organization of the National Council of American Baptist Women and was on the nominating committee for the officers elected in 1951 at Buffalo, NY.

At the Northern Baptist Convention held in San Francisco in 1949, past state presidents representing all states of the Convention had a luncheon "get together".

An alumnae organization was completed and Mrs. Schwitzgebel was elected the first president.

In 1955 the Schwitzgebels became members of the First Baptist Church of Highland Crest, a new frontier church, started in their new home after the 1951 flood.

1948 – 1952 Rebah (Mrs. Robert. L.) Woods



Mrs. Rebah Woods began her service as President of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society on May 1, 1948. Rebah Woods, wife of the pastor of the Meridian Ave. Baptist Church in Wichita, had served as president of two local W.M.S (Goddard and Meridian Ave) and the Walnut Valley Association W.M.S.

She had served one year as State corresponding secretary and two years as the first vice-president. In 1949 she served as president of the Inter-denominational Minister's Wives Group in Wichita.

In the summer of 1948 the officers and chairmen of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society prepared a book of information for each local society president called "*So – You have been Elected President*". Financial help for the publication was given by an outstanding Baptist layman and this publication was to be used as a guide for officers, chairmen, and for the presidents of the local societies and to be passed on to the next president.

For two weeks in the spring of 1949 Schools of Instruction were held in nine areas with 1,500 women attending. These were intended for officers and chairmen of the local societies and association officers. Out-of-state guest speakers were Dr. Irene Jones, Home Base Secretary of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and Miss Suzanne Rinck, Registrar of the Baptist Missionary Training School of Chicago.

The first out-of-state house party was held in 1949, when 153 women from Kansas traveled from 250 to 600 miles to Bacone College Campus, near Muskogee, Oklahoma.

During that visit the great need of the school was realized, and many women returned to their churches to recruit women to work on Sacajawea Hall, painting walls and redecorating. The women of Chicaski association, led by their president, Mrs. A.W. Lee, returned to Bacone time and time again that summer and spent many hours scrubbing, painting, making curtains and drapes, and telling the story over the southwest part of the state. Three thousand dollars was given to help with the work and make "Old Sac" more livable for the girls.

After many conferences with President Frank Thompson of Bacone College, the idea of the **Bacone Thrift Shop was brought into being**. The women of Kansas were asked to send Bacone Thrift Shop good used clothing (for College

and High School students), and any saleable article for the Thrift Shop. The Bacone truck made several trips to the churches picking up and delivering the articles to the Thrift Shop.

The first full time House Party was held at Camp Christy in 1949 with 100 women attending. At a Jr. High Camp when Mary Katow was the missionary, she spoke of the need for a counseling cabin at Camp Christy.

The following year the women of Kansas furnished the money and the men of the western part of the state built the cabin. The women bought and paid for the furnishings and the Mary Katow Counseling Cabin was dedicated in 1951. Helen Schmitt & Mary Katow at Camp Christy→



Another project of the women was collecting of Gold Medal coupons for the purchase of silverware. Thousands upon thousands were collected and with additional money provided by the women of Kansas, silverware was sent to Ioletta McElhaney; Bacone College; Sunset Home; and 300 place settings for the dining room at Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

In October 1949 a campaign was launched to raise \$25,000 to furnish the dining room and kitchen for the Carpenter-Wells Hall being completed at the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1950 \$20,000 had been raised and in 1952 the project was completed with one final effort: “a



mile of dimes”. Every woman was asked to give at least one foot in dimes (\$1.60). Buckets and dish pans were filled with dimes – resulting in \$26,192.43. The kitchen and dining room was furnished with the latest up-to-date equipment.

← **Rebah Woods, Grace Kinneman and friend counting the dimes**

Pins were designed by a jewelry firm in Kansas City for the out-going officers and chairmen of the Board of Managers of the Kansas Baptist Woman’s Mission Society. The pin chosen has a globe in the center and is surrounded by the initials K.B.W.M.S; the guard with an interwoven cross and crown, carries the name of the office of the retiring member. The pins are presented to the retiring officer and chairmen at the annual meeting of the society.

The first state directory listing the names of the state officers and chairmen, the officers and chairmen of the 17 associations and the presidents of the local societies was printed and distributed.

The Scholarship-Refit committee, under the leadership of the vice-president, Mrs. Harlan Deaver, Sabetha, urged the women of Kansas to set aside the month of September as Scholarship-Refit month. For the program a play was written each year and was sent to every local church in the state. The women were urged to use these plays to show members of the churches the far-reaching effect of the Scholarship-Refit program.

Women were urged to each give at least twenty-five cents per year. Through the increased giving it was possible for the women to raise the scholarships to meet the ever-increasing costs the schools were facing. Full scholarships were given to girls dedicating their lives to full-time missionary service.

At the House Party in 1951, Mrs. Milo Wenger, Executive Secretary of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, commissioned LaVon Lindholm. She was appointed as Christian Center missionary at Weirton, West Virginia. →



In 1951 the first Business and Professional Woman's House Party in the American Baptist Convention was held over a week-end at Camp Fellowship, 14 miles southwest of Wichita. Although attendance was small due to severe floods in Kansas, it was the beginning of much larger house parties held each year over a week-end to serve the working women.

A monthly publication, *The Information Bulletin*, was first published in 1951 by Mrs. Woods. The adopted price was \$1.00 a year for ten issues. This publication contained messages from the state officers and chairmen, letters from Kansas special-interest missionaries, love gift dedications and prayer calls to fill its ten pages each month.

At the close of her work the Kansas Baptist women present Mrs. Woods with a beautiful International Sterling silver coffee and tea service in the St. James pattern. Mrs. Woods and her fine group of officers and chairmen accomplished many outstanding projects.

Those serving with her included:

Miss Florence Anderson, Topeka (literature); Mrs. Arthur Barber, Wilmore (1st vice-pres); Mrs. Frank Barker, Kansas City (*Open Door* subscriptions); Miss Mary Bateman, Kansas City (world service sec'y); Mrs. M.C. Birdsall, Ft. Scott (1st vice-pres & foreign missions vice-president); Mrs. C.L. Brown, ElDorado

(white cross); Mrs. Harry B. Brown, Wichita (spiritual life); Mrs. Hugh Chittenden, Ottawa (recording sec'y); Mrs. G.C. Cobb, Salina (foreign missions vice-pres); Mrs. J. Kelsey Day, Arkansas City (program ch); Mrs. Harlan Deaver, Sabetha (vice-pres scholarship-Refit); Miss Jane Elder, Wichita (business & professional women vice-pres); Mrs. Leroy Elmore, Wichita (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Homer Givler, Kansas City (Christian citizenship); Mrs. E.L. Eshbaugh, Wathena (recording sec'y); Mrs. George Greer, Sabetha (white cross); Mrs. Gordon Huggerth, Concordia (home missions vice-pres); Mrs. W.D. Kinnaman, Sedan (treasurer); Mrs. S.S. Major, Wichita (student counselor); Mrs. Merritt Lee, Wichita (missionary education for children); Mrs. Forrest McCloud, Wichita (white cross); Miss Lois McMullen, Marysville (B&PW vice-pres); Mrs. Glen Moon, Ottawa, (Christian leadership); Mrs. Roy Paslay, Jr., Ft. Scott (missionary education & reading); Mrs. H.W. Ralstin, Wichita (missionary educ. & reading); Mrs. Earl Riley, Pratt (recording sec'y); Mrs. W.T. Rogers, Canton (recording sec'y); Mrs. R.R. Schendel, Topeka (family life ch); Mrs. J.B. Schwitzgebel, Kansas City (home missions vice-pres); Mrs. L.M. Sipes, Kansas City (student counselor); Mrs. H.W. Smallwood, Ft. Scott (1st vice-pres & recording sec'y); Mrs. H.E. Wallace, Hutchinson (Christian citizenship); Mrs. C.A. Wiziarde, Great Bend (treasurer).



Mrs. Henry Smallwood, Mrs. Lauren Ridge, Mrs. J. N. Atkinson, Mrs. James B. Schwitzgebel and Mrs. R. L. Woods

1950 – Kansas Special Missionaries



Lettie Archer



Jane Bennett



E. Grace Bullard



Helen Case



Dr. Marion Criswell



Marcia Cudworth



Sara B. Downer



Lea B. Edgar



Maza Evans



Dr. Martha Gifford



Fannie Goodgame



Vevienne Green



Elizabeth Hendrix



Ada Joyner



Grace Jorgensen



Rhoda Lundsten



Millie Marvin



Otilie Pechous



Lillian Roberson



Elizabeth Snodgrass

More 1950 Kansas Special Missionaries –



Opal Stoner



Alice Thayer



Florence Wormser



Business & Professional Women's House Party ?? 1953??

1-Lillian Cobb 2 Estel Johnson 3 Glenola Hayward 4 Helen Steelman 5 J Eshbaugh

1952 – 1957 Mary (Mrs. Henry) Smallwood



History is written, not only in
Dates or hieroglyphic signs
But in every single deed, small or great
Of yours or of mine!

Mrs. Henry Smallwood is the wife of a Baptist layman and a member of the First Baptist Church of Ft. Scott.

In the first years (1953-54) that Mrs. Henry Smallwood served as State President of Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society the Love gift, given by the loyal women in local churches, far exceeded the goal of \$26,500 with a total of \$ 31,005.92.

In 1953 the Business & Professional Women's House party was at the seminary and as a project they brought funds to purchase blankets for the seminary. Miss Lois McMullen, was chairman of the B&PW Circles in Kansas. With Miss Mary Bateman, Mrs. G.L. Huggerth, Miss Lillian Cobb and Miss Clara Swandler, she had arranged the program for the three days.

The theme was "Sing unto the Lord a New Song" and the speaker was Miss Helen Schmitz, secretary of public relations of the Women's Baptist Home Mission Society. Approximately 150 women attended.



Following the House Party held at Bacone ← College, Muskogee, Oklahoma, money was given for repair of pianos at the college and to do needed painting at Murrow Children's

Home.

New furniture was bought for Mary Katow Prayer Chapel /Counseling Cabin at Camp Christy and was dedicated at the time of that House Party. New rugs for Cranell Hall at Central Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas, were purchased.

Two thousand five hundred Baptist women have their names recorded in the **charter membership** book of the National Council of **American Baptist Women** that was dedicated in an impressive service at the national convention in Denver, Colorado, held May 20-26, 1953. Almost \$900 was given to assist in the work of the National Council of American Baptist Women.

At the state convention held in Hutchinson, Kansas, in October 1953 a new and challenging project was started for the purchase of equipment for the hospital at Managua, Nicaragua. Kansas Baptist women met the challenge and when the report was made at the National Convention at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 24, 1954 the Kansas women topped the list of 35 states in the American Baptist Convention by their gift of \$5,194.87 for the hospital in Nicaragua.

Three hundred women attended the banquet on October 13, 1953 commemorating 25 years of Scholarship-Refit.

On November 2-4, 1953, Mrs. Smallwood attended, as a delegate, the First Congress of the North American Baptist Woman's Union of the Baptist World Alliance held in Columbus, Ohio.

At the National Convention held in Minneapolis, MN May 24-28, 1954 Mrs. Smallwood was elected to serve as Mid-Western area president, also appointed chairman of a committee for "*Proposed Paper*" (which became "*American Baptist Woman*" magazine) and made a member of the Town and Churches Committee.

In 1954 all three House Parties met together at Ottawa. The theme was "In His Path".

During 1954-55 seven new missionary societies were organized and two re-organized; and through Scholarship-Refit fund ten young women were in college in preparation for missionary service.

At the State Convention held in Wichita, KS October 1954, Kansas Baptist women adopted two major projects:

\$10,000 to help buy a bus for Bacone College and
\$ 10,000 to help rebuild a church in Osaka, Japan. These were carried "over the top".

Mrs. Maurice Hodge, President of the National Council of American Baptist women was guest speaker at the State Convention and a lovely banquet was given in her honor at the Innes Tea Room in Wichita.

Six floor fans were purchased for Ottawa University dining hall and chapel and presented as a gift for their 90th Anniversary at the time of the House Party held there June 22-24, 1955. A total of 473 women attended the conference.



1955 House Party at Ottawa University – 473 women attended

In September 1955 the National Leadership Team was at Emporia for a Leadership Training Conference. Mrs. Clyde Matheney and Mrs. H. Hurley Baird, members of the Board of the National Council of American Baptist Women were sent out to each association of Kansas to conduct Leadership Training Conferences.

In October 1955 Mrs. Smallwood met with the Baptist Women of Colorado for a Leadership Training Conference.

In 1956 Mrs. Howard Roach, president of the National Council of American Baptist Women visited Kansas and spoke in six of the associations.

On August 10, 1956, twenty-three Baptist women from over Kansas boarded a chartered bus for Green Lake, Wisconsin. They had charge of the program each day during the Woman's Hour at the Mission Conference.

The K.E.Y. (Kansas Enlargement Year) Program was adopted for three years at the annual meeting held in Chanute, KS, in October 1956, with a goal of \$30,000 to be given over that period of time - \$10,000 per year and in the first year the goal has been met and the 1957 Love Gift quota set for \$33,000.

At the National Convention held in Philadelphia in May 1957, Mrs. Smallwood was appointed to serve on the nominating committee and on the constitution committee for the National Council of American Baptist women.

When Mrs. Smallwood retired the Kansas women presented her with a chest of Sterling Silver and a check for \$250.00 to be used for promotion of the K.E.Y. program. Mr. Henry Smallwood passed away in May 1959.

Those who served during Mrs. Smallwood's term of office:

Miss Florence Anderson, Topeka (literature); Miss Mary Bateman, Kansas City (world service sec'y); Mrs. H.B. Bondurant, Garden City (vice-pres. scholarship-refit); Mrs. W.E. Bridges, Parsons (family life); Mrs. C.L. Brown, ElDorado (white cross); Mrs. Hugh Chittenden, Ottawa (recording sec'y); Mrs. J.H. Cochrane, Independence (vice-pres missions); Mrs. G.C. Cobb, Salina (vice-pres missions); Mrs. V.C. Dameron, Kansas City (spiritual life); Mrs. J. Kelsey Day, Arkansas City (program ch); Mrs. Harlan Deaver, Sabetha (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Mrs. E.L. Eshbaugh, Wathena (1st vice-pres); Mrs. Chris Fair, Alden (love gift ch); Mrs. E.E. Gilbert, Wichita (recording sec'y); Mrs. Wilbur Fisher, Ft. Scott (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Homer Givler, Kansas City (Christian social relations); Mrs. Victor Haflich, Garden City (recording sec'y); Mrs. John Hall, Emporia (missionary & stewardship educ); Mrs. G.L. Huggerth, Concordia (vice-pres missions); Miss Virginia Jennings, Ottawa (vice-pres B&PW); Miss Lois McMullen, Marysville (vice-pres B&PW); Mrs. Glen Moon, Ottawa (leadership training); Mrs. C.V. Overman, Carlton (missionary educ for children); Mrs. Leland Pellett, Gardner (missionary & stewardship educ); Mrs. M.W. Reece, Goddard (Christian social relations); Mrs. Lauren Ridge, Wilmore (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Brooks Robertson, Hutchinson (treasurer); Mrs. Ivan Ryle, Salina (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Rudolph Sandberg, Chanute (speakers and interpreters); Mrs. R.R. Schendel, Topeka (vice-pres Christian training); Mrs. Harold Tuttle, Basehor (missionary educ for youth); Mrs. Jona Unruh, Argonia (special interest missionaries); Mrs. Jep Williams, Larned (literature); Mrs. Ross Wood, Topeka (speakers and interpreters).

1957 – 1961 Frances (Mrs. Lauren) Ridge



“He who has a good purpose in mind needs no road map to success. Let him go straight ahead and at forks, in the road, keep always to the right.”

Whether or not this was Mrs. Ridge’s motto, it has been her accomplishment.

Mrs. Ridge, who attended Ottawa University for two years, has lived her entire life at Wilmore, Kansas. Prior to her marriage she was a teacher in the Wilmore Grade School. She was raised on a farm and married a farmer, Lauren Ridge.

Mr. Ridge was called to his heavenly home in 1949 and since that time Mrs. Ridge has continued to make a

home for her father.

In her local church she served as church clerk, church pianist, Sunday School teacher of junior girls as well as the Woman’s Mission Society. She also served as the president of the South Central Association’s Woman’s Mission Society.

For three years prior to her election as State president she served on the State board as vice-president of Christian Service and as Love Gift Chairman. Her untiring efforts were well rewarded because each year the women of Kansas increased their giving through Love Gift.

There were three House Parties in 1957 built around the national theme “Living Water” with 684 women in attendance. Two were held at Ottawa University and the third at Camp Christy.

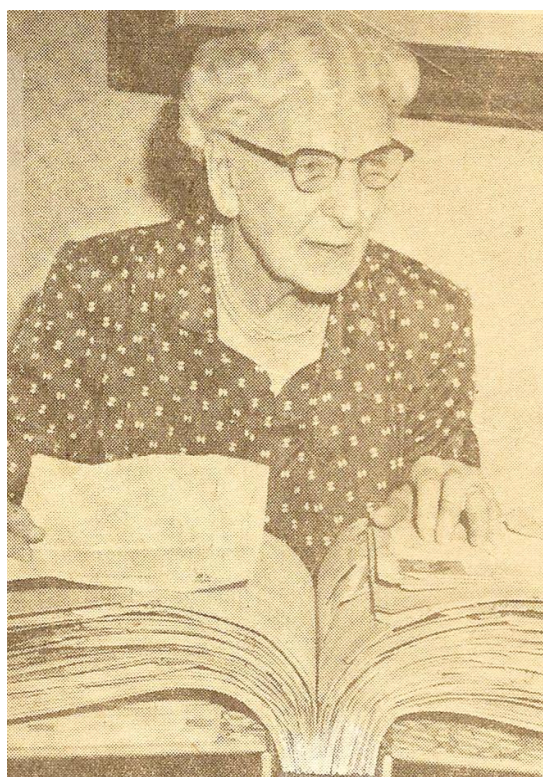
The K.E.Y. (Kansas Enlargement Years) of \$30,000 was accepted by the Kansas women. The first \$10,000 was for the State Camp program for use at Camp Christy and Camp Crawford and for helping to establish a new camp site in the northeast area of Kansas named “Camp George Wise” in memory of Dr. George Wise, former executive secretary. →



The second year of \$10,000 was for the Central Seminary library fund and the third phase was \$10,000 for student aid for Ottawa University to be set up as an endowed scholarship fund to be known as Kansas Baptist Woman’s Scholarship.

As one of Mrs. Ridge’s special projects, because she was vitally concerned that Kansas Baptist women have a history of their achievements through the years that was available so all might have a copy, she appointed Mrs. J.B. Schwitzgebel

as Historian for the Kansas Baptist Mission Society. A research committee was also appointed to aid Mrs. Schwitzgebel in preparing such a history. Members of the committee were Mrs. J.N. Atkinson, Mrs. R.L. Woods, Mrs. Henry Smallwood and Mrs. Ralph Heath.



Mrs. Atkinson was named “Historian Emeritus” for Kansas women as she had devoted a great deal of time compiling, editing, and putting into permanent book form a Scrap Book in 1959.

The “*Book of Remembrance*” was begun by Mrs. Atkinson in 1954. Much of the contents came from scrapbooks she had compiled. The book tells the story of such Baptist institutions as Ottawa University and Central Seminary. It depicts the projects – state, national and international – in which Kansas Baptists have participated.

National meetings held in Kansas, missionaries sent from Kansas to posts in foreign countries and various Baptist schools throughout the country all have their place in the book. A large section is devoted to the work of the Baptist women, with whom Mrs.

Atkinson worked so closely.

Mrs. Atkinson, 79, has a personal attachment to many of the persons and organizations represented in the book.

Kansas Fellowship Guild was revived at the annual meeting at Hays in 1957. Mrs. Steward McDaniel was approved as Counselor by the Kansas Baptist Woman’s Mission Society Board, the State Baptist Youth Fellowship and the State Board of Christian Education.

State Guild rallies had not been held in Kansas since 1941 when the Guild became a part of the B.Y.F. program.

The 25th anniversary of “Love Gift” was celebrated at Hays in 1957. During the 25 years \$398,083.56 had been given by Kansas women.

Missionaries were aided in 1957 through the refit fund as they returned to their fields: Marcia Cudworth, Managua, Nicaragua and Virginia Lee Hjertstedt, Belgian Congo each received \$250.00.



Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd James received \$500.00 The money to the James' with



other money from the Foreign Mission Society was used to buy a much needed Volkswagon, which

they named "The Blue Bug" and will be used in their mission work as they travel from place to place among the people of Burma.



In June 1958 at the American Baptist Convention, three former Kansas scholarship girls were commissioned as missionaries – Phyllis Browning, Betty Loun and Mary Dowdy. Mr. and Mrs. Max Fairchild of Leoti, Kansas were also commissioned and assigned as House parents in Kodiak, Alaska.

Mrs. Ridge and her officers and chairmen have co-operated with association and local Woman's Mission Societies each year in holding Leadership Training Conferences in the 17 associations.



In 1958 the Kansas Baptist Women again went to Bacone College for one of their House Parties with 245 women in attendance. The other two house parties were also well attended with a total of 533 registered for all three.

Gifts from the Kansas women included large circulator fans for the chapel at Bacone and at Camp Christy, a used piano for the Camp Christy chapel and a small fan for the Women's Residence Hall guest room.

At the annual meeting of the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society in Atchison in October 1958, a special recognition was given to two of our members. Mrs. J.N. Atkinson, Kansas City, who was our second president, was recognized for outstanding service and devotion. Mrs. Victor Haflich, Garden City, who is recording secretary, was selected as Kansas Mother of the Year for 1958.

Announcement was made that victory was again achieved in the second year of our project which was \$10,000 to Central Baptist Theological Seminary for books for their new library.

Mrs. Ridge was re-elected to serve another two years.

Kansas Specials for 1958-1959 were:



Dr. M. Criswell
So. India



Sara Downer
Hong Kong



Paul Eppinger
Japan



Virginia Hjertstedt
Congo



Lloyd & Mrs. James
Burma



James & Mrs. Long
So. India



Lawrence & Mrs. Kearney (Philippines)



Thomas & Mrs. McDaniel
Japan



Murray & Marjorie Sharp (Congo)



Marian E. Shivers
Burma



Florence Wormser
Assam (India)



David P. & Mrs. Stimson
Burma



History of Kansas Baptist Women, Edition I (1828-1960) was released for sale at the Convention in Hutchinson in 1959.



The first State Fellowship Guild House Party was held at Ottawa University in the summer of 1959.

Approximately 400 women were expected to attend the annual House Party at Ottawa in June 1960. The program included Bible study, addresses by American Baptist missionaries (Marjorie Sharp, Belgian Congo and Arcola Buffum, Bethel Neighborhood Center) and inspirational leaders, training conferences for lay leaders, discussion sessions and recreation.

← Principal speaker was Dr. Eleanor I. Anderson who is president of Mather School, a school for Negro girls of high school and junior college standing operated by the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

At the 40th annual meeting in Pratt, Kansas in October 1960, a 'Pioneer Banquet' was held in the First Methodist Church. Mrs. J.B. Schwitzgebel was the speaker and related 'doings' of Kansas Baptist Women through the years. Three

hundred women attended the banquet wearing pioneer dresses in keeping with the theme – also adding a touch to the Kansas Baptist Convention centennial year.

“We give thanks for the women of the past, for the women of the present, for all who had courage to lead.”

Mrs. Ridge closed her work as President May 1, 1961. She was presented a Sunflower corsage with money leaves (\$211.) from the Kansas Women. Her Board of Managers presented her with a black and silver squaw dress.

Those who served during Mrs. Ridge’s term of office were:

Mrs. McCulley Ashlock, Newton (leadership training ch); Mrs. Arthur Barber, Greensburg (corresponding sec’y); Mrs. V.E. Barr, Augusta (speakers & interpreters ch); Mrs. Pauline Birdsall, Kansas City (ch B&PW); Mrs. Frank Bodecker, Benton (literature); Mrs. H.B. Bondurant, Garden City (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Mrs. W.D. Carr, Wichita (treasurer); Mrs. J.H. Cochrane, Independence (vice-pres missions); Mrs. E.L. Esbaugh, Wathena (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Mrs. Chris Fair, Alden (love gift); Mrs. Homer Givler, Kansas City (Christian social relations ch); Mrs. L.D. Golike, Wellington, (family life ch); Mrs. Victor Haflich, Garden City (recording sec’y); Mrs. John Hall, Emporia (1st vice-pres); Mrs. Don Hinkson, Junction City (spiritual life ch); Miss Virginia Jennings, Ottawa (ch B&PW); Mrs. E.H. Linville, Salina (family life ch); Mrs. Steward McDaniel, Kansas City (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. H.T. McClure, Stafford (love gift); Mrs. W.M. McLeod, Manhattan (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Oscar Moore, Emporia (white cross); Mrs. Leland Pellet, Gardner (missionary & stewardship educ); Mrs. Brooks Robertson, Hutchinson (treasurer, recording sec’y); Mrs. Ivan Ryle, Salina (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. R.R. Schendel, Topeka (ch of house party); Mrs. J. B. Schwitzgebel, Kansas City (historian); Mrs. L.M. Sherrill, Newton (program ch); Mrs. Henry Smallwood, Ft. Scott (vice-pres Christian Service); Mrs. Ray H. Smith, Louisburg (vice-pres Christian training); Mrs. F.M. Snodgrass, Wichita (vice-pres Christian training); Mrs. Jona Unruh, Ness City, (ch special interest missionaries); Mrs. Howard Waterfield, Wichita (ch house party); Mrs. Jep Williams, Erie (literature); Miss Mary Bateman, Kansas City (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. Frank Barker, Kansas City (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Alton Snyder, Wichita (program); Mrs. A.Q. Van Benschoten, Winfield (ch special interest missionaries); Mrs. R.E. Lancaster, Lawrence (ch missionary & stewardship educ); Mrs. S.A. Wagner, Emporia (love gift); Mrs. C.L. Brown, ElDorado, (white cross); Mrs. J.W. McCrossen, Topeka (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. R.H. Troughton, Pittsburg, (vice-pres Christian service).

Mrs. Ridge was elected as Chairman of Program by the National Council of American Baptist Women in May 1961 at Philadelphia and served until May 1966.

1961 – 1965 Ila (Mrs. Victor) Haflich



Mrs. Ila Haflich was elected president in 1961. She previously served as recording secretary and as an association ABW officer.

Mrs. Haflich is a member of the First Baptist Church of Garden City. She has served her local church on the Board of Christian Education, Church School superintendent, as a teacher, and president of the local ABW.

Mother of seven children, Mrs. Haflich was chosen as Kansas Mother of the Year in 1958.

Mrs. Haflich served for thirty years in leadership roles of the Kansas Farm Bureau in county, district and state. For twenty years she served as State chairman of Farm Bureau Women and on the board of directors. During that time she also served as Mid-West Regional Director of Farm Bureau Women for twelve states. Mrs. Haflich served on the Women's Safety Committee for the state of Kansas and won the Carol Lane award for safety in 1959 for legislative activities.

Principal speaker at the WMS, B&PW and Guild House Parties at Ottawa in June 1961 was Eleanor Dow, missionary to Latin America. →

Miss Dow has served in Cuba at Colegios Internacionales since October 1941. She also spent one year in study in the United States and a year in service in El Salvador.

Colegios Internacionales in Oriente Province is in the area where much military activity took place during the recent civil war. Classes were suspended in the fall of 1958, but Miss Dow and other missionaries elected to stay to serve the community.

With an enrollment of 300 the school attracted students from Santiago and near-by rural areas and boarding students from throughout Oriente Province. Miss Dow served as teacher in the junior and high school grades and as principal of the girls' boarding department. The school was used in recent years as a shelter by people who feared their wooden frame homes would be destroyed by bombs or machine gun fire. Upon advice of U.S. consul in Santiago, Cuba, Miss Dow and other remaining North American missionaries in Cuba were evacuated last January.

Theme for the WMS and B&PW House parties at Ottawa in 1962 was "Love". Missionary speakers were Miss-Florence Wormser, Ottawa University graduate and a missionary to Assam, →



and Mrs. Harold McWilliams, a former missionary to Bengal Arissa.

The years of 1961-65 were years of change.

In 1962 the name of the House Party was changed to **Women's Conference**.

A change was made in the scholarship program. Up to this time only girls had been given scholarships for Christian Service. Since few girls were applying for the scholarships, **it was voted to also give scholarships to men who were going into the ministry.**

Projects during her term were Baptist Campus Center at Kansas State University (\$10,176.44); Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City (\$11,363.20) and Ottawa Chapel at Ottawa University (\$12,696.83)

Many women served with Mrs. Haflich during the four years. They are to be congratulated for the work they did as they served:

Mrs. Pauline Birdsall, Kansas City (ch of B&PW); Mrs. John Blosser, Arlington (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Frank Bodecker, Benton (ch of literature); Mrs. Ralph Boland, Leoti (vice-pres leadership training); Mrs. W.D. Carr, Wichita (treasurer); Mrs. Alvin Cassens, Norton (spiritual life); Mrs. Harlan Deaver, Sabetha (ch of mission interpreters); Mrs. Carl Duvanel, Benton (vice-pres of Christian training); Mrs. Arthur Eads, Meade (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. Ted Eppinger, Wathena (love gift); Mrs. O.B. Erich, Wichita (vice-pres of scholarship-refit); Mrs. C.A. Evans, Kansas City (program); Mrs. Fred Fair, Alden (treasurer); Mrs. D.J. Hinkson, Junction City (ch of conference); Mrs. O.B. Holcomb, Kansas City (ch of house party); Mrs. Alfred Janssen, Jr., Scott City (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Don Johnson, Kansas City (literature); Mrs. H.M. Law, Kansas City (literature); Mrs. R.E. Lancaster, Lawrence (ch of missionary & stewardship educ); Mrs. Wm. McBride, Kansas City, ch B & PW); Mrs. J.M. McCrossen, Topeka (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. Steward McDaniel, Overland Park (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. W.M. McLeod, Manhattan (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Stanley McNair, Kansas City (ch scholarship-refit); Mrs. Harold McWilliams, Salina (ch of special interest missionaries); Mrs. Maynard Peck, Alden (1st vice-pres); Mrs. Frank Power, Parsons (recording sec'y); Mrs. B.H. Rea, Wichita (1st vice-pres); Mrs. Brooks Robertson, Hutchinson (treasurer); Mrs. J.B. Schwitzgebel, Kansas City (historian); Mrs. Charles Scott, Oberlin (ch of interpreters); Mrs. Delos Shore, Oxford (ch of missionary & stewardship educ); Mrs. Howard Sorensen, Wichita (vice-pres missions); Mrs. R.H. Troughton, Pittsburg (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Harley Twogood, Osawatomie (ch white cross); Mrs. Jona Unruh, Cedarvale (ch family life); Mrs. A.Q. Van Benschoten, Winfield (ch special interest missionaries); Mrs. S.A. Wagner, Emporia (ch love gift); Mrs. E. H. Wentworth, Lenexa (recording sec'y); Mrs. Joel Wilshire, Kansas City (ch spiritual life).

1965 – 1969 Florence (Mrs. L. M.) Sherrill



Florence Sherrill had been a member of the First Baptist Church of Newton since 1919 and locally had served in many capacities: taught in the Sunday School on the primary, junior and senior high levels.

She was a Guild Counselor for many years and served as president of the local Woman's Mission Society as well as president of the Central Association Woman's Mission Society.

Mrs. Sherrill's term of office began May 1, 1965. Her first responsibility was to represent the women of Kansas at the National Board meetings of the National Council of American Baptist Women held in May at San Francisco.

Project for 1964-65 was three women's centers in Kinshasa, Zaire. A total of \$11,528.18 was received.

While on a Mission Study Tour of the Congo in 1970 Mrs. Sherrill and Mrs. R. L. Woods had the pleasure of seeing one of these centers already being used. The other two were later completed and used for kindergarten classes as well as women's meetings.

In 1965 the conference usually held at Ottawa University was taken to Bacone College, Muskogee, OK. There were 153 women in attendance.

A Business and Professional Women's Conference was also held at Bacone with 100 women in attendance, plus the Conference at Camp Christy with 144 women attending.

At the annual meeting in October the women were inspired to accept Bacone as their special project for the year 1965-66. \$10,000.00 was pledged to be used to refurbish the boy's dormitory, Janetta Barnett Hall. (A total of \$12,829.60 was received.)

In July 1965, while on her way to Green Lake, Mrs. Sherrill was in a car accident resulting in a broken hip. This accident hospitalized her for six weeks. Mrs. Maynard Peck, Vice President of Interpretation, fulfilled the presidential duties at Camp Christy. Mrs. Peck also represented Mrs. Sherrill at the October 1965 State Convention at Topeka and on the Women's Work Committee for the National American Baptist Convention held in Kansas City in May 1966.

The amount of \$39,128.80 was received for Love Gift in 1965 which exceeded our goal of \$38,300.

In 1965-66 the study theme was “Instruments for Change under God”. Two conferences were held – one in Ottawa and one at Camp Christy.

Since our study theme was new, Mrs. Mabel Peck, vice-president of interpretation, Mrs. Olive Rea, chairman of program and Mrs. Sherrill held workshops in ten associations. They were well attended and interest was unusually keen.

In February 1966 a Leadership Training Session was held in Hutchinson on the “Mission and Ministry of the Church”. We were privileged to have Mrs. Major Johnson, national president of American Baptist Women and Mrs. Carlton Saywell, national vice-president of missions, as our leaders.

This meeting was attended by all state officers, association presidents and association vice-presidents of Leadership Development. Following this session, training sessions were provided in each association with two State officers as leaders.

Kansas women were asked to make favors for the National Convention in Kansas City in May 1966. The Convention was hosted jointly by Missouri and Kansas American Baptists.

It was decided to make “Sunflowers” to represent Kansas. Patterns were distributed to each association, resulting in 4,000 sunflowers.

Several women served on the Women’s Work Committee – Mrs. Maynard Peck (acting president), Mrs. Frances Law (treasurer), Mrs. Irene McBride (secretary) Mrs. Mabel Givler (chairman of ushers) and Mrs. Alma Fair (planning).

Project for 1966-67 was to build two or three small chapels for the rural areas of Haiti. Total received was \$ 12,923.53.

Love Gift receipts for 1967 were \$41,002.84.

In April 1967 Mrs. Sherrill attended the Women’s meeting of the Southern Baptist Women at Wichita along with Mrs. Anna Mae Hunt, state president of the Missionary Baptist Women. Their theme was “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”. Mrs. Sherrill spoke on our theme, “Seek, Dare, Risk” telling of our desires and goals.

Theme for the 1967 conference was “Seek-Dare-Risk” and the missionary speaker was Mrs. C. Stanford Kelly, general missionary for →



American Baptist in Haiti. Mrs. Kelly and her husband were born in Jamaica, British West Indies and educated there and in England.

The annual meeting was held as a part of the state convention in October at Liberal, Kansas.

Project for 1967-68 was to provide furnishings for the new building at Bethel Neighborhood Center and \$ 14,468.49 was received.

We didn't quite meet our goal of \$42,000 for Love Gift, receiving only \$41,771.54.

In May 1968 Mrs. Sherrill and Mrs. Pearl Strickert, VP of Christian Service, were delegated to attend a workshop at the United Nations, "The United Nations and the Mission of the Church." They learned the workings of various agencies of the United Nations and how many difficulties had been resolved - many of the things the average citizen is not aware of.

At the June 1968 board meeting in Ottawa, a workshop for Association Mission Speakers was held, as suggested by the National Vice President of Missions. This workshop was under the direction of State Vice President of Missions, Mrs. Grace Thomsen, the WMS President and Rev. Van Benschoten of the State staff. This meeting was well attended and gave confidence and direction to the Mission speakers.

In June the Guild House Party was held at Ottawa with Mrs. Sherrill participating in the devotional time

Project for 1968-69 was scholarships for nurses at the Nicaragua Nursing School in Managua in honor of Marcia Cudworth, retiring Kansas missionary. (\$12,310.26)

Picture of Marcia Cudworth in 1950s→



At the January 1969 board meeting Mrs. Sherrill and Mrs. Strickert held a workshop for all officers, association presidents and five presidents of Christian Service, in an attempt to give information they had received. Afterward, similar workshops were held in each association

It had been decided that in 1969 we would equalize the distance in the state by having three conferences – one in Ottawa, one at Camp Webster near Salina and one at Camp Christy. These were all well attended, and it was voted to follow this practice for the next year.

In July an “Inclusive Church Workshop” was held at Ottawa and included American Baptists, Missionary Baptists and Mexican Baptists, in an effort to foster a closer relationship between Baptist groups – one of Christian love and service. Officers and chairmen who served with Mrs. Sherrill were:

Mrs. Douglas Beyer, Ness City (ch spiritual life); Mrs. John Blosser, Arlington, (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Ralph Boland, Leoti (ch communications); Mrs. Dean Brown, Wichita (ch project); Mrs. Ted Eppinger, Norton (ch love gift); Mrs. E. L. Eshbaugh, Wathena (ch project); Miss Maza Evans, Washington (ch of special interest missionaries); Mrs. Fred Fair, Alden (treasurer); Mrs. Joseph Hefta, Lindsborg (vice-pres. of scholarship-refit); Mrs. Guy Human, Derby (ch white cross); Mrs. Don M. Johnson, Kansas City (ch literature); Mrs. Harold Jones, Hamlin (vice-pres leadership development); Mrs. Harold Law, Kansas City (corresponding sec’y); Mrs. A. Stanley MacNair, Kansas City (vice-pres of scholarship-refit); Mrs. Wm. McBride, Kansas City (ch B&PW); Mrs. Harold McWilliams, Salina (ch of special interest missionaries); Mrs. Maynard Peck, Alden (vice-pres of interpretation); Mrs. B.H. Rea, Wichita (ch program); Mrs. Marshall Schirer, Wellington (ch conference); Mrs. Delos Shore, Oxford (ch literature); Mrs. Howard Sorensen, Great Bend (vice-pres of missions and ch project); Mrs. Karl Strickert, Scott City (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Earl Swann, Fredonia (co-ch white cross & world relief); Mrs. W.A. Thomsen, Tulsa (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Victor Trower, Parsons (ch conference); Mrs. S.A. Wagner, Emporia (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. E.H. Wentworth, Lenexa (recording sec’y); Mrs. C.E. Wills, Alden (co-ch love gift); Mrs. R.L. Woods, Wichita (ch B&PW and historian); Mrs. Jacob Zimmerman, Olathe (fellowship guild counselor).

1969 – 1971 Alma L. (Mrs. Fred) Fair



Alma Fair is a long time member of First Baptist Church of Alden. Mr. and Mrs. Fair are bankers in Alden and Hudson and enjoy traveling. In Hong Kong they visited Rev. Hugh Smith, who took them to visit some of our Baptist schools and churches there. They have three married daughters and several grandchildren.

For the years 1964-1968 Mrs. Fair was State treasurer for the Kansas Baptist Woman's Mission Society, a position she really enjoyed.

In May 1969 Mrs. Fair attended the National American Baptist Woman's meeting and the National American Baptist Convention in Seattle, Washington. There she had the thrill of getting acquainted with Violet Rudd, our National Executive Director and meeting the presidents of all the states.

That summer she attended her first conference at our American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, Wisconsin, and again enjoyed the fellowship with friends made in Seattle.

In October 1969 at the Kansas State Baptist Convention, she presided at the evening session of the Kansas Baptist State Convention when the first black president of the American Baptist Convention, Rev. Thomas Kilgore of California, was the guest speaker.

It was during her term that the possibility of being self-supporting and not having to receive any help from the Kansas Baptist convention was discussed. (The State Woman's Mission Society had been receiving \$125 per month; this was reduced to \$100 and later no funds were received from the state budget.)

In board meetings talk began about the possibility of changing the term of office to three years non-re-electable. Eventually, this idea became a reality and the By-laws were revised again.

The state project for 1969-70 was buildings and scholarships for Nicaragua with a total of \$ 12,378.40 received.

In 1970 the name of 'Kansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Society' was changed to 'American Baptist Women of Kansas' by voting an amendment to

our By-Laws. The national name of “American Baptist Women” was adopted in 1950.

In 1970 *Mission Magazine* was combined with *The Crusader* and was published and known as *The American Baptist*. “Circles of Concern” were continued and many women were happy to be able to choose their circle of interest.

It was during this year that Mrs. Fair served with Dr. Keucher on the Committee on Study of Regionalism, which met in Denver with Executive Ministers and other representatives from Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. She was the only woman in the group.

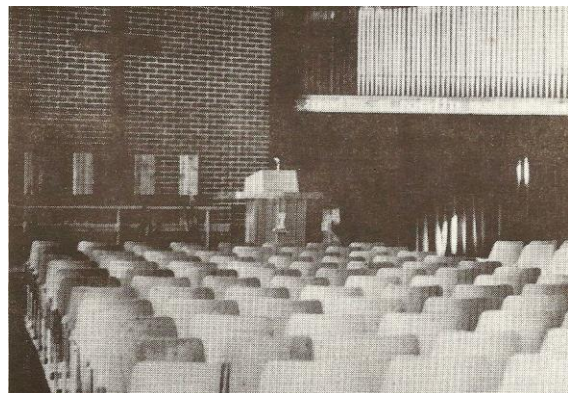
She was a member of the Study Committee on Reorganization of the Kansas Baptist Convention, which had several meetings in Kansas City and other cities.

In April 1970 Mrs. Fair served as a member of a consultation which met in Chicago to discuss “theological education strategy” relating to ministers.

In 1970 the Missionary Baptist Convention of Kansas was invited to meet for a joint day of sharing and meetings at the Kansas Baptist Convention. The women participated in “Discovery Discussion Groups” using the topic “what can we do to implement Mission on a larger scale,” basing the discussions around concerns, problems, frustrations and hopes. Resource people from both conventions were in each group.

In 1970 Dr. William Keucher resigned as Executive Minister of the Kansas Baptist Convention. Mrs. Fair was appointed to serve on the search committee. (After many months of seeking and interviewing, Rev. William Cober was hired for this position.)

The 1970-71 State project was \$10,000 to help re-build a Baptist church in Cheb, Czechoslovakia, and again the goal was exceeded with a total of \$11,992.49 being given. Finished product→



In 1971 Mrs. Fair was a participant in the Study Commission on Denominational Structure (SCODS) hearings/interpretation sessions.

A letter of greeting from the women of Kansas was written by Mrs. Fair to the women of Haiti, and taken there by a group of workers who went from Kansas to help in construction of needed buildings among our missionaries in Haiti.

Three Women's Conferences were held in 1970 – Camp Christy, Camp Webster and Ottawa.

During her term there was again discussion of having just one summer conference for the entire state and having it at a central location, such as McPherson or Sterling College Campus.

Those who served with Mrs. Fair were:

Mrs. Vyrel Bradbury, Uniontown (ch literature); Mrs. Dean Brown, Wichita (ch project); Mrs. Oscar J. Buchanek, Parsons (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. A.B. Cain, Jr., Benton (ch project); Mrs. Kenneth Ellsworth, Wichita (ch Christian social relations); Miss Maza Evans, Washington (special interest missionaries); Mrs. Charles I. Harris, Overland Park (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. Lewis Hearne, Ottawa (ch white cross); Mrs. Don M. Johnson, Overland Park (vice-pres leadership development); Mrs. Francis Kearney, Overland Park (recording sec'y); Mrs. Richard Lawrence, Ness City (ch love gift); Mrs. Paul T. Losh, Kansas City (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Harold McWilliams, Salina (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Mrs. Ed Moody, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Roy Paslay, Topeka (ch program); Mrs. Vincent Relyea, Topeka (ch spiritual growth); Mrs. Pauline Ritner, Atchison (ch communications); Mrs. Marshall Schirer, Wellington (ch conference); Mrs. Delos Shore, Belle Plaine (1st Baptist Oxford) (ch literature); Mrs. Howard Sorensen, Great Bend (vice-pres Interpretation); Mrs. Arthur Strecker, Ness City (treasurer); Mrs. Karl Strickert, Scott City (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. W.A. Thomsen, Tulsa (vice-pres missions); Mrs. William Travis, Garden City (ch communications); Mrs. R.L. Woods, Wichita (ch B&PW and historian); Mrs. Jacob Zimmerman, Olathe (fellowship guild counselor).

Mrs. Fair was elected Vice President of the Kansas Baptist Convention in 1972.

May 1971 –
Dec 1974

Martha (Mrs. Douglas) Beyer



Martha Beyer is a native of Jewett, Texas. Besides work with local, association and state ABW, Martha has served on the Board of the Kansas University Campus Center, the Kansas Baptist Convention Music Committee and has been an officer in Church Women United.

In her church she has served as Sunday School teacher, chairperson of the board of Christian Education, and has sponsored BYF groups and has led junior and youth choirs.

Martha graduated from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, in 1957 with a B.S. in Education and with minors in history and business. She was a public school teacher and a summer mission worker with the Southern Baptist Convention.

She is married to Dr. Douglas D. Beyer, pastor of the West Side Baptist church, Topeka. They have three daughters, Catherine 17, Deborah 14, and Elizabeth 10. She also served the Kansas Baptist Convention as president in 1974.

Although, by necessity, a great deal of the work of the Board of Managers may be considered ‘housekeeping’, there were many decisions made of far-reaching impact. Some of the ideas were brand-new and the brain-child of the officers serving during these years. However, many of the decisions were the culmination of past officers’ thinking and research.

The *Information Bulletin* was changed in size to 8 ½ x11 paper and extended into a 12-month publication. In order to make people more aware of American Baptist Women of Kansas, we sent gift subscriptions to Central Baptist Seminary professors, National ABW staff, State KBC Staff and a one-year subscription to every church in Kansas that did not previously receive a copy.

The State Mission Project provides an excellent opportunity for women to learn about various mission fields and to share in an ‘over-and-above’ gift to make extra mission possible.

In 1971 Kansas women gave \$12,053.87 to provide a missionary guest house in Anchorage, Alaska.

In 1972 they gave \$11,044.01 for an audio visual learning resource center for Central Seminary.

In 1973 they gave \$17,018.99 to the First Mexican Baptist Church of Wichita for building and remodeling their facilities.

In 1974 they gave \$18,225 for village development in Tharigoppula, India. This last project was a step in a new direction because this money will be spent over a long period of time and the projects are directed by local people. We don't know how many projects our money will support. When a project is ready for funding, the money is sent to India. The people work until that project is on its way and then another project is selected. In the meantime, the money is waiting in a savings account in Kansas until it is needed. (accrued interest brought the total available amount to \$21,514.84)

In 1973 Bacone College was added to the list of schools where Kansas scholarships would be offered.

For two years ABW provided \$500 in each of two funds: Continuing Education for pastors and expense scholarships for wives participating in career assessment with their husbands. Our hope was that local churches would accept this model and make it a permanent policy for their church.

Our money was placed in savings accounts and certificates and transferred into checking as needed to pay bills.

ABW is no longer supported by the Kansas Baptist Convention so the KANSAS KITTY was born. Each woman was to give \$1.00 to support ABW; fifty cents was sent to the association; thirty cents was sent to the State and twenty cents to National.

Another policy change was for the project and scholarship funds to be given to the local treasurer and sent through the State Office as Love Gift has been done for years. Hopefully this will provide more accurate records for the local churches in their total mission giving.

A task force was organized to study reported difficulty in finding officers for the associations. They recommended an abbreviated structure for the Association with a major portion of the work to be done by task forces. Each association voted on whether to change to the suggested structure.

New decisions that were made that were not based on former programs included:

1. Three year term for State officers;
2. **January-December year for ABW to coincide with the local church year**
3. ABW Sunday was designated in Kansas and later adopted by National

4. an ABW exhibit at the Kansas Baptist Convention was begun with different division responsible each year
5. money was given to help support a lobbyist for the Kansas Baptist Convention.
6. money was given to the National Memorial Fund in the names of Past Presidents of Kansas ABW
7. Officer calendars, month by month, were prepared and published in the *Information Bulletin*

Long range planning was done in 1974. It was an inspiration to realize God's leading through this process.

The Goal Statement that was adopted was a three-fold statement:

- grow as a person in 1975;
- grow in personal devotion to Jesus Christ in 1976;
- grow in commitment to mission of the church in 1977.

These were stimulating, stretching, growing and exciting years. The commitment and creativity of the officers made the work a joy and the fellowship a blessing.



1974 Association presidents of American Baptist Women in Kansas

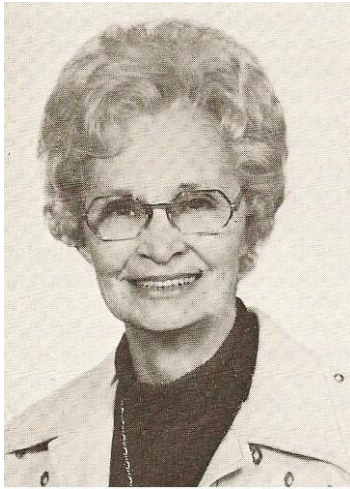
(L-R) back row: Reba Johnson, Luther Rice; Carol Kirchmer, Pioneer; Linda Box, Missouri River; Center row: Effie Sutton, Great Plains; Crystal Wolgast, Tri River; Mary Bradshaw, Judson; Lucille Brown, Grace Hill; Gary Culp, subst. For pres. of William Carey; Front row: Mrs. Homer Peterson, Arkansas Valley; Helen Buchele, Walnut Valley; and Mrs. Cleo Lutz, Crawford. Not in picture was Marge Sturdy of Roger Williams.

Those who served with Mrs. Beyer were:

Miss Florence Anderson, Norton (ch special interest missionaries); Mrs. Mae Blythe, Atchison (ch program); Mrs. Vyrel Bradbury, Uniontown (ch literature); Mrs. Ethelyn Branum, Newton (recording sec'y); Mrs. Edith Berglund, McPherson (ch project); Mrs. Myrtle Clinkenbeard, Derby (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Brent Craven, Phillipsburg (ch white cross); Mrs. Ruth Dexter, Wellington, (ch project); Mrs. Roselyn Eads, Meade (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Kenneth Ellsworth, Wichita (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. Mary Gaston, Kansas City (ch white cross); Mrs. Charles I. Harris, Overland Park (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs.

Ruth Hostetler, Shawnee Mission (recording sec'y); Mrs. Alfred Janssen, Scott City (ch love gift); Mrs. Don Johnson, Overland Park (vice-pres leadership development); Mrs. Mickey Kastler, Coffeyville (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. Francis Kearney, Overland Park (recording sec'y); Mrs. Paul Losh, Kansas City (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Harma McKenzie, Ottawa (vice-pres scholarship refit); Mrs. Harold McWilliams, Salina (vice-pres scholarship refit); Mrs. Ed Moody, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Roy Paslay, Jr., Topeka (ch program); Mrs. Ruby Ploog, Hutchinson (treasurer); Mrs. Henrietta Pomeroy, Kansas City (ch spiritual growth); Mrs. Anna Belle Poole, Kansas City (ch love gift); Mrs. Vincent Relyea, Pratt (ch spiritual growth); Miss Pauline Ritner, Atchison (ch communications); Mrs. Katherine Robbins, Iola (ch spiritual growth); Mrs. Helen Rowe, Wellington (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. Mary Ruth Schendel, Topeka (vice-pres interpretation); Mrs. Betty Schiller, Arkansas City (vice-pres leadership development); Mrs. Jeanne Schmiddt, Ottawa (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. Wilma Severns, McPherson (ch literature); Mrs. Peggy Smiley, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Lonnie Smith, Kansas City (ch project); Mrs. F.M. Snodgrass, Wichita (ch conference); Mrs. Howard Sorensen, Great Bend (vice-pres interpretation); Mrs. Arthur Strecker, Ness City (treasurer); Mrs. Karl Strickert, Scott City (vice-pres of Christian service); Mrs. Pat Tucker, Independence (vice-pres interpretation); Mrs. Mary Wentworth, Lenexa (ch conference); Mrs. Ruby Wilkens, Scott City (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Rebah Woods, Wichita (historian); Mrs. Sue Young, Kansas City (vice-pres missions).

1975 – 1977 Reba Johnson



Reba has served ABW as president of Prairie Baptist Women, president of Luther Rice Association ABW, Missouri River Association Guild counselor, State chairman of literature and State vice-president of leadership development.

She has also served on the Kansas Baptist Convention executive committee and board of directors, the committee for study on Dual Alignment of KBC and Missionary Baptist Convention, state committee on Fund of Renewal and program chairman of KBC in 1973.

She was a delegate to the National Conference on Aging. Other recent activities include serving on boards of Bethel Neighborhood Center, American Association of University Women and Ottawa University Alumni Board of Directors.

Dr. Cober, executive minister of KBC, after reading the ABW annual report, wrote in the Pastors' Letter, "this report is so impressive I'm sure that you would appreciate reading it. We can never measure the total impact American Baptist Women have on our Christian mission, for it exceeds even our imagination."

"Affirm the Faith – Act Responsibly" is the program theme for 1975-77. State officers have acted responsibly in carrying out the duties of their offices while also providing leadership by giving 138 talks, sermons or program presentations during 1975.

Summer conference was held on the campus of Sterling college with a total attendance of 409. The theme was "Let Yourself Grow" and small, intimate sharing groups meeting three times were a new feature.

Mrs. Louis Knoll, missionary to South India, was the featured speaker. She and her husband are presently with Ramapatnam Baptist Theological Seminary where he serves on the faculty. The Knolls, parents of three children, have been in South India since the fall of 1951.

Dr. Fred Young, professor of Old Testament literature and Dean of Central Baptist Theological Seminary conducted the Bible study.

Women brought in great quantities of sewing notions and materials for women prisoners at Lansing.

Information Bulletin added a new page “Helps for Circles”. Changes are being made to give a new look to the 2,500 subscriptions. Revised by-laws were adopted in October 1975.

Love Gifts in 1975 were \$53,754.87;

White Cross \$22,141.03 with 20,535 pounds of bandages and materials shipped in 1,245 boxes.

Scholarships in the amount of \$5,600 were granted to students at Central Baptist Seminary. Refit money was sent to Karl Karpa and Sandy Schoeninger.

Pastoral training grants of \$442.50 were given for mini-pastoral training.



KS ABW officers – March 1976 at First Baptist, Philipsburg

(L-R) front row: Magada Craven, communications; Mickey Kastler, Christian social relations; Thelma Gragg, Love Gift; Mary Shannon, Wm Carey Assn. Pres.; Barbara Joiner, scholarship; Barbara Blalack, Roger Wm Assn Pres. Center row: Miriam Robinson, Spec. Int. Miss.; Astrid Barkis, Luther Rice Assn Pres; Rebah Woods, historian; Donna Schirer, conference; Carolyn Muncy, Crawford Assn Pres; Myrna McGuire, project. Back row: Netta Lawrence, Judson Assn Pres; Mary Ruth Schendel, Interpretation; Esther Waters, corresponding sec'y; Vera Pike, treasurer; Ethelyn Branum, recording sec'y; Reba Johnson, president; Doris Potts, spiritual growth; Marie Medley, Tri River Assn Pres; Mary Gaston, white cross; Jessamine Eshbaugh, literature; Molly Marie Antenen, Christian service; Maxine Peterson, Arkansas Valley Assn Pres;

At their April 1976 assembly, Mary Ruth Schendel was elected State president of Church Women United for a three-year term.

A goal of \$10,000 was adopted for a 12-classroom building at the Christian School in Mahachai, Thailand. Money given above that amount is to be used for Medical Kits and the training of village heal workers at Mae Sariang. Total amount given was \$ 22,042.97

Dr. Richard Cummings, International Ministries wrote: “What amazing generosity the Women of Kansas have shown in their overseas project this year. When you asked originally if money beyond \$10,000 might be used for training of village workers (Medicine Box Men and others) in Northern Thailand, I had no dream that you would send in \$ 12,042.97! I wish the women in other states could have the same kind of exhilaration in giving that you experience.”

The 1976 project was to provide \$10,000 toward the building of an Apache Indian Church at Fort Cobb, Oklahoma. Total collected was \$ 27,059.01.

Three women were appointed to the state Task Force on Hunger – Loraine Nidiffer, Jessamine Eshbaugh and Mickey Kastler.



<-- A talk by **Doris Ann Younger, executive director of the national organization of American Baptist Women**, opened the 3-day Kansas ABW conference on the Kansas Wesleyan campus in Salina.

Theme of the conference was “Joy through Commitment”. A total of 263 women were registered.

Mrs. Younger has taught at the Human Services Institute of Kennedy-King College, Chicago, and helped to establish the College for Human Services in New York City.

Rev. Herman Van Arsdale, pastor of the Salina First Baptist Church, was the Bible study leader. Other speakers included Dr. and Mrs. A.Q. Van Benschoten who told of their recent mission tour to Southeast Asia.

The 37 states, regions and cities are represented on the National ABW Board by three regional area presidents. Reba served as the Midwest president and also on the national nominating committee. She was also on the Kansas Church Women United board.

One of Reba’s priority goals was to strengthen the relationship between the ABW State board and the association/local ABWs of Kansas.

“Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done.” Colossians 2:7

Serving with Reba were:

Mrs. Molly Marie Antenen, Ness City (vice-pres Christian service); Mrs. Suzanne Armacost, Ottawa (vice-pres leadership development); Mrs. Frances Bayless, Kansas City (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Ethelyn Branum, Newton (recording secretary); Mrs. Myrtle Clinkenbeard, Derby (vice-pres missions); Mrs. Magada Craven, Phillipsburg (ch communications); Mrs. Helen Davidson, Chanute (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. Joy Demmitt, Johnson (ch white cross and world relief); Mrs. Mary Jane Ellsworth, Wichita (ch project); Mrs. Jessamine Eshbaugh, Manhattan (ch literature); Mrs. Mary Gaston, Kansas City (ch white cross and world relief); Mrs. Thelma Gragg, Augusta (ch love gift); Mrs. Barbara Joiner, Overland Park (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Mrs. Mickey Kastler, Coffeyville (ch Christian social relations); Mrs. Myrna McGuire, Independence (ch project); Mrs. Harma McKenzie, Ottawa (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Mrs. Vera Pike, Wichita (treasurer); Mrs. Ruby Ploog, Hutchinson (treasurer); Mrs. Anna Belle Poole, Kansas City (ch love gift); Mrs. Doris Potts, Pittsburg (ch spiritual growth); Rev. Miriam Robinson, Fairview (ch special interest missionaries); Mrs. Mary Ruth Schendel, Topeka (vice-pres interpretation); Mrs. Betty Schiller, Arkansas City (vice-pres leadership development); Mrs. Donna Schirer, Scott City (ch conference); Mrs. Jeanne Schmidt, Ottawa (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. Wilma Severns, McPherson (ch literature); Mrs. Marilyn Shaw, Overland Park (fellowship guild counselor); Mrs. Peggy Smiley, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Jan Smith, Stilwell (ch project); Mrs. Audra Strecker, Ness City (vice-pres interpretation); Mrs. Esther Waters, Topeka (corresponding sec'y); Mrs. Myrtle Wirth, Salina (ch literature); Mrs. Rebah Woods, Wichita (historian).

A survey revealed that five women have been ordained to the Gospel Ministry in Kansas. They are:

Miss Edith Hill, April 13, 1894, Pittsburg, Kansas
Mrs. Leof Hayes, February 5, 1939, Mt. Olivet church
Mrs. Cora Stewart, 1948, Minneapolis, Kansas
Janice Osborne, September 16, 1975, Kansas City
Alma Webster, Topeka, KS June 16, 1975

1978 – 1980 Anna Belle (Mrs. Amos I.) Poole



An active lay-person, Anna Belle was a member of Chelsea Baptist Church from the time of her baptism in 1953 until its merger with Victory Hills Baptist Church in 1980. She was employed as the church secretary.

Following high school Anna Belle moved from her native Oklahoma to the greater Kansas City area where she attended a business school prior to employment in the Accounts Division of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Anna Belle is married to Amos I. Poole, Jr. and they have five grown daughters.

Anna Belle has held various leadership roles with American Baptist Women on local, association, state/region and national levels. She served as moderator of Missouri River Association, on the state/region board of directors, in various board positions of the Women's Auxiliary of Central Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently on the board of Bethel Neighborhood Center serving as secretary.

Anna Belle Poole of Kansas City was elected to serve the first year of a three year term as president of American Baptist Women of Kansas, followed by two years under the name, American Baptist Women of the Central Region.

The years of 1978-1980 were filled with activities of service, some continuous with routine, some of change.

A new approach to the method of awarding scholarships at the three institutions: Central Seminary, Ottawa University, and Bacone College, was adopted by which we work with the student aid department of each of the schools and participate in their overall program, receiving the names of "special interest students" for personal contact by the churches, and deleting the Scholarship Advisory Committee from the By-laws.

Policy sheets outlining responsibilities, policies and practices of board members were created and are to be revised/updated on a regular basis.

In 1979 Kansas Baptist Convention became Central Region.

During this period of reorganization by the Central Region, areas were established, but the ABW voted to remain in the previous groupings of associations.

Information Bulletin underwent major surgery; going from numerous pages of mimeo to a new format and new process – four pages of three columns each, professionally printed and mailed. The need for a subscription clerk became apparent, rules were adopted, and Peggy Smiley of Topeka was appointed.

Three of the board members took on new names, becoming Vice-president of Program Interpretation, Chairman of Spiritual Growth and Family Life, and Chairman of Scholarship-Refit.

Beginning with the 1978 convention, the ABW display in the exhibit area took on a new approach. Previously having been set up by a specified division for emphasis, that year and following years, the president appointed a display committee from the locale who were free to organize the display along a theme they chose.

In 1978 the ABC/Central Region held a joint meeting with Missionary Baptists in Wichita. Anna Belle gave the Keynote address on the “International Year of the Child” which was the ABW program emphasis.

Leadership Training took on a high priority. Carol Allen, VP of leadership development, along with two team members – Peggy Smiley of Topeka and Harma McKenzie of Ottawa – put together a “Road Show” on leader training and covered the region. By invitation, they were in every association at least once and many groupings of local churches made requests also.

In the spring of 1980, the President initiated a new program “**Mission Rally Tour**”, whereby she and a missionary traveled the length and breadth of the region, visiting each area/association during a one-week period of time. For the maiden voyage Corine Polley, who served at the agricultural mission station in Lusekele, Zaire, was the missionary. 1,285 miles were traveled and over 900 women came to hear the messages.

Guidelines for hosting board meetings were developed and adopted. These are sent to local ABW’s who invite the board to meet at their church.

Where possible, time was given at Board of Managers meetings for a tour of interest. Ottawa Univ. Health Center (Project in 1976-77), Sunset Home, Capper Children’s Home and the ABC/Central Region Office center were visited. Devotional times at board meetings were developed as a “spiritual journey”. Goals for the meeting were sent as a part of the agenda and small group sessions were directed toward at least one goal emphasis.

The national ABW goals for the 80’s were prioritized and adopted as our own.

As National American Baptist Women prepared to celebrate its **30th anniversary, the board of managers adopted an Endowment Program to raise \$300,000 to aide in securing the future of ABW.** Martha Beyer coordinated the campaign in Central Region. We voted to give a gift of \$1,000 to the Endowment Fund from a surplus amount that was being held in a certificate of deposit.

Anna Belle served as the Midwestern president's Geographical Representative on the National ABW Board of Managers 1979-80 term. She was also on the nominating committee and by-law revision committees as secretary.

Those who served with Anna Bell included:

1978 –

Carol Allen, Ottawa, (vice-pres leadership development); Frances Bayless, Kansas City (vice-pres missions); Shirley Bolinger, Uniontown (vice-pres Christian service); Rowena Bowman, Wichita (ch of communications); Joy Demmitt, Johnson (ch white cross and world relief); Thelma Gragg, Augusta (ch of love gift); Dale Huffman, Topeka (ch spiritual growth); Sally Janssen, Scott City (ch project); Barbara Joiner, Overland Park (vice-pres scholarship-refit); Harma McKenzie, Ottawa (ch conference); Vera Pike, Wichita (treasurer); Marilyn Shaw, Overland Park, (fellowship guild counselor); Peggy Smiley, Topeka (recording sec'y); Audra Strecker, Ness City (vice-pres interpretation); Esther Waters, Topeka, (corresponding sec'y); Myrtle Wirth, Salina (ch literature); Rebah Woods, Wichita (historian); Charlotte Worley, Wichita (ch special interest missionaries).

Changes in 1979:

Sarah Anderson, Parsons (ch scholarship-refit); Ethelyn Branum, Newton (treasurer); Ruby Erickson, Kansas City, MO (vice-pres missions); Vernetta Fulop, Kansas City (ch special interest missionaries); Carol Kirchmer, Dodge City (corresponding sec'y); Nona Lawson, Plains (ch project); Martha Tollefson, Hiawatha (ch love gift).

Changes in 1980:

Clara Mae Belden, Sterling (ch of white cross and world relief); Helen Buchele, Cedar Vale (ch conference); Eva Lou Fletcher, Lawrence (ch scholarship-refit); Charlotte Greene, Overland Park (recording sec'y); Ella Bell Miller, Augusta (vice-pres interpretation); Elsie Olson, Concordia (ch literature); Vergie Opdycke, DeSoto (ch Christian social relations); Effie Sutton, Ness City (ch project); Sue Winget, Wellsville (fellowship guild Counselor).

In 1982 Anna Belle Poole was President of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.

She was national ABW conference chair in 1984-85.

1981–1983 Harma (Mrs. Emory) McKenzie



As Harma began her term on January 1, 1981 she promised to “serve you with love, laughter, and most of all, the Lord’s help. In return I ask that I might have your love, laughter and prayers.”

Harma is a graduate of Ottawa University. She’s been a case worker for Social Welfare, a librarian, teacher and most of her life – a homemaker. She’s married to Dr. Emory J. McKenzie, retired Professor of English at Ottawa University since 1948. Their two children – James and Karen (McAdoo) are married and she has five grandchildren.

Harma has been a member of First Baptist Church of Ottawa since 1948 and has served on the Board of Christian Education, president of Mission Possible circle as well as other ABW offices and taught an adult “Homebuilders” class for ten years. She was Kansas/Central Region ABW vice-president of Scholarship-Refit and chairman of Conference.

In the community Harma has served as president of O.U. Women’s Club, Rotary Anns, PTA groups, Central Seminary Auxiliary and a child study club.

Harma’s predisposition of shades of purple earned her the nickname of “The Purple Lady”.

The Board of Managers took seriously the National Board’s “Goals of the ‘80’s”. Their emphasis was

1981 – Communication

1982 – Justice, activating members, mission

1983 – Inclusiveness, activating members, finances

One change in procedure was the nominating committee. Five association presidents form this committee in order to try to get more equalized representation of officers from all over the region.

Harma wrote a promotional play for areas/associations for the program theme “Worthy of God’s Calling”. The Biennial in June 1981 was in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The summer conference in 1981 at Lindsborg had a nautical theme, “The Winds of God”. There were 392 women in attendance. Jeanine White, Bangladesh, was the featured missionary. →



In October Harma hosted the National ABW Board of Directors at the Ottawa University campus.

The March rally tour in 1982 was with Ruth Noren, → missionary to Hong Kong. The 8-day tour resulted in 902 women being able to attend the meetings.



The summer conference theme “Take Time To...” featured the Rev. Nicholas Salios, race track chaplain from Pennsylvania. There were 313 in attendance at the Ottawa conference and 114 were at Camp Christy.



Harma attended the “Women in Ministry Conference” at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in October and also the North American Baptist Women’s Union Continental Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri. She participated in the Grand March of Nations with women in international costumes.

The 1983 biennial June 14-18 was in Cleveland, Ohio. On Women’s Day Harma was elected to the National ABW Board of Managers as Love Gift chairman.

In July 1983 ABW celebrated 50 years of House Parties in Central Region using the theme “Windows”. No one present had attended the first one but Rebah Woods, historian, had attended the second one in 1938. The 1930’s banquet, with women wearing attire of that era, was a highlight.

Sandra Mosher and her husband, Steve, missionaries to the Philippines were speakers. Sandra Mosher wore an eye-catching Philippine-styled dress made of quilt blocks. She told us that the money made from the sale of quilt block articles put a roof on the church.



The 1982-83 project was for Camp Woody and the Kodiak Baptist Mission. In this picture children are in the skiff preparing to go to Woody Island from Kodiak. Camp Woody is the only camp that most of the children ever have the chance to attend. For some, it is the first exposure to the love of Jesus Christ. Last year most of the sessions were filled to

capacity, so expansion and improvement of facilities is desperately needed.

Harma enjoyed editing the *Information Bulletin* with her column of “Harmatizing Notes”. She spoke for ABW Sundays and wrote meditations that were printed in the *Secret Place* for Holy Week, 1983. She strove to create an atmosphere of love and trust within the “family” of board members.

She was elected national ABW love gift chairman in 1983.

Those serving with Harma include:

1981 –

Carol Allen, Ottawa (vice-pres leadership development); Clara Mae Belden, Alden (ch white cross and world relief); Helen Buchele, Cedar Vale (ch conference); Ethelyn Branum, Newton (treasurer); Ruby Erickson, Kansas City, MO (vice-pres missions); Eva Lou Fletcher, Lawrence (ch scholarship-refit); Annalee Hampton, Tribune (vice-pres Christian service); Gayle Holt, Wichita (ch special interest missionaries); Carol Kirchmer, Dodge City (corresponding sec’y); Esther Lambertson, Lakin (ch project); Ella Bell Miller, August (vice-pres of program interpretation); Elsie J. Olson, Concordia (ch literature); Virginia Opdycke, DeSoto (ch Christian social relations); Elaine Talbot, Herington (ch spiritual growth and family life); Martha Tollefson, Hiawatha (ch love gift); Maxine Unruh, Sharon (ch communications); Sue Winget, Wellsville (fellowship guild counselor); Rebah E. Woods, Wichita (historian).

1982 –

Grace Adams, Overland Park (ch project); Wilma Engle, Wichita (treasurer); Christine Jackson, Longton (ch love gift); Myrna McGuire, Andover (corresponding sec’y); Evy Wall, Shawnee Mission (vice-pres leadership development).

1983 –

Barbara Blalack, Wichita (vice-pres program interpretation); Winnie Davis, Kansas City (recording sec’y); Shirley Fair, Alden (ch conference); Susan Hall, Emporia (fellowship guild counselor); Ruth Higerd, Gem, (ch literature); Carolyn Johnson, Shawnee Mission (ch project); Shirley Roy, Leavenworth (ch Christian social relations); Rev. Janice Selton, Dexter (ch scholarship-refit); Alice Skinner, Spring Hill (ch special interest missionaries); Judy Thomas, Shawnee Mission (ch white cross and world relief).

1984 – 1986 Ethelyn (Mrs. Marion) Branum



Ethelyn and her husband, Marion, became members of the First Baptist Church of Newton soon after they were married and have always been active in its ministries. He is a machinist for Santa Fe Railway and they have three married sons and four grandchildren.

Ethelyn completed 25 consecutive years as church secretary in August 1986. She had previously served another denomination and is a graduate of Salt City Business College, Hutchinson.

In addition to being secretary, Ethelyn served her church as superintendent of the senior high for 15 years, financial secretary, chairman of missions, program and kitchen, taught 3-yr-olds and was a circle leader and president of ABW.

She served on the Council for Ministerial Standing and Ordination and on the New Facilities Committee for ABC/Central Region. She was recording secretary, treasurer and audio visual aids chairman for the Roger Williams Assn. ABW. She served the region ABW as secretary and treasurer.

In 1984 a special retreat for the board was held at the farm home of Evy Wall along with the regular meeting at Prairie Village Church.

In 1984 ABW was contacted by Dr. Wayne Shireman, Minister of Stewardship and World Mission Support – ABCCR, asking if there would be interest in sponsoring Japanese girl students from Soshin Girls School in Yokohama, Japan to come to Kansas for a school year.

A task force was appointed to investigate the possibilities and work through the procedures necessary and in August of 1986 five girls arrived in Kansas and



were greeted by sponsoring families and some of the Task Force.

←The girls were: Yuko Izawa, Shiho Inagaki, Jumiko Sagawa, Akiko Seiki and Etsuko Hirano. Carolyn Predmore, Winnie Davis & Edith McGurk welcomed them

The summer conference was “Touch God’s Earth” with Dorothy Wiley as missionary speaker at O.U. and Sakiko Yokoyama at Camp Christy. There were 268 at Ottawa and 107 at Camp Christy. Mini project was paper supplies for O.U. and Camp Christy.



← Over 40 Kansans attended the inspiring “Together in Ministry” conference at Green Lake in July 1984. Pictured are some of the women proudly displaying their Sunflowers.

The annual meeting was in Kansas City with 240 in attendance. Linda Raker, nurse and ABC missionary candidate studying at Central Seminary was the speaker.

In 1985, after much study and consultation for several years the constitution was amended to allow for a Rosebud counselor to be added to the ABWCR Board of Managers, and, like the Guild Counselor, she is appointed by the Department of Education of ABCCR.



In 1985 Grace Adams was invited to participate in the dedication of the Assembly Hall at Cha-Am, Thailand → a special project of ABWCR in 1982.

She took along a letter of greeting from our women.

(picture of Ribbon cutting ceremony –l-r

Grace Adams, Surang Kee (architect), Gove Elder and Chintana Kiatsrichart)

To the right is the “sala” (meeting-activities building) reflected in water supply reservoir →



← A plaque of appreciation was received from Thailand for the 1974-1975 Mahochai and MaSaraing project. It is being displayed by president, Ethelyn Branum.



A letter from Pastor Kazuo Ohya in Osaka, Japan was received that told about the church building that was built

with money received from our 1954-1955 project and that it was being torn down to make room for larger accommodations to include a school for children there.

The week of April 24-30, 1985 Ethelyn and Jane Langdon, missionary with the Crow Indians at Lodge Grass, Montana, traveled 1,365 miles across Kansas, speaking at each of the ABW association meetings.



The 1985 conference theme at Sterling College was “Caring with love” and Rev. Martha Barr, ABW Executive Director, Valley Forge, was the Bible study leader.

Attendance was 275 and the mini project was supplies for Bacone College.



Bacone College president, Al Ginkel & his wife Jean with Wilma Fast at the dedication of supplies →

The ABC Biennial was held in Portland, Oregon in 1985. At the annual meeting of ABW the presidents of regions/states/cities brought vials of water from her area. The theme was “Living Waters” and as each president was introduced she poured her vial into a large pitcher which eventually overflowed, symbolizing that although we come from different backgrounds and cultures, we go out again, united in Christ, to reach and teach others.

The Central Region women were active in the Peace Ribbon celebration by Church Women United with segments of the ribbon made by individuals, local ABW's, and one segment was made by the Region board.



The ten mile ribbon was wrapped around the Pentagon August 4, 1985 in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

The 1985 annual meeting was held at Tulsa with 213 in attendance and Edythe McCarty, missionary to Thailand was our speaker. →



The Bacone College choir presented special music.



The 1986 conference theme was “As We Journey”.

← Virginia Pipe of Colorado Springs taught communication skills.

Sarah Jean Currier, who had just returned to Kansas on furlough from the Philippines, → was the missionary speaker. Some 293 attended at Ottawa University and 107 at Camp Christy.



Our mini project was to Love Gift and \$1,693.66 was received.

The 1986 annual meeting was in Wichita with 300 women attending the breakfast. Shirley Jones, Deputy Director of Christian Higher Educational of Educational Ministries, ABC/USA was the guest speaker.

In observance of the 35th anniversary of American Baptist Women, Ethelyn recognized the presidents who have served. Those present were Rebah Woods, who was president when the name was changed, Florence Sherrill, Anna Belle Poole and Reba Johnson. Notes were received from Mary Smallwood, Ila Haflich, Alma Fair, Martha Beyer and Harma McKenzie who were unable to attend. Frances Ridge is the only one who is deceased.

Love Gift giving in 1984 was \$70,166.00 ranking us 5th in the nation; but in 1985 we slipped to 6th as we gave only \$67,066.97. Concern was expressed that our projects go way beyond our goals, but Love Gift is not making our goal of

\$75,000. Love Gift monies are the main-stream of support for all the missions and we must support it.

We continue to support students with scholarships at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Ottawa University and the last two years at Bacone College. We were able to help at least five and as many as eight students each semester with \$500 to \$600 each.

The 1985-86 project was redecoration of the Crystal Dining Room and was dedicated in 1987 under the leadership of Ethelyn Branum, and Project Chair, Evelyn Boal.



The delicate shades of blue & peach are seen in both striped and flowered wallpaper, accented with white woodwork. The white sheer curtains with the sunburst effect at the top add to the openness and lightness of the entire room. "It really adds a sparkle to the crystal chandeliers – it's so light and airy." Inserted at the top half of each door entering the dining room from the lobby are custom-designed stained glass panels. Clear etched sections and beveled glass frame the delicate pastel iris and rose inlays that complement both the blues of the lobby and the peach and blues of the dining room.

Those who served with Ethelyn were:

1984—

Virginia Ade, Carlton (spiritual growth and family life); Pat Belden, Overland Park (vice-pres Christian service); Barbara Blalack, Wichita (vice-pres program interpretation); Winnie Davis, Kansas City (recording sec'y); Wilma Engle, Wichita (treasurer); Shirley Fair, Alden (ch conference); Wilma Fast, Hutchinson (project); Beulah Flanagan, Colby (ch communications); Susan Hall, Emporia (fellowship guild counselor); Ruth Higerd, Gem (literature); Christine Jackson, Longton (love gift); Esther Lambertson, Lakin (vice-president missions); Myrna McGuire, Andover (corresponding sec'y); Irene Peckham, Rantoul (Christian social relations); Betty Schiller, Arkansas City (scholarship-refit); Alice Skinner, Spring Hill (special interest missionaries); Rev. Jan Shelton, Dexter (scholarship-refit); Judy Thomas, Shawnee Mission (white cross); Evy Wall, Shawnee Mission (vice-pres leadership development); Rebah Woods, Wichita (historian).

1985 –

Jorja Blocher, Valley Center (vice-pres leadership development); Wilma Endicott, Greensburg (white cross); Barbara Fink, Meade (corresponding sec'y); Bertha Friesen, Hutchinson (treasurer); Barbara Johnson, Stilwell (rosebud counselor); Ayline Poland, Greensburg (love gift); Maxine Unruh, McPherson (historian).

1986 –

Evelynn Boal, Wichita (project); Phyllis Counts, Salina (recording sec'y); Donna Miller, Kansas City (vice-pres program interpretation); Janelle Pearson, Dodge City (Christian social relations); Erleen Snelling, Kansas City (vice-pres missions); Evy Wall, Shawnee Mission (ch conference).

Ethelyn had a heart attack two days before her last board meeting Nov. 1986. Thankfully, she recovered completely.

Maxine Unruh, historian, had completed Volume III historical information and was waiting on final figures to have it printed when she passed away December 25, 1986.

Ethelyn Branum completed the work and had the 1976-86 history book printed.

1987 – 1989 Wilma (Mrs. Roy) Engle



Wilma grew up on a farm near Enterprise and attended the Methodist Church with her family. When she and her husband, Roy, moved to Wichita in 1954 they joined the Meridian Ave. Baptist Church.

In addition to teaching Sunday School and being active in Women's Mission Society, Wilma also was secretary to Rev. Robert L. Woods from 1955 to 1960 when they moved to Canton.

In 1962 they moved to their present home and united with the First Baptist Church in Valley Center where she has served in every office of WMS/ABW, including eight years as president. She's taught children, youth and adults, directed Vacation Bible Schools, served as a deacon and trustee and was a pianist and choir member.

Wilma has been a professional tax preparer and public accountant since 1971 and enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service since 1976.

Following the leading of the Holy Spirit, she started her own accounting/tax practice in July 1982 and has been continuing to minister through it.

Her husband, Roy, has been an aircraft jig builder since 1954. They have five adult children and five grandchildren.

Wilma served on the Roger Williams Assoc. ABW board as literature chairman and on the program committee. She was Central Region ABW treasurer 1982-84.

Through God's perfect timing, Ethelyn Branum met with Wilma early in November 1986 to review the responsibilities of the presidency. On November 19th Ethelyn was taken to the hospital where she had a heart catheterization and angioplasty surgery. Her husband gave Wilma the materials that Ethelyn had prepared for the board meeting agenda and, with the consent of the board, she presided at the Board of Managers meeting the next day.

Several changes occurred: in 1987 --

Rosebud and Guild Counselors are appointed by the ABW/CR president for three year terms rather than by the Dept of Education of ABCCR;

Japanese Task Force became the Baptist Youth Exchange Committee of 3-5 appointed by the president on an annual basis;

and the retiring president's gift will be presented at the annual meeting.

In 1988 the third Sunday in September became the recommended date for ABW Sunday; Conference offering will be used for conference expenses and slight changes were made in the scholarships for Seminary students.

November 1988 Board of Managers meeting was held at Prairie Baptist Church and at Evy Wall's 'country home' near Odessa, MO →



Breakfast -- Note the colorful turkey

In 1989 the chairman of the Youth Exchange Committee became a member of the Board of Managers. After several attempts at becoming an authorized sponsor so foreign students could compete in athletic or musical events, it was finally dropped when it was discovered that the cost of listing was \$300 per year.

Green Lake Scholarships from the Peggy Smiley Memorial Scholarship Fund are administered by the ABCCR.

Monies from the Jewell Barnett Estate were designated to be \$625 to Murrow Indian Children's Home, \$625 to Bethel Neighborhood Center and request a project from BIM in the area of our Special Interest Missionaries for the other \$1,250.

It was decided to elect Rosebud and Guild Counselors and to have the *Information Bulletin* edited by the Communications Chairman rather than the President. By-laws were changed accordingly at the annual meeting.

It was voted to retain "chairman" wording rather than change to "chairwoman".

The \$100 Mission Tour Scholarship was awarded to Wilma Engle for the mission trip to Alaska June 23-30, 1990.

PROJECTS – Totals for projects continue to exceed the goals.

In 1986-87 the project was \$ 25,000 to help rebuild the church at Tirgu-Mures, Romania – the total received was \$ 35,582.99.

In 1987-88 the goal was \$25,000 for an airplane for our Alaskan ministries. Total of \$35,678.51 was put into the “Central Region ABW Aviation Fund for Alaska” which is administered by National Ministries to provide rented airplane service for 10 years rather than purchasing a plane due to prohibitive insurance rates.

In 1988-89 \$20,000 was needed for two faculty houses at Eastern Theological College in Jorhat, Assam, India and we wanted \$5,000 to purchase mini blinds and/or drapes for Ottawa University Administration Building and Student Union. Total was \$32,230.00.

The 1989-90 project was \$16,000 for furnishing a cottage at Murrow Indian Children’s Center and a 16hp tractor, tiller and other garden needs; \$14,000 for a new van for Bethel Neighborhood Center with any excess for Bethel needs. (This final total was \$44,170.20)

CONFERENCES continued to be held at a central location in the odd number years and at both Ottawa University and Camp Christy in even years.

The 1987 Conference on “Keys to Wholeness” was at Bethany College, Lindsborg with Rev. Barbara Gela Eldred as Worship Leader, Dr. Vera Goodman as Bible study leader and Susan Claflin as missionary speaker.

The 59th year of Summer Conferences was in 1988 with the theme “From earthen vessels...light...leaven...salt”. Jan DeWitt, Green Lake, was worship/Bible study leader and Anita Phillips, Murrow Indian Children’s Home, was missionary speaker.





It's good that Anita was a good sport as the dorm parties always were a lot of fun, especially with the "Judson Girls".

And you never

knew what to expect when you opened your door in the morning!! What fun!!



In 1989 conference was back at Sterling where we were to "Reflect God's Image...Radiate, Educate, Communicate." Jan and Dick Sipe were our worship/Bible study team and Mrs. Arenla Aier from northeast India was our missionary speaker.

Evy Wall was conference chairman in 1987 and 1988 and Donna Miller in 1989.

NATIONAL ABW BOARD OF MANAGERS: National ABW Board of Managers meeting for regional presidents is held preceding the Biennial in odd years and prior to ABW Conference at Green Lake in even years.

In 1987 it was in Pittsburg, PA. During joint sessions, Jene Chadwick, a former scholarship student, was commissioned by National Ministries for service at Bethel Neighborhood. Suzette Willys Geffrard, who will be working under CBZO in Zaire was commissioned at a Board of International Ministries session.

Projects of ABW/CR greatly exceed any other state/region. West Virginia is the largest contributor to Love Gift. We were 6th nationally in our giving to Love Gift.

The 1988 National ABW Board of Managers meeting was at Green Lake immediately preceding the ABW Conference. Theme was "Hi, Ho! Hi, Ho! Our Vision is to Grow!" ... in God's Word, in cooperative Christianity, creative decision-making, by doing a new thing and in ABW/General Staff Council relationships.

The 1989 National ABW Board of Managers theme was "Catch the Spirit of Invitation" and was held in Milwaukee, WI June 16-19. We shared in the

installation of Dr. Jean Kim, Exec. Dir. Of Educational Ministries. In a meeting with National Ministries, Evan Jones spoke of Alaskan missions and the appreciation of project monies from ABW/CR for air transportation so the pastors could afford to meet together. He presented an Alaskan silver coin to ABW/CR president, Wilma Engle, as a token of appreciation. This was given to the historian who sent it to the Topeka office for safe keeping.



ABC/USA BIENNIALS:

National ABW Annual Meetings are at the beginning of the Biennial. Each Region/State President had a vital part of the program and designated responsibilities.

In 1989 there were 1,786 delegates plus many other members at the Biennial.

Six Kansas churches were included in mission giving awards. Dr. Daniel Weiss was invested as General Secretary. Pavilions offered opportunities for preaching, music, missions, etc. Our own Barbara Gela Eldred and Kim Mamadetahy preached in the preaching pavilion.

ABW NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT GREEN LAKE:

1987 theme was “Making Known God’s Ways” and Beverly Davidson was Bible study leader.

Glen and Rita Chapman were commissioned to serve in Zaire and Charles and Ramona Shawver to Mexico. Bruce and Ann Borquist were commissioned at the Judson celebration to serve in the Philippines.

Al and Irene Lamprecht, fraternal representatives to Eastern Europe (and the ones responsible for transporting our project money into Romania) led a mission study that Wilma attended. (Al also spoke at Missions Day at Parsons in October).

1988 Theme – “Mission: The Challenge Continues” with Ian Chapman as Bible study leader.

Commissioned as missionaries were: Christine and Brian Barney (Thailand), Francesca and Stephen Crane (Bolivia), John Holland, Carol and Ron Miyake (Japan), Edith and Walter Hudson (Zaire), and Karen Grabia-Otto and Douglas Otto (Rwanda)

1989 theme was “Happening Already! See it NOW” with Manfred Brauch as Bible study leader. Music and worship leaders were Frank and Phyllis Byrdwell.

Commissioned were: Michael and Beck Mann (Thailand), Katherine and Wayne Niles (Haiti) and Deborah Swavely (Zaire).

Attendance from Central Region averages between 20 and 40.

ABCCR and ABW/CR ANNUAL MEETINGS:

In 1987 Wayne Paulsen chose the theme “New Community/Communion” as the theme at Great Bend. Our ABW speaker was Marjorie Sharp, missionary to Zaire → for 30 years. Winnie Davis installed the officers.



In 1988 at Liberal the theme was “Planted to be Fruitful”. Glen Fisher assumed the presidency following Peggy Smiley’s untimely death. We did not have a speaker for ABW. Carol Kirchmer installed officers.



In 1989 we were “Challenged, Called, Committed” at Topeka under Glen Fisher’s leadership. Dr. Duncan McIntosh, church growth specialist and former missionary to Zaire, was ABW

speaker. Wilma was given a beautiful silver tea service as retiring president.

Harma McKenzie installed the officers using “Hummingbirds” theme.



IN MEMORIUM:

As an ABW representative, Wilma attended three memorial services during her term – Maxine Unruh, ABW/CR historian, Dec 1986;

Peggy Smiley, ABCCR President and *Information Bulletin* subscription clerk for 9 years, Jan 1988; and

Ted Schupbach, former missionary and teacher and husband of Love Gift Chairman, Florence, October 1989.

ABW/CR BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETINGS were held in March and November with a mini board meeting at Conference and an executive committee meeting in September or October to prepare the budget.

MISSIONARIES who visited, other than at Conference included Dorothy Noyes, Soshin Girls School in Yokohama, Japan, with whom we coordinate our exchange program. She visited the girls and spoke in several churches in November 1987.



← Our missionary tour across the region was March 23-May 4, 1988 with Miriam Fountain, missionary in Zaire for over 27 years. Over 1,100 women, men and children were blessed by her concise, informative, interesting and challenging message and slides.

ROSEBUD GATHERING and GUILD HOUSE PARTY are held each year.

RECOGNITIONS:

In 1987 during the ABW/ABM Conference at Green Lake Paul LaDue had a special dedication luncheon in the Crystal Dining Room in appreciation of the 1986 ABW/CR project which provided \$28,376.45 for refurbishing that room. (Evelyn Boal who was the project chairman was present). A plaque in recognition and appreciation hangs by the door.

In December 1988 Wilma and Roy Engle were week-end guests of Bacone College president, Al Ginkel and his wife, Jean. In 1985 Wilma Fast was chairman of our project which raised \$32,152.20 for an x-ray room. This was added to other funds (provided by the Founders of Doctors' Hospital Foundation, Inc. and the Fort Howard Foundation) to undergo extensive expansion, restoration and renovation in the C.C. Harmon Nursing Building. New facilities include a Rad-Tech classroom,



energized laboratory, student lounge and study area.

President Ginkel stated the ABW gift was the seed that spurred Bacone College to seek additional funds for completion of the Rad-Tech Program. The total project, including expansion, restoration and renovation exceeded \$200,000.

← Wilma Engle and Wilma Fast joined other contributors in unveiling the plaque.

In 1989 Wilma received a gorgeous linen tablecloth and napkins from



← Al and Irene Lamprecht. This was given to them by Rev. Voss, Tirgu-Mures Church in Romania, in appreciation of assistance.

These are being kept by the historian for use at special functions of the region.

Tablecloth is being displayed by incoming president, Ollice Smith and Wilma Engle→



JAPANESE STUDENTS:

We had five Japanese students in 1986-87. These were hosted by Cecil & Barbara Prier, David & Mary Sue Carlson (Chanute) and Jack & Barbara Dale (Tongonoxie).

We had two in 1987-88 hosted by Roger & Martha Tollefson (Hiawatha) and Doyal & Joyce Schroeder (Horton).

There were three girls in 1988-89 hosted by David & Lona Smith (Everest), Jim & Mary Barber (Hiawatha) and Stan & Lou Rippey (Elwood).

In 1989-90 we had one with Les & Helen Pierce (Wichita) and one with Don & Juanita Guinn (Newton but moved out of state) with Roy & Wilma Engle (Wichita) for a month and then with Arlen & Clara Regier (Newton). The girls witness LIVING Christianity rather than religious rituals at temples and shrines which is typical in Japan.

(footnote: In March of 1990 the mothers and sisters of the two students visited for a week in the homes of Les & Helen Pierce and Roy & Wilma Engle. In August 1990 Wilma and her husband spent 10 days in Japan with missionaries and in the home of the one Japanese student, Yuko Yamamoto.)

During her term, Wilma spoke at many churches and installed officers in associations and local societies. She served on the ABCCR Board of Managers as Chairman of the Budget, Property and Management Dept. in 1987 and in Local Church Life Dept. in 1988 and 1989.

She considered it her joy to use any of the talents that the Lord had given to her in service for others. She states that these three years of continual new adventures and challenges were the most exciting and rewarding years of her life. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve.

She was presented a cloth bound notebook of letters and pictures from those who had served with her. It will be a treasured memory of these years of service together. She was also given a silver tea service with her name engraved on the tray.

Those serving with her include:

In 1987: Barbara Fink (Meade) corres. sec'y; Phyllis Counts (Salina) recording sec'y; Bertha Friesen (Hutchinson) treasurer; Donna Miller (Kansas City) VP Program Interpretation; Martha Tollefson (Hiawatha) and Lila Ross VP Christian service; Erleen Snelling (Kansas City) and Ellen Ann Wheaton (Ottata) VP Missions; Jorga Blocher (Valley Center) VP Leadership dev.; Wilma Fast (Hutchinson) communications; Maxine Unruh (McPherson) and Harma McKenzie (Ottawa) historian; Thelma Mitch (Scott City) special interest missionaries; Wilma Endicott (Greensburg) white cross; Betty Schiller (Arkansas City) scholarship-refit; Evelyn True (Prairie Village) project 86-87; Evelyn Fields (McPherson) project 87-88; Janelle Pearson (Dodge City) and Dortha Lawrence (Ness City) Christian social relations; Aylene Poland (Greensburg) love gift; Jan Smith (Stillwell) spiritual growth; Ollice Smith (Kansas City) literature; Barbara Johnson (Stillwell) fellowship guild counselor; Carol Shapley (Stillwell) rosebud counselor; Evy Wall (Shawnee Mission) conference; Peggy Smiley (Topeka) IB subscription clerk; Lillian Dickens (Wichita) and Ruth Van Arsdale (Great Bend) conference comm. 86-87; Kathy Adelman (Lakin) and Pat Preston (Howard) conference comm.. 87-88. Lee Carlson was ABCCR staff liason.

In 1988 other women who served: Aleta Widows (Garden City) corresponding sec'y; Shirley Fair (Alden) treasurer; Janie Allen (Kansas City) VP leadership dev.; Myra Moore (Emporia) scholarship-refit; Florence Schupbach (Tulsa) love gift; Ruth Van Arsdale (Great Bend) project 88-89; Janice Lofland (Wichita) rosebud counselor; Barbara Saft (Valley Center) *IB* subscription clerk; Elaine Talbott (Horton) chair Baptist student exc. comm.; Nell Johnson (Ottawa) and Winnie Davis (Larned) student exc comm.; Anna Belle Poole (Kansas City) endowment fund coord; Doris Frick (Dodge City) and Shirley Meyer (Uniontown) conference comm. 88-89; Betty Schiller (Arkansas City) white cross; Laberta Paslay (Topeka) spiritual growth. Barbara Gela Eldred, ABCCR staff liason

In 1989 other women who served: Lucile Littrell (Cedar Vale) recording sec'y; Myrna VanHorn (Glen Elder) VP program interpretation; Mary Wentworth (Lenexa) Christian social rel; Dolores Prather (Kincaid) literature; Donna Miller (Roeland Park) conference; Dana Bliss (Chanute) guild counselor; Jane Bevan (Parsons) love gift; Judy Crouch (Kingman) 89-90 project; Virginia Shore (Belle Plaine) *IB* subscription clerk; Jan Kellie (Larned) and Virginia Darrah (Derby) conference comm 89-90; Greta Ladd (Humboldt) and Ann McEllroy (Deerfield) conference comm. 90-91.

Association Presidents: Evelyn Fields (Judson); Anna Marie Witham (Roger Williams) Myrtle Mingle (Crawford) Frances Tiegreen (Grace Hill) Janet Holmes (Pioneer) Jean Girvin (Missouri River)

Each and every one of these officers, chairmen and committee members helped to make the work easier to complete.

In 1991 Wilma became the coordinator for the Japanese student placements.

Pictured with her and the Japanese student are the AB GIRLS leaders, Dana Bliss & Janice McLoflin -->

1993-94 Roy & Wilma Engle had the younger sister (Hiroko Yamamoto) of their first Japanese student in their home for a year. She accepted Christ as Savior and was baptized here.



Wilma served from 1992-1996 as national ABW Ministries treasurer; 1998-2002 as North American Baptist Women's Union (Baptist World Alliance) treasurer; She attended the Baptist World Alliance meeting and Women's Leadership meeting held in Australia in 2000 and also visited our Baptist sisters in Jamaica in 2002 for the NABWU quin-quennial celebration; 2001-2003 was national AB Women's Ministries tour coordinator to South Africa, Florida/Puerto Rico, Japan; 2006 president of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region; 2005-2010 president of Roger Williams/Walnut Valley Assoc. of AB Women's Ministries.

She was appointed as CR/AB Women's Ministries historian in 2010 and combined all the old history books into one notebook so that additions could be easily made. Printed books as well as flash-drives for computers were made.



June 1990 – Past presidents of American Baptist Women's Ministries

Wilma Engle

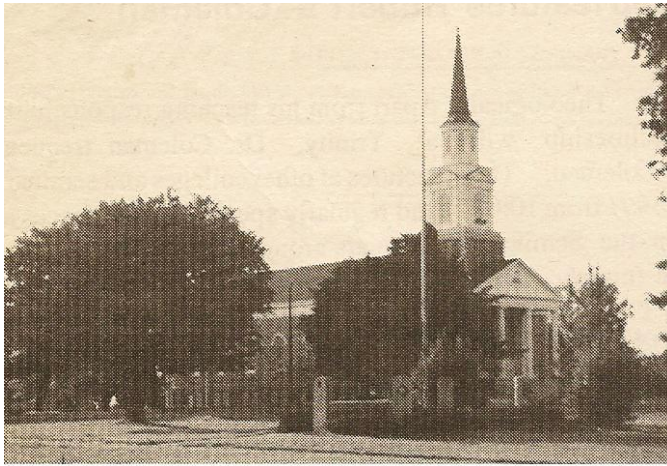
Anna Belle Poole Reba Johnson Bond Rebah Woods

Florence Sherrill

Ethelyn Brannum

Harma McKenzie Alma Fair

Bacone College Chapel as it looked before the Dec. 28, 1990 fire.



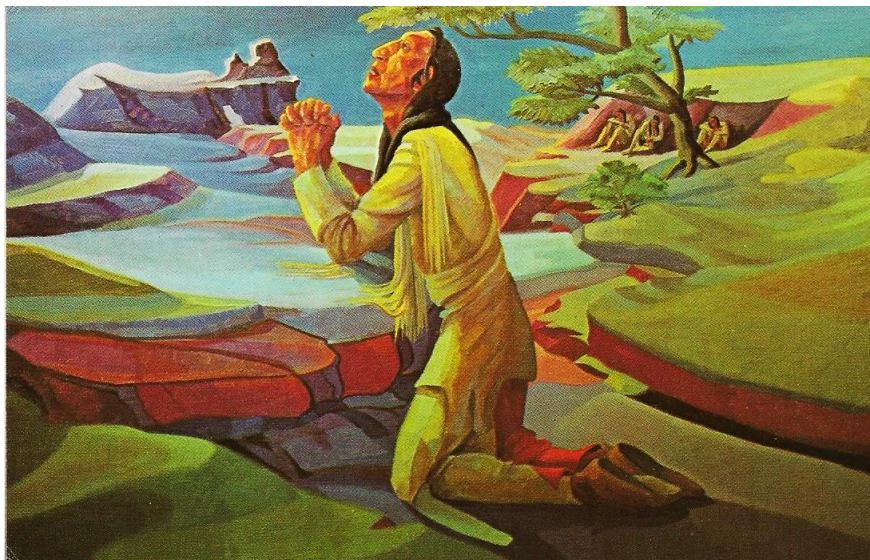
The Bacone College Chapel burned Friday morning, December 28, while the college staff and faculty watched in grief. Cause of the fire which had probably smoldered for several hours before it exploded just before 9 a.m. has not been determined. The fire destroyed the landmark which overlooked Muskogee, OK, and with it consumed priceless artifacts. Ataloa Lodge, just to the west of the chapel and repository of many Indian artifacts, was saved by the action of the Muskogee fire department.

Lost in the fire were the famous “Indian Christ in Gethsemane” and Indian Madonna and child paintings by Cheyenne artist Dick West; a 13 foot stained glass rose window designed by Pottawatomie artist Woody Crumbo; paintings by Acee Blue Eagle and Terry Saul, the pulpit (part of which came from the desk of Adoniram Judson), and the lectern donated by Eleanor Roosevelt and handmade at the Val-Kill Furniture Factory which she helped found at Hyde park, NY. Also lost were the church records and the library of pastor Kip Heth.

Interim president, Dr. Elnora Huyck’s son was married in the chapel on the day before the fire and the funeral of a long-time Bacone employee was scheduled for the day after.

The burned chapel was completed 1939-1941 on the site of Rockefeller Hall, an all-purpose building built in 1884 with a \$10,000 donation from John D. Rockefeller. Bricks for that building were made by the students on the campus and were salvaged for the construction of the chapel. Rockefeller made another \$10,000 gift toward the construction of the new chapel begun in January 1939.

The “**Indian Christ in Gethsemane**” was probably the most famous religious painting done in



Indian style. It was completed in a 20 hour period in 1952 by Dick West while his wife was seriously ill. He locked himself in a room and did not come out until the painting was completed. “Never once did my brush falter. It was as though another guided my hand,” he declared after it was finished. The painting was hung in the baptistery on Easter Sunday 1952 after his wife began to recover.

1990 – 1992 Ollice (Mrs. Lonnie W.) Smith



Ollice was installed as president of American Baptist Women of the Central Region at the annual meeting of the ABCCR in Topeka, October 1989 and her term began in January 1990.

Ollice and her husband, Lonnie, are members of Victory Hills Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS. They have two married daughters and three grandchildren.

Ollice is retired from Aetna Life and Casualty after 17 years as an administrative assistant. Over the years in the local church she has been moderator, deacon, youth director and teacher.

She has served on both Central Seminary and Bethel Center Boards of Directors and on the ABCCR Board as treasurer of the East Central Area.

She served as ABW president of both her local and Missouri River Association and also on the Region ABW Board of Managers as project chairman (2 years) and literature chairman (3 years).

On the National ABW Board, (as CR president) Ollice was appointed as president's geographical representative for the Midwest and assigned to the national nominating and membership committees.

The years as ABW President of the Central Region, Ollice found to be some of the most rewarding years of her Christian life. She tells of these years in her own words:

The beginning of the last decade of this century again saw many changes. The task force of the National ABW Board of Managers recommended a change of name and structure for the first time in forty years.

The new name suggested was American Baptist Women's Ministries. The three areas of ministry were to be Personal Development, Church and Community, and Missions and Service.

Divisions became areas and vice presidents became coordinators with working groups as associates instead of chairmen.

The theme for the year was "Reflect God's Image". Board meetings were always a blessing. The Board brought new and fresh ideas, some from the National Board meetings, that could be used in association and local meetings. At the Spring Board meeting each person brought an early picture of herself helping us to see how each had changed (looking toward the changes coming in ABW).

Mrs. Mary Gates Atkinson, third president of WMS, was selected as the outstanding woman in our Baptist history. Her accomplishments were depicted on a large quilt block to be used at the 1991 National Convention.

A region quilt was also made with 12 association blocks naming the outstanding woman in their history.

1990 Conference was attended by 307 women at Ottawa and 90 at Camp Christy. The new theme was “Empowered by the Holy Spirit”. The ABW/CR Conference Committee chose “Gathering the Harvest of the Spirit” for the conference theme.

Our guest Bible leader was Gloria Marshall, → national program planning chairman.

Alice Shae, of Malaysia was our missionary speaker at Ottawa. At Camp Christy, Julie Paulsen was the Bible study leader and Rev. Warren and Grace Adams were missionary speakers.

A live dove in a lovely cage symbolized the Holy Spirit and was on stage at both conferences.



The 1990 Love Gift reached beyond the goal to \$75,811.92.

Scholarships were given to 12 students at CBTS and 7 at Ottawa. One thousand dollars was also given to Bacone College for needy students. A total of \$13,046.86 was given for scholarship.

The amount of \$1,223.33 was given to returning missionaries as refit.

White Cross, with over 5,000 women participating, gave \$46,962 for Overland and Overseas missions.

Contributions to the Endowment and Annual Support to National ABW amounted to \$2,510.22.

Project exceeded its goal giving \$28,266.75 for Bethel Neighborhood Center’s van and \$16,000 to Murrow children’s Home for a garden tractor and playground equipment. Judy Crouch was project chairman.

The student exchange program placing Japanese girls in Kansas Christian homes for a year continued: for the 89/90 school year Mika Wada was with the Pierces of Wichita and Yuko Yamamoto with Guinns & Regiers of Newton and Engles of Wichita.

The 90/91 students were Ayako Watonabe with the Babcocks of Chanute, Miwako Mari with the Spillmans of McPherson, and Hiroko Nishiyama with the Clarks in Independence.

Your president attended the National Board meeting at Green Lake and the ABW Conference which had a good number of Kansans wearing the traditional Sunflower badge.

She participated in the new structure presentation before the vote on the changes of name and structure were approved.

Our Evy Wall, national V.P. of leadership development, turned Pillsbury Hall into a colorful South American village.



Our Guild Girls were a part of the 75th year celebration of Guild work.

In 1991 we voted to change our year from September 1st to August 31st to coincide with National who begin their year after the National conference.

The new constitution (which included the **name change to American Baptist Women's Ministries**) was also approved with minor changes.

← 1991 ABW Board of Managers

The Spring Board meeting used the theme "Weaving New Patterns" and was held in Wichita at the Wellington Place Baptist Church. We visited the Mexican Baptist Church and its breakfast program for children; Prairie Homestead, an American Baptist retirement center; and "King's Kids", a Roger Williams association sponsored preschool and nursery in West Side Baptist Church. After business, division meetings, and planning for conference, we were entertained by the Benton Kitchen Kutup Band. We concluded with the tossing of variegated yarn balls to each member forming a lovely weaving of togetherness.

At the 1991 conference at Bethel College in Newton, using the theme "Weave Us Together", all the new proposed changes were approved. Donna Miller was the conference chairman.

Changes approved: Beginning in 1992 the annual meeting will be at the summer conference including election of region officers. It was suggested that all

Associations and locals have their elections in April or May so they can send their new officers to Conference in June.



Special guests at the conference were Donna Anderson, National Executive → Director of ABW, Suzette Geffrard, ← missionary to Zaire. Both gave never-to-be-forgotten inspiration.



A craft sale for Love Gift was a great success with many women contributing their own handmade love gifts. The final total for Love Gift was the largest ever at \$82,036.64. Melanie Cooper was Love Gift chairman.

The region project was “Comprehensive Community Health Care in Haiti” with a total of \$41,989.25 received. Kathy Adelman was project chairman.

White Cross gave \$27,932.86 to Overland and Overseas missions. This was in addition to all the quilt blocks and other hand work that was completed.

Scholarships were \$10,180.90 to 10 students at CBTS, 7 at Ottawa and 2 at Bacone.

The annual October meeting of the ABCCR was held in Lawrence. The ABW Ministries meeting was held in the Holidome. Elnora Huyck, interim dean at CBTS was the speaker. During the business session the new constitution was approved with minor changes.

At the 1992 spring board meeting Fred Ansell, our Executive Minister, showed us blueprints for the entrance gate and shrubs at the Cross Wind Conference Center, which was the adopted project for 92/93.

The big highlight of 1992 was the Missionary and Leadership training tour with our beloved missionary, Dr. Marian Boehr, who served 39 years in India. Dr. Boehr spoke to over 1,000 women plus those who heard her on early morning radio before the meeting in Eldorado. Five officers presented the “Soaring 90’s review” reviewing the new ABW changes.



Pictured: Laura Germer, Mary Wentworth, Ollice Smith, Dr. Marian Boehr, Jorja Blocher, Norma Stevens.

At the end of the tour at FBC in Olathe, a wheat 'strawman' designed by Gini Sharp was given to Dr. Boehr. Dr. Boehr said that the Scarecrow would always remind her of a great time in Kansas.



In keeping with the 92-93 theme "Rooted for Ministry" a sunset maple tree was planted on the Ottawa campus and a flowering crabapple tree was planted at Camp Christy. There were 327 registered at Ottawa and 85 at Camp Christy.

← Dedication of the Sunset Maple tree
Pictured are Jorja Blocher, conf ch, Ollice Smith, president and Florence Sherrill, past pres (65-69)



Our missionary speaker at Ottawa was Gladys Peterson → and our Bible leader was Rev. Nancy Blaine. →
Rev. Heather Entrekin was our missionary speaker at Camp Christy. →



At our October 1992 annual meeting our ABW guest speaker was Dr. Tanner, president of Bacone College.



Special music was provided by Ruth James and signing by Evalu Russell.

The project for the Phantom machine for the nursing school at Bacone and additional furnishings for the new chapel there

exceeded the goal with a total of \$37,165. Margaret Zimmerman was project chairman and presented the check



The board recommended a conference change to two single conferences in the middle of the state and one split conference during each president's term.

Guild Girls and Rosebud names were changed to AB GIRLS and Girls of Joy. AB GIRLS is an acronym for American Baptist Girls in Relationship, Leadership, Service.

Our fiscal year was changed to September 1 through August 31 and our name was changed to American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Our mission statement became:

In commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to the mission of the church and through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, American Baptist Women's Ministries provides opportunities for each woman and girl to:

- become and develop as God's Person
- build God's faith community, and
- serve God's world

A logo was developed by artist Judy Swanson, Northfield, MN which would identify who we are and what we do as American Baptist Women's Ministries.

The identifying symbol for American Baptist Women's Ministries is biblical. The woman portrays a woman of the Bible. Embodied in her are the New Testament women who were among the first to know and believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son. They encountered the cross; their commitment deepened. Commitment leads to the waters of baptism. The artist depicts the woman stepping from her baptismal waters confident in her belief in Christ and in her God-given talents and abilities. She carries the lighted lamp, serving the Christ of the empty cross, the light of the world.



The association presidents are a real asset to the Board. Three presidents were assigned to each working group on a rotating basis for two purposes:

1. so they could learn more about each area of ministry, and
2. to help with suggestions and ideas for promotion and development.

God has blessed our Region with many dedicated Christian women. If it were not for the active women in the local churches, our goals could not have been accomplished. May God continue to "stir you up and lead you forward".

Those who served with Ollice as region officers were:

1990 – Lucille Litrell (Cedar Vale) recording sec'y; Aleta Widows (Garden City) corresponding sec'y; Shirley Fair (Alden) treasurer; Myrna Van Horn (Glen Elder) v.p. program interpretation; Virginia Shore (Belle Plaine) communications; Harma McKenzie (Ottawa) historian; Ellen Ann Wheaton (Ottawa) v.p. missions; Charlotte Green (Overland Park) special int. missionaries; Betty Schiller (Arkansas City) white cross; Myra Moore (Emporia) scholarship-refit; Judy Crouch

(Kingman) project; Sherrill Newberry (McPherson) V.P. Christian service; Mary Wentworth (Lenexa) Christian social relations; Jane Bevan (Parsons) love gift; Elaine Talbot (Horton) Baptist student exchange; Janie Allen (Kansas City) V.P. leadership dev.; Wilma Fast (Hutchinson) spiritual growth; Dolores Prather (Kincaid) literature; Dana Bliss (Chanute) Guild girls; Janice Lofland (Wichita) Rosebuds; Donna Miller (Roeland Park) conference.

1991 changes –

Lee White (Wichita) corresponding sec'y; Crystal Wolgast (Topeka) treasurer; Marj Ingle (El Dorado) scholarship-refit; Kathy Adelman (Lakin) project; Melanie Cooper (Hoxie) love gift; Wilma Engle (Wichita) Baptist student exchange; Norma Stevens (Caney) V.P. leadership dev.

1992 changes –

Margaret Zimmerman (Olathe) project; Jorja Blocher (Independence) conference.

Ollice went to her eternal reward on February 6, 2011.

Sept. 1992 – Aug. 1995 Shirley (Mrs. Ed) Fair



Shirley Fair was installed as president of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region at the annual meeting of ABCCR in Hutchinson.

Shirley and husband, Ed, live on a farm close to Alden where he farms and feeds cattle. Both are natives of the Alden area and graduated from Alden High School.

They have three daughters – Ellen, Julie and Sarah. Shirley graduated from Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia and taught Home Economics and Business in the local high school for two years before family. After all girls were in school, she began working at the Alden State Bank and remained there for over 17 years as assistant cashier.

Shirley was very active in numerous local organizations serving as the Alden Pride Chair for several years, the Sterling Branch of American Association of University Women, Rice County Republican Women, Triumph Extension Homemakers Unit and Rice county 4-H Fair Holding Board.

Shirley attended the First Baptist Church of Alden after her marriage and became a member several years later. She was always active in the local women's organization. She tells the story about how she became involved when a lady called and asked her to serve as the White Cross chair "since you can sew". She held almost all of the offices on the local level after that.

She served as region treasurer (1988-1990) and conference chair (1983-1985) and was a Western area representative on the conference committee in 1981-82.

Her first year as president was the second year of the new fiscal year beginning September 1.

Evon Laubenstein, coordinator of the Mid Western Section, attended a summer retreat and helped with the transition. Each person brought a silk flower which were put together in a basket and given to Shirley as encouragement for the theme, Rooted for Ministry.



Monies to refit missionaries used to be upon request from National but starting in 1994 it will be an average amount of the previous year to be sent at one time during the year.

National American Baptist Women's Ministries suggested a national project of WINGS (Women in New Growth Situations) with a goal of \$200,000. One half

was to go to an International Ministries project and one-half divided between National Ministries and Educational Ministries. Central Region voted to participate. (The name had been suggested by Wilma Engle during a brainstorming session while she was on the national board as region president.)

It was decided to adopt colors to represent areas of ministry:

Administration – Purple, representing the ABW Ministries logo;

Personal Development Ministries – Green, symbolizing growing/developing into God's person

Church and Community Ministries – Yellow, symbolizing hope or a beacon of light in the community;

Mission and Service Ministries – Red, symbolizing love;

Association Presidents – Blue, symbolizing loyalty

AB GIRLS – Teal, representing the AB GIRLS logo.

It was voted to change the name of “Policy Sheet” to “Job Description” and much time was spent writing the job descriptions in the new structure and getting them approved.

1992 Love Gift total was \$ 73,221.00.



The annual project for Camp Christy refurbishing (\$8,000) and to build a brick, permanent entrance sign at Cross Wind totaled \$ 37,656.63.

A total of \$1,467.10 was given to National Support.

Scholarships of \$9,400 were given to 5 students at Central Seminary, 2 at Ottawa University and student aid to Bacone.

White Cross from 5/1/92 to 4/30/93 was \$17,576.75 for Overland and \$ 28,164.32 for Overseas or an average contribution of \$10.43 per person.

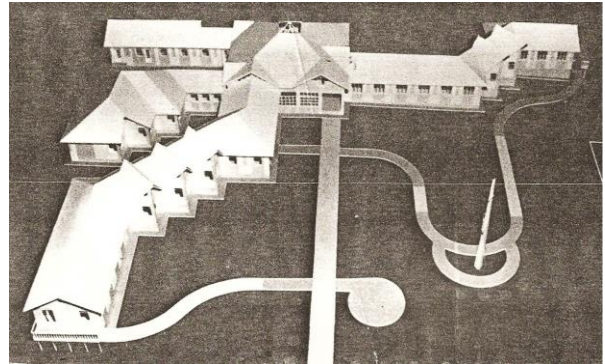
Helen Buchele of Cedar Vale received \$100 scholarship to participate in the 1993 ABW Ministries Mission Study tour to the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

The 1993 summer conference and annual meeting were held June 4-6 at Bethany College in Lindsborg with 360 women registered. Theme was “Living

Worship as a way of life". Guest speakers included Betty Shoaf giving Mission Spots and Rev. Barbara Eldred as the worship leader.

AB GIRLS Houseparty was held June 11-13 at Ottawa University with 70 girls and adults registered and the Gathering was held July 9-11 at King's Camp near Goddard with 98 girls and adults registered. There were five decisions to accept Christ. (Rosebuds became Girls of Joy to follow the new AB GIRLS structure)

In 1993 one of our scholarship students at Central Seminary, Vitali Yuchkovski from Moldova, was the speaker at our October annual women's luncheon in Olathe. The 1993-94 project was the furnishing of a home for 40 elderly and handicapped in Sofia, Moldova. This is the home they built. Total received was \$32,001.52.



The 1993 Love Gift was \$ 71,754.45. A total of \$ 16,900 in scholarships was given to 7 students at Central Seminary, 2 students at Ottawa University and aid to Bacone College, and \$1,000 was given for missionaries refit.

White Cross for Overland was \$21,107.01 and Overseas was \$30,716.48 for an average per person of \$12.41. A total of \$1,071.23 was given to National Support.

Pictured at right are the 1993 National ABW officers. Included are Wilma Engle (2nd from right top row) treasurer and Jan Sipe, resources (2nd from right middle row)



In the Summer of 1993 Lauren Bethel brought the New Life Choir from Thailand on a tour. This picture was taken in El Dorado.

The April 1994 mission tour was with Marty Murray, missionary in Okinawa. Approximately 640 women attended the various meetings.

1994 Summer conference and annual meeting were at Sterling College with 278 women registered. The theme was “In One Spirit, No Longer Strangers” and the Bible study leader was Carol Patterson of Coffeyville. We had three mission speakers –Jene Chadwick of Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas → City, Joan Brown of Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee, OK and Esther Wiebe, Hillsboro, a former missionary to →



India. A mini project of paper products for Bethel and Murrow filled two vans. Various colored T-shirts with our logo lady were available.



<-- Board of Managers meeting at Cross Wind in March 1995 wearing color coded T-shirts

(Administration- purple; Personal development-green; Mission & service-red; Church & community-yellow; AB GIRLS-teal and association presidents-blue)

From front L-R – Gini Sharp, Joan Cole, Ethelyn Branum; Crystal Wolgast, Gretta Ladd, Myrtle Mingle, Karen Freeman; Charlotte Green, Aleta Widows, Virginia Shore; Lucille Littrell, Marj Ingle, Mary Wentworth, Dolores Prather; Ruby Bolls, Evelyn Fields, Myrna Van Horn, Janet Holmes, Darlene Hailey, Wilma Fast, Arlene Hildebrand, Anna Belle Poole, Helen Pierce, Janice Lofland, Vonda Brecheisen, Shirley Fair, Judy Crouch, Lorene Brannin.

An approved change to the By-Laws was to drop the Church and Family Relations Associate because of lack of duties.

It was voted to place a credit plaque at the entrance sign at Cross Wind crediting the American Baptist Women’s Ministries for the 1992-93 project of the entrance and plantings. →



Prior to summer conference some of the associations made a quilt block honoring one of their women. This was assembled and displayed at conference.

← Ark Valley honored Alma Fair; Crawford honored Murlis Miners; Grace Hill honored Mary Smallwood; Great Plains honored several women; Judson honored Vergie Milleson; Luther Rice honored Harma McKenzie; Missouri River honored several women; Pioneer honored Edna Bondurant; Roger Williams honored Rebah Woods; Walnut Valley honored Emily Trent and Tri River honored Peggy Smiley.

AB GIRLS Houseparty at Ottawa had 30 girls and adults registered. Theme was “Our Seed to Sow”. The AB GIRLS Gathering was held at White Memorial Camp with 69 girls and women registered with the theme “Fruit of the Spirit”. There were six decisions to accept Christ.

At the October 1994 Gathering in Garden City we celebrated the 75th anniversary of White Cross at the annual dinner of ABCCR. Table decorations included White Cross items like roller bandages and placemats.

This was our display →



Love Gift for 1994 was \$ 69,429.65.

Scholarships of \$14,250 were given to 7 students at Central Seminary, 2 at Ottawa University and student aid to Bacone. Refit donation was \$1,000.

Contributions to National Support was \$ 1,192.41.

White Cross 5/1/94 to 4/30/95 included \$ 16,586.53 for Overland and \$25,661.86 for Overseas for an average of \$ 10.95 per person.

Circulation for the *Information Bulletin* was about 1,700.



The national ABW Board of Managers chose to meet at Cross Wind Conference Center in February 1995. They thoroughly enjoyed Kansas and the beautiful snow.

←Pictured are Wilma Engle, treasurer; Charlotte Gillespie, International Ministries; Sarah Hicks, Mission and Service.



Conference committee for the 1995 conference at Lindsborg. L-r Agnes Harris, Crystal Wolgast, Myrtle Mingle, Lois Chiles, Mary Wentworth, Evelyn Fields, Linda Wallace, Judy Burget.

The 1995 summer conference was at Bethany College in Lindsborg using the theme “We’re on...the way”. There were 225 women registered.

AB GIRLS Houseparty was at Cross Wind Conference Center using the theme of “Beautiful Feet”. There were 33 girls and adults registered.

The AB GIRLS Gathering was at White Memorial Camp with 68 girls and adults registered.

Evvy Wall participated in the mission study tour to Eastern Europe.

Central Region women serving on the National ABW Ministries Board of Managers during this time included: Wilma Engle (Wichita) treasurer; Jan Sipe (El Dorado) Coordinator of Resources; Karen Selig (Manhattan) nominee for Coord of Church and Community; and Shirley Fair became Coord of Mid Western Section.

Those serving with Shirley as region officers were:

1992-1993 -- Patricia Belden (Overland Park) recording sec’y; Lee White (Wichita) corresponding sec’y; Crystal Wolgast (Topeka) treasurer; Norma Stevens (Caney) coord of personal dev; Melanie Cooper (Hoxie) discipleship/love gift assoc.; Jorja Blocher (Independence) conference; Virginia Shore (Belle Plaine) editor assoc.; Myra Moor (Emporia) coord church & comm min; Wilma Fast (Hutchinson) church & family relations assoc; Marj Ingle (El Dorado) scholarship & student concerns assoc.; Ethelyn Branum (Newton) historian; Jan Sipe (El Dorado) Coord of mission & service min; Aylene Poland (Onaga) special int. miss/refit assoc; Betty Schiller (Arkansas City) white cross assoc; Winnie Davis (Larned) project assoc; Dana Bliss (Council Grove) coord of AB GIRLS (Guild); Janice Lofland (Wichita) coord of AB GIRLS (Rosebud); Martha Tollefson (Hiawatha) internat’l students assoc; Martha Tollefson (Hiawatha), Aleta Widows (Garden City) and Trudy Strunk (Valley Center) conference committee area rep.

1993-1994 changes:

Lorene Brannin (Oswego) corresponding sec’y; Arlene Hildebrand (Liberal) treasurer; Myrtle Mingle (Altamont) coord of personal dev. min; Aleta Widows (Garden City) discipleship/love gift assoc; Greta Ladd (Humboldt) scholarship & student concerns assoc; Karen Freeman (Concordia) white cross assoc; Renee Langley (El Dorado) project assoc; Lois Chiles (Lansing) and Nancy Blake (Greensburg) conference committee area rep.

1994-1995 changes:

Vonda Brecheisen (Olathe) recording sec’y; Crystal Wolgast (Topeka) conference assoc; Evelyn Fields (McPherson) coord of mission & service min; Marj Ingle (El Dorado) project assoc; Mary Wentworth (Overland Park) coord of church & comm min; Virginia Shore (Oxford) special int. Miss/refit assoc; Linda Wallace (Minneapolis) Judy Burgert (Alma) and Agnes Harris (Dodge City) conference comm. area rep;

Sept. 1995 – Aug. 1998

Agnes (Mrs. Charles) Harris



Agnes Harris was installed as president of American Baptist Women of Central Region at the 75th summer conference at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas in 1995.

Agnes and her husband, Charles, are the parents of a daughter, Dr. Sheila Harris, Litchfield Park, AZ. In 1983 Agnes became a widow

Previous region positions have included fellowship guild advisor (1969-1973) and rosebud guild counselor (1979-1984) having been coordinator of the first Rosebud Guild Gathering at Camp Christy, Scott City in 1979. Agnes also served as ABW president of the Missouri River Association 1963-1965.

In 1994 Agnes served as president of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.

During her tenure as A B Women's Ministries president she was a member of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region Board of Managers and also a member of the General Board ABC-USA. Her General Board assignment was to the program board of International Ministries and she was also a member of the nominating committee.

August 1995 –
Association
presidents with the
new CR president,
Agnes Harris



A week-long training for facilitating week-end "Oasis" spiritual retreats for women was provided at the AB Women's Ministries national conference at Green Lake in 1996. Those who participated in the training were: Wilma Engle, Shirley Fair, Agnes Harris and Helen Pierce. Facilitators continue to hold numerous retreats in Central Region and they are very successful.

"Starting a New ABW Ministries Group" was compiled to assist association presidents in the organization of new or existing local ABW Ministries that needed assistance with structure and flexibility.

In the 1997 missionary tour, president-elect Thelma Schaller visited four of the areas and then Debra Beckwith, former missionary to Japan spoke at the other two locations.

Agnes designated Tuesday as a day of prayer and women were encouraged to participate in the opportunity each week.

In 1997 AB GIRLS House Party was held at Cross Wind Conference Center at the same time as the Women's Conference in Newton so there was some joint participation.



In 1998 all ages of AB GIRLS came together for their House Party and Gathering at Cross Wind for the first time.

Summer conferences were held annually:



Serving communion at Ottawa were Laura Germer, Rev. Barbara Gela Eldred, Dr. Molly Marshall, Agnes Harris →

1996 – Theme: “We’re on the Way...to Higher Ground” with the theme song of “Higher Ground” and theme Scripture Philippians 3:12-14.

At Ottawa speakers were Pat Coats, American Baptist missionary to Thailand and Dr. Molly Marshall, Central Baptist Seminary. Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Arsdale (Ottawa) were speakers at Camp Christy.





← Talent show 1997 – Theme: “You Can Do It! Practicing Christian Love” with theme song of “God of Love and Joy and Laughter” and theme Scripture Romans 12:9-18. Conference was held at Bethel College, Newton with Rev. Brenda Halliburton, National Ministries as speaker.

A mini project was canned items for the food pantry for Central Seminary students →



1997 conference committee – Cathy Fitzsimmons, Karen Thomas, Elsie Kandt, Deby Satterfield, Agnes Harris, Crystal Wolgast, Laura Germer. Not pictured – Marjorie Ingle & Evelyn Fields.

1998 – Theme: “Chosen...For Such a time as this” with theme song “For Such a Time as This” and Scripture Esther 4:14. Conference was held at Sterling College, Sterling with Rev. Carol Sutton, executive director ABW Ministries, as the speaker.



“Hats Off to our Scholarship Students!”

70th anniversary banquet at 1998 summer conference –

← Carol Sutton, ABW Exec Dir
Karen Selig & Linda Wallace
Linda presented an anniversary skit using various hats through the decades 1928-1998.

At the 1998 conference Janice Lofland and Dana Bliss were recognized for their ten years of service as AB GIRLS coordinators

Pictured are Wilma Engle, who appointed them in 1988, Janice, Dana, and Agnes Harris, current president.



ABW Ministries Annual Projects:

1995-96 – Tallahatchie Development League, Tutweiler, MS \$ 34,762.64
1996-97 – Central Baptist Seminary Carpenter Wells Dining Room \$ 36,162.78.
1997-98 – Ottawa University Martin Hall living room \$ 39,572.48.

The women, ABW Ministries of Central Region, were diligent in their support of Love Gift, scholarship students, special interest missionaries and refit, white cross and AB GIRLS.

During this three year interval ABW Ministries of Central Region was empowered by God, endowed by the dedicated efforts of each member of the Board of Managers who was so well suited and equipped for each position (this includes association presidents) and by the committed women who served at the association and local levels.

Thanks be to God and to each of you for being “Chosen...for such a time as this”. The dedicated cooperation of each person is deeply appreciated. Together YOU made ABW Ministries happen in Central Region.

Agnes Harris’ deep commitment to missions took her on mission trips to: India 1997; New York and New England 1998; Cuba and Costa Rica 1999. She attended the Baptist World Alliance, Buenos Aires, Argentina 1995 and Melbourne, Australia 2000.

The following officers provided tremendous service:

1995.1996 Vonda Breicheisen (Olathe/Pratt) recording sec’y; Lorene Brannin (Oswego) corresponding sec’y; Arlene Hildebrand (Liberal) treasurer; Myrtle Mingle (Altamont) coord of personal dev. min; Gini Sharp (Wichita) discipleship/love gift assoc; Crystal Wolgast (Topeka) conference assoc; Wilma Fast (Hutchinson) editor assoc; Laura Germer (Ottawa) coord of church & comm Min; Greta Ladd (Humboldt) scholarship & student concerns assoc; Ethelyn Branum (Newton) historian; Evelyn Fields (McPherson) coord of mission & service min; Virginia Shore (Oxford) special interest miss/refit assoc; Karen Freeman (Concordia) white cross asoc; Lucile Littrell (Cedar Vale) project assoc; Janice Lofland (Wichita) coord of AB GIRLS; Dana Bliss (Council Grove) coord of AB GIRLS; Helen Pierce (Wichita) international students.

Additions 1996-1997:

Aleta Widows (Garden City) corresponding sec’y; Mildred Booth (Junction City) corresponding sec’y; Betty Massey (Prairie Village) treasurer; Marj Ingle (El Dorado) coord of personal dev. min; Linda Wallace (Minneapolis) scholarship & student concerns assoc.

Sept. 1998 – Aug. 2001 Evelyn “Evy” (Mrs. Leonard A.) Wall



Evy was installed as president of ABW Ministries/CR at the summer conference in June 1998 at Sterling College. This is an honor she did not seek nor aspire to. However, the passage from Esther 4:14 “...and who knows whether you have not come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?” spoke to her in a powerful moving way. Thus she felt “called” to accept the responsibility.

In her local ABW organization she has served as president, vice president of leadership development, coordinator of personal development, project chair, circle leader and in numerous other capacities.

On the region level Evy served as vice president of leadership development and as conference chair for five summer conferences.

On the national ABW Ministries she served 1989-91 as leadership development chairman and was on the transition team when the structure was changed and the organization’s name was changed from American Baptist Women to American Baptist Women’s Ministries.

In her local church (Prairie Baptist of Prairie Village, KS) she was the first woman to serve on the Diaconate Board (chaired same) and is the only woman who has served as moderator to date. She has also served on pastoral search committee, board of stewardship and finance and was a Sunday school teacher and advocate/sponsor for youth in Youth Leader Corp.

She has served on the ABC/CR Board as representative for Ecumenical Relations; local church life committee and chaired the social concerns division. She served on the Field Education Committee of Central Baptist Theological Seminary for a number of years.

Evy attended Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS, University of Oklahoma at Norman, OK, Ottawa University, Kansas University and has some credits from Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

Evy and her husband have been members of Prairie Baptist church for many years. Leonard is a medical doctor specializing in obstetrics and gynecology at St. Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City. He has also served at Truman Medical Center in the Urogynecology Clinic on a volunteer basis. Leonard is retired from active medical practice. They have two sons, L. Lewis and Terry, both physicians.

Evy is a registered nurse. She frequently served as the nurse for ABW conferences and for Fellowship Guild Girls whom she accompanied on a mission

work trip to El Salvador and Nicaragua. She traveled to Kodiak, Alaska with a work team of youth and adults from her church and served as cook.

Evy serves on the Board of Trustees of Ottawa University and as a trustee has visited Ottawa University's international sites in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

Evy is known for her gift of hospitality, so she and her husband have hosted many groups of international students, medically related groups, visitors and new members of Prairie Baptist. They have hosted an annual week-end retreat for young adults from their church for many years at their country place near Odessa, MO. (She hosted the ABW/CR board of managers there in 1984)

She loves to travel and has visited more than 50 countries. Visiting hospitals in a number of countries with her husband and seeing the need for supplies has made a vivid impression on the importance of White Cross.

Evy has participated in several ABW/International Ministries Mission Tours including Eastern Europe, Costa Rica/Cuba and South Africa. The oppression suffered by people under Communism and the injustices of apartheid made an indelible impression on her.

Travel, reading, bird watching, gourmet cooking and decorating for banquets and social events are among her hobbies. She especially enjoys travel to places where she can learn about other cultures and ethnic groups. She loves people. She loves walking in the ocean's surf and appreciates God's beautiful creation. She obviously thrives on adventure as she and her family hiked into and out of the leper colony, Molokai, Hawaii; went parasailing in Mexico; white water rafting; hunting for the elusive tiger by elephant-back; ridden a camel in Egypt; slept in a yurt in Mongolia and went dog sledding in Canada.



← On June 7, 1999 the AB GIRLS dedicate their Rose Garden at Cross Wind Mabee Center.

In 2000 Evy and Susan Harding, missionary in Cordova, Alaska, traveled across Kansas where Susan shared about the mission work at the Cordova Community Church and Christian Center in Cordova.



At the 2000 June conference we recognized four sets of sisters: Judy Heller & Kathy Brown; Joyce Lofton & Gini Sharp; Carol Allen & Audra Strecker; Kathy Wohlgemuth & Brenda Earls.



← Magada Craven (& Brent) promoting the 50th anniversary Endowment Fund project. Also on the committee were Pam Minix and Wilma Engle. Beverly Fink was region coordinator.

It was Evy's hope that ABW Ministries be intentionally cross-cultural, crossing lines of culture and ethnicity. She was thrilled that a number of members from the Lao American Church in Lenexa participated in interest groups at summer conference. There were also several Native American women from the Anadarko OK area.

In June 2000 the by-laws were changed to clarify the position of Love Gift/Discipleship Associate and to place Discipleship as part of the responsibility of the Personal Development Coordinator, as was originally designed by the organization.

Projects during Evy's tenure were:

1998-99: Hostel for Lisu Theological Seminary, Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Myanmar, with a goal of \$30,000 with overage going toward construction of a library. Project associate was Evelyn True, Prairie Village. Total received was \$ 36,171.77

1999-2000: Insurance and maintenance of Dodge 26' mobile medical clinic in Nicaragua with Carol Allen, Ottawa, as project associate. \$ 43,229.13 was received.

2000-2001: Construction of two rooms in the lower level of Mabee Center at Cross Wind for the infirmary and nurse's station with any overage going toward the construction of the camp director's quarters. Betty Brockway, Coffeyville, was project associate. Total received was \$ 44,613.04. We were able to secure EMT equipment for the infirmary as well.

Conferences:

1999: "Passionately Pursue Peace!" with Scripture I Peter 3:8-11
There were 169 registered at Ottawa and 51 registered at Camp Christy

2000: "Pathways to Peace" based on I Peter 3:8-11 held at Bethany College, Lindsborg with 201 registered.



Officers: L-R Helen Pierce, JoAnn McDermott, Donna Miller, Carol Allen, Pat Weese, Evy Wall, Patti Horner, Ethelyn Brannum, Effie Sutton, Jane Smith, Vonda Breckeisen, Karen Thomas, Karen Moreod, Joan Marshall, Marie Smith, Lorene Brannin, Mildred Booth

2001: "Vital Signs for Victorious Living" using Scriptures from Jeremiah 33:6 and Colossians 2:6-7. There were 139 registered at Ottawa and 107 at Camp Christy.

At Ottawa we had a reception for missionaries, Jene and Bruce Bridgewater, who were leaving Bethel Neighborhood Center and our Region in June. Jene is holding a wheat weaving made by Gini Sharp. →



← John and Janine Gravely, missionaries to Hong Kong were speakers.



AB GIRLS
House Party, the first at Camp Christy, was held at the same time as the ABW Ministries Conference. Girls,

grades 6-12, explored the theme "Doctors orders for a healthier life." Lessons were taken from the book *Rachel's Tears*, which is about one of the students killed in the Columbine shooting, Rachel Scott.

Thanks to the American Baptist Women of the Central Region for responding to God's love by giving generously to ABW Ministries funds: Love Gift, scholarships and the 50th anniversary Endowment Fund.

Upon resignation, due to health reasons, of the National Endowment Fund Chair, Nancy Bancroft, our Shirley Fair (Alden) assumed that position. Beverly Fink (Manhattan) served as Central Region's Endowment Fund chairperson. Members of her committee were Wilma Engle, Pam Minix and Magada Craven.

At the 2000 National ABW Ministries Conference at Green Lake Evy was privileged to install the national officers that included the Rev. Karen Selig (Manhattan).

Evy attended the biennial in Des Moines in 1999 and in Providence, RI in 2001. She found it of great historical interest to visit the site of the First Baptist Church in America.

During her tenure, Evy titled her column in the Information Bulletin "Notes from Wall's Street" and received many favorable comments on her interesting, informative articles.

Recipients of the Peggy Smiley scholarships (first timers to attend ABW Conference at Green Lake) in 2000 was Sandra Brisendine & Elsie Kandt and in 2001 was Joan Marshall.



In April 2001, four AB women from the Central Region traveled to the Republic of South Africa on a Mission Encounter Tour. ←L-r: Phyllis Cline, Marilyn Hall, Evy Wall and Wilma Engle (who was co-leader of the tour)

Officers during Evy's team:
1998-1999: Almira Collier (Topeka) recording sec'y; Mildred Booth (Junction City) corresponding sec'y; Betty Massey (Prairie Village) treasurer; Marj Ingle (El Dorado) coord. personal dev; Karen Morerod (Kansas City) discipleship/love gift; Karen Thomas (Junction City) conference ch; Vonda Breicheisen (Pratt) editor; Jane Smith (Winfield) coord. church & comm.; Linda Wallace (Minneapolis) scholarship & student concerns; Ethelyn Branum (Newton) historian; Donna Miller

(Roeland Park) mission & service coord; Patti Horner (Owasso, OK) special interest missionaries-refit; Judy Crouch (Kingman) white cross assoc; Evelyn True (Prairie Village) project; Joan McDermott (Anthony) and Debbie Kiker (Haysville) AB GIRLS coord.; Helen Pierce (Wichita) international student assoc.

1999-2000: Mildred Booth (Junction City) recording sec'y; Lorene Brannin (Oswego) corresponding sec'y; Marie Smith (Overland Park) treasurer; Joan Marshall (Herington) coord. personal dev; Effie Sutton (Ness City) scholarship & student concerns; Patricia Weese (DeSoto) white cross assoc; Carol Allen (Ottawa) project; Beverly Fink (Manhattan) Endowment Fund CR Coord.

2000-2001: Dana Bliss (Council Grove) conference; Rachel Hollingsworth (Atchison) scholarship & student concerns; Lorene Tippin (Wichita) and Phyllis Cline (Minneapolis) coord. mission & service; Betty Brockway (Coffeyville) project; Annette Pickard (Topeka) and Marla Atkinson (Louisburg) AB Girls coord.



Incoming president – Mildred Booth
Outgoing president – Evy Wall

Sept. 2001 – Aug. 2004 Mildred (Mrs. John) Booth



Mildred Booth was elected president of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region at the conferences at Ottawa University and Camp Christy in June 2001. She officially took office on September 1, 2001. Mildred is not originally from Kansas but moved to Fort Riley in 1977 with her husband, John, who was assigned there by the U.S. Army.

Mildred was saved in a Southern Baptist Church when she was twelve years old and belonged to a Southern Baptist Church until she became a member of the First Baptist Church in Junction City in 1980. Her husband, John, spent 26 years in the Army and they lived in many states as well as Germany and Okinawa. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Mildred had previously served as corresponding secretary and recording secretary for AB Women's Ministries/CR. She had also been church and community coordinator in the Tri-River Association. In her church she has been a Sunday School teacher, AWANA secretary, vacation Bible school director and teacher, and financial secretary. In the local AB Women's Ministries she has served as president, secretary, treasurer, scholarship associate and circle chairman (some offices more than once).

Ten days after Mildred took office, terrorists attacked the United States by flying two airplanes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. This is important to mention because women everywhere will never again feel the same about the safety of their country, their loved ones or themselves after this terrible attack. Our security is only in Jesus Christ. Since that time the United States has been involved in a War on Terror sending troops to Afghanistan and Iraq. Mildred attended the Church Women United fall 2001 assembly in Salina representing the Central Region AB Women's Ministries and participated in the program "Prayers for Peace".

During Mildred's term as president of the Central Region, two Central Region women served as president of national AB Women's Ministries – Karen Selig, Manhattan, and Lois Chiles, Lansing.

In early 2002 a task force was appointed to determine if the International Student Associate position was still relevant. After research, the task force made the recommendation at the March 2002 board meeting that the office of International Student Associate be discontinued as of August 31, 2002. The recommendation was approved by the board and at the business meeting at summer conference in June 2002 at Bethel College in Newton, KS.

Board meetings were held twice a year (March and August) at Cross Wind Conference Center in Hesston, Kansas for the full board, including association presidents. Executive committee meetings were held before each board meeting at Cross Wind. A mini-board meeting was held each year the evening before summer conference began. A business meeting was held yearly during the summer conference. June Hamblen, national coordinator of the Midwestern section, was our guest at the March 2003 board meeting.

In 2003 the two associations in the West – Great Plains and Pioneer – joined together into one AB Women's Ministries association. They are now known as the Western association.



On March 17-21, 2003 there was a work trip to the Christian Center of Anadarko sponsored by ABC Central Region and AB Women's Ministries. Mildred and her husband were part of this work group. A 15-passenger van was delivered to the Center at that time. The van was purchased as part of the 2002-2003 AB Women's Ministries special project.

← March 2003 Board meeting-- also present were Vern & Janice Winter who carried the loan on the van until the project was completed, and June Hamblin, Mid Western Section coordinator on the national board.

The spring Mission Tour was in April 2003 with Jill Lowery, missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This tour occurs once for each president and she accompanies the missionary. Mildred and Jill attended six

rallies across Kansas. Two associations join together for their spring rally except for the Western association.

Mildred was one of two women from the Central Region who were part of the May 2003 Mission Encounter Tour to Japan and Okinawa which was sponsored jointly by AB Women's Ministries and International Ministries. Wilma Engle, past president and co-leader of the tour, was the other woman. Mildred has presented the program on Japan/Okinawa thirteen times at rallies, churches and AB Women's groups. *Wilma & Mildred share a song (As the Deer) in Japanese at the summer conference →*



As a member of the ABCCR Board of Directors, Mildred attended all the meetings of that board and served in the Department of Missions.

The Information Bulletin continues to be a vital part of our ministry to women in the Central Region. It is published ten times annually and contains articles and information from AB Women's Ministries officers that is important to the women in the local churches.

The women of Central Region were faithful during this time in support of love gift, white cross, scholarship students, special interest missionaries, refit and the AB GIRLS.

During Mildred's tenure, board letters, agendas and also other correspondence was sent by e-mail to all members of the board who had access to the internet. This resulted in considerable savings in postage expense.

Summer conferences were held annually:

2002 – June 7-9 at Bethel College, Newton, KS.

Theme: "In the Healing Arms: Sheltered in Love, Faith and Hope"

Speakers: Rowena Cowles, national coordinator of personal development
Patrick Pang, Rainbow Acres

2003 – June 6-7 at Ottawa University, Ottawa, KS

Theme: "Keeping Balance While the World Turns"

Speaker: Kristine Lutton, national executive director for development

2003 – June 13-14 retreat at Camp Christy, Scott City, KS

ABW Ministries
Conference 2003

Introduction of officers



2004 — First time conference held at Cross Wind Conference Center

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004 ■ HESSTON RECORD

WOMEN ON THE MOVE



CHRISTINE WYRICK/HESSTON RECORD

ABOVE: More than 150 people attended the Central Region American Baptist Women's Summer Conference at Cross Wind Conference Center in Hesston on Saturday. It was a two-day conference. Attendees came from across Kansas and parts of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

RIGHT:

Magada Craven gets lunch started during the Central Region American Baptist Women's Summer Conference at Cross Wind Conference Center in Hesston on Saturday.



2004 – June 4-5 at Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, KS (1st time held in our own Central Region conference center)

Theme: “To be Victoriously Balanced in His Hand”

Speakers: Susan Markwood, national coordinator of resources → on left

Ellen Brown, → on right
special assignment missionary (she works with the families, particularly the children, of missionaries)



AB Women’s Ministries of the Central Region’s annual projects during Mildred’s term were:

2001.2002 \$ 20,000 for corrective surgery for women in Nigeria who have been injured in childbirth; \$10,000 for new surgical instruments for fistula repair work. Overage to be used to support on-going program development such as literacy and staff development.

Check for \$ 56,615.07 was presented to Dr. Lewis Wall on October 5, 2002 at Great Bend, KS during ABCCR annual gathering

2002.2003 \$ 30,000 to buy a new or used 15 passenger van for the Christian Center of Anadarko, Anadarko, OK. Any overage will be used to update the air conditioning at the Center.

Check for \$ 36,758.15 was presented on October 4, 2003 to Rev. Eric Feuerborn, director of Anadarko Christian Center at the ABCCR annual gathering in Topeka.

2003.2004 \$30,000 for a variety of ways to help Alaska. Overage to establish a fund to provide grants to mission work groups going to or coming from Alaska.

Check for \$ 35,233.83 was given to Rev. Alonzo Patterson at the ABCCR annual gathering in Dodge City.



Green Lake Nat’l Conference 8-1-2003

Central Region President, Mildred Booth, Presenting gifts to our two Central Region national AB Women’s Ministries presidents – Lois Chiles 2003-2006 and Karen Selig 2000-2003

Mildred's years as president were blessed by having many gifted women serve on the board. Without the service and cooperation of all these women, ministry to American Baptist Women of Central Region would have been difficult, if not impossible. Thanks to all of them and to the association presidents for their faithful service.

2001-2002

Rogene Moody (Topeka) recording sec'y; Lorene Brannin (Oswego) corresponding sec'y; Marie Smith (Overland Park) treasurer; Joan Marshall (Herington) personal development ministries coord; Linda Wallace (Minneapolis) love gift assoc; Dana Bliss (Council Grove) conference assoc; Lois Chiles (Lansing) editor assoc; Marie Hildreth (Coffeyville) church & community ministries coord; Rachel Hollingsworth (Atchinson) scholarship & student concerns assoc; Ethelyn Branum (Newton) historian associate; Phyllis Cline (Minneapolis) mission and service ministries coord; Elsie Fly (Hutchinson) special interest missionaries-refit assoc; Patricia Weese (DeSoto) white cross assoc; Kathy Wilson (Manhattan) project assoc; Jo Ann McDermott (Anthony) AB GIRLS coord; Marla Atkinson (Louisburg) AB GIRLS coord; Helen Pierce (Wichita) international students assoc.

Changes in 2002-2003

Katherine Simon (Morland) corresponding sec'y; Karen Freeman (Concordia) treasurer; Loretta Ramsel (Kansas City) personal development ministries coord; Jan Smith (Stilwell) scholarship & student concerns assoc; Peggy Wixson (Wichita) white cross assoc; Edythe Berglund (Lindsborg) project assoc.

Changes in 2003-2004

Ruth Van Arsdale (Wichita) recording sec'y; Carol Allen (Topeka/Ottawa) conference assoc; Carol Kirchmer (Newton) editor assoc; Jane Smith (Tulsa) mission and service coord; Phyllis Cline (Minneapolis) project assoc; Alva Skiles (Osawatomie) AB GIRLS coord.

Conferences are always fun! →

Wilma Engle, past president (87-89)

Jan Smith, and Jane Smith, president elect



Sept. 2004 – Aug 2007 - Jane (Mrs. Warren) Smith



Jane was raised in the First Baptist church, Parsons, KS and remembers attending ABW meetings with her mother, who served as a local president. Jane also remembers her mother boarding a train to attend “Houseparty” at Bacone College.

Jane made her public profession of faith and was baptized at the age of eleven. She was active in BYF, holding several offices and attending camps and conferences. Her first trip to Green Lake in the summer of 1960 left a very strong renewed commitment to serve.

Jane made the decision to attend Ottawa University – a decision that has had a great impact on her life and the life of her family. While attending Ottawa University, she spent summers working in the dining hall at Camp Crawford. This was also a great opportunity to witness many leaders at work and participate in programs and fellowship at the camp. It was also while attending Ottawa University that she met Warren Smith, a pre-ministerial student.

After they were married, Jane prepared to teach while Warren attended seminary. After seminary graduation, they moved to Winfield, KS where Warren served as Minister of Christian Education and Jane began a new career as mother and pastor’s wife. They have always approached ministry as a partnership.

Warren and Jane are the parents of three adult children who are all graduates of Ottawa University. Both Jane and Warren have served as President of the O.U. Alumni Association.

One of Jane’s goals was to always become involved in any community where they lived and to become acquainted with people outside their church family. Church Women United and other ecumenical efforts have always been a special interest.

When Warren accepted the call as pastor of First Baptist Church, Brighton, CO, Jane was soon involved in ABW, encouraging more activity in the local group and participation in the area and region. Soon a ministry of health kits for migrant workers was being promoted by the Brighton ABW. These were distributed through the local summer school program known as FISH in which people joined together to help strangers in need. During the Brighton years, Jane also became a PEO and served as president of her chapter.

In 1985 the Smith family returned to First Baptist Church in Winfield where Warren took up the reigns as Senior Pastor. Jane became involved in ABW Ministries on the local and association level.

As Walnut Valley Association president, she attended her first region board meeting in November 1986. In the summer of 1988 the association assisted in providing funding for her to attend the National ABW Conference at Green Lake, which was a wonderful experience.

In 1998, under the presidency of Evy Wall, Jane became coordinator of Church and Community. Although working full time in education, she made it a priority to make room for ABW Ministries.

A move was made to Tulsa, OK in 2001 as Warren began his ministry at Community Baptist Church. At this point, Jane began to realize that many people do not realize that Oklahoma is, indeed, a part of Central Region.

In 2003 Jane became the region coordinator of mission and service. After serving one year in this capacity, she was asked to accept the position of president.



Jane was elected and installed as president of American Baptist Women of Central Region at the annual summer conference in June 2004, as she accepted the challenge to “Be Victoriously Balanced in His Hands”.



**Officer
Installation →**

Serving as President of ABW Ministries of Central Region was indeed a growing experience. There have been many leaders in Central Region who have served in various capacities of national leadership. What a privilege to be a part of this group, attending the first board meeting in the summer of 2004, while Lois Chiles was serving as National ABW Ministries President. →

It was exciting to learn that the Central Region really is a “leader” region in our denomination. Our projects are outstanding: love gift is usually second only to West Virginia, and we give above and beyond in our white cross and missionary support. Our attendance at national conference at that time was one of the largest delegations. One year we received a banner for the largest percentage of increase in conference attendance.



Our *Information Bulletin* was renamed *Central Connection* and Jane’s articles during her presidency were “On the Journey with Jane”

A Young Adult Associate position was established, By-laws were revised and we gave financial support to all Central Region states for Church Women United.



**Eight of the 11 living past presidents were present at the annual meeting
in Dodge City October 2004.**

Back row: Wilma Engle, Wichita, (1987-89); Martha Beyer, California (1971-74); Shirley Fair, Alden, (1992-95); *Middle row:* Agnes Harris, Arizona, (1995-98); Anna Belle Poole, Kansas City (1978-80); Jane Smith, Tulsa (current president); *Front row:* Mildred Booth, Junction City (2001-04); Ethelyn Branum, Newton (1984-86); Ollice Smith, Kansas City (1990-92);

The other three living presidents are: Alma Fair, Alden (1969-71); Harma McKenzie, Ottawa (1981-83); and Evy Wall, Leawood (1998-2001).



Fashion show during our AB Women's Ministries annual meeting in Dodge City.



← Dr. Alonza Patterson, Executive Minister of Alaska accepting the \$35,233.83 check from Phyllis Cline, project associate of AB Women's Ministries Central Region 2003-2004 project

The 2004-05 project was Doctors on Call Service (DOCS) Health Care Clinic in Goma, Eastern Congo, to be used for post-operative and supportive care for abandoned, abused and injured women and girls, including classes to help women with job skills for a new life (\$25,197.20) and also the Nutrition Center in Vanga for critically ill and malnourished children and their families (\$ 15,197.20)



(Above) Steve Bernsden, administrator of Homestead Health Center, holds the plaque to be displayed in a van provided through the AB Women's Ministries/CR 2005-06 project which totaled \$ 53,499.27.

Our mission tour with missionary Judith Sutterlin was in April 2006. We traveled throughout the region allowing Judy to speak to every association and churches on Sunday. Judy serves with Nanjing Union Theological Seminary where she teaches General, Biblical and Theological English. She also serves as a liaison to Amity projects that International Ministries supports, including support for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and support for remote village medical clinics and health care workers. This was a perfect prelude to presenting the proposal for the mission project, although nothing could be said about it during the tour as the project still had several steps for approval. God's planning is perfect.



The 2006-07 project was for Village Clinic's Building Project in Western China and a remodeling project at the Central Region Mission Center (\$35,215.95)



Summer conferences are always a lot of fun and 2006 was no exception with the theme “Born Again to be Wild...and Free”

Viney Mae from Fruit Hill, Kentucky (Teri Peacock) was a big hit!

March 10-11, 2006 Board meeting

l-r from front row:

Jane Smith, Alva Skiles, Norma Frye, Doris Hill; Milly Chard, Carolyn Paul, Mary Dean Nelson, Wilma Engle; Ruth Van Arsdale, Ethelyn Branum, Lorene Brannin, Janie Allen; Thelma Lore, Shirley Fair, Laurie Neal, Barbara

Westfall; Helen Edwards, Kathy Brown, Linda Wallace; Winnie Davis, Karen Moreod; Carol Kirchmer, Jillinda Wallace; Carol Allen



It's always a fun, interesting time getting our AB Women's Min. display set up at our annual gathering in Oct.

This is at the hotel/conference center at Hutchinson

2006 Annual gathering luncheon speaker was Jeff Johnson. Wilma Engle was the ABCCR president.



← Jane Smith presiding at the business session at Conference June 2007

Board members gathered for another photo opportunity on the beautiful staircase at Cross Wind



Summer conference 2007 – Rev. Diana Holland, encourages us to “rest, relax, refuel and restart”

In 2006 the National AB Women's Ministries Board adopted the proposal for a national project dealing with human trafficking. While attending the board meeting and seeing the presentation, Jane felt a need to respond to serving on a task group to plan the project. This was just the beginning of what would lead to an even greater commitment which continued until Jane left the National Board in 2010 when she finished her national position as MidWestern Coordinator.

Officers serving with Jane:

2004-05 – Ruth Van Arsdale, recording sec'y; Katherine Simon, corresponding sec'y; Karen Freeman, treasurer; Loretta Ramsel, personal development coord; Carol Allen, conference assoc; Carol Kirchmer, editor; Laurie Neal, church & community coord; Jan Smith, scholarship assoc; Ethelyn Brannum, historian; Carolyn Paul, mission & service coord; Jillinda Wallace, SIM/refit assoc; Peggy Wixson, white cross assoc; Dottie McCrossen, project assoc; Alva Skiles & Marla Atkinson, AB GIRLS coord; Kathy Boaz, love gift assoc (resigned during year);

2005-06 – Helen Edwards, corresponding sec'y; Mary Dean Nelson, treasurer; Karen Morerod, personal development coord; Jan Morony, love gift assoc; Jan Lee, scholarship assoc; Norma Frye, white cross assoc;

2006-07 – Lois Chiles, recording sec'y; Monica Hendershot, conference coord; Dorcas Jackson, mission & service coord; Wilma Fast, project assoc.

Serving as President of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region is a wonderful experience. One realizes the support and participation that is not only our history but our present and future as well.

Veterans Village,
Iloilo City,
Phillippines
Showing workers
using materials sent
for White Cross



Sept. 2007 – Aug. 2010 Janie (Mrs. Donald) Allen



Janie Allen was elected president at the June 2007 summer conference of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region which was held at Cross Wind. She began her three year term in September 2007.

Janie had previously served as AB Women's Ministries president of the Missouri River Association (1985-88) and the Luther Rice Association president in 2004-2007. Janie also served as Central Region vice-president of leadership development 1988-91.

← pictured as she presided at the annual meeting at conference

Prior to her marriage to Don, a now-retired pastor, Janie graduated from Ottawa University and Central Baptist Seminary with a Master of Religious Education. During their years of service in the ministry, Janie served as a "volunteer" Christian education director as well as youth Sunday school teacher. She held various women's offices at the local and associational level during those years.

Soon after they were married, Don began his formal education by attending college and seminary. At that time Janie began her teaching career and taught for over 30 years at the junior and senior high school level. With each pastoral move, she sought a new school position and enjoyed her professional responsibilities as well as being a "pastor's wife" – even though she did not always fit that mold too well.

Janie and Don have three sons – Gregory, Jeffrey and Virgil; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Immediately after taking office in September, Janie attended the ABCCR Board meeting at Cross Wind. She became a member of the Mission and Stewardship Committee/team and served in this area for the entirety of her term.

The next immediate responsibility was the women's luncheon at the annual gathering, October 12-13, in Wichita. There were 163 present for the luncheon. All were inspired by the account of Dottie McCrossen's Central and Eastern European Mission Encounter.

Nadine Clark standing at women's display tables representing all areas →





Dorcas Jackson presents checks to Steve Van Ostran for remodeling at the Central Region mission center and to Ruth Clark for the Village Clinic's building project in Western China –Total was \$ 35,215.95



The National AB Women's Ministries theme for 2007-2009 was "Come to the Edge" with the theme Scriptures of Deut. 31:6, Joshua 1:9, Matt. 14:26-27, I Corinthians 16:13-14 and Philippians 4:13.

A two-year national mission project was "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century". A projected goal of \$250,000 would help victims of human trafficking. The funds received were directed to ministries that address sexual exploitation of women and children. Funds received would be divided equally between ministries in the United States/ Puerto Rico and international ministries.

The mission study themes for 2007-2008 were 'Children in Poverty: Let's Get Busy!' and Czech Republic and Bulgaria. There was a nationally sponsored Mission Encounter trip to Central and Eastern Europe which included Dottie McCrossen from Central Region.

The region project for 2007 was two-part with a total goal of \$30,000. Actual receipts of \$10,115.16 was sent to "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century" and \$27,537.53 was to be used to upgrade the staff house and mission cabin at Camp Christy. Magada Craven was the project associate.



Region board meetings were held at Cross Wind on March 14-15 and August 22-23 with a mini board meeting prior to conference.

The 2008 summer conference (including the annual meeting) was held June 6-7 at Cross Wind. There were 117 full-time conferees registered. The theme was "Pruning to Bear Fruit" with Scripture John 15:5. Ruth Spencer, president of ABC Churches in New York state was the keynote speaker. →

Conference associate was Monica Hendershot.





A mime group from Hutchinson presented a program.

Below is pictured the installation of officers by Winnie Davis.



The AB GIRLS Gathering/House Party was held July 11-13 at Cross Wind. The theme was "Christmas in July". There were 50 girls and 7 adults registered. The AB GIRLS coordinators were Alva Skiles and Marla Atkinson.

Central Region's Devra Redford, Leavenworth, was the national AB GIRLS convenor in 2007-2008. Jane Smith, Tulsa, was on the national AB Women's Ministries board as the coordinator of the Mid-West in 2007-2010.

As always, Central Region women were faithful with their financial gifts:

Love Gift (January-December 2007) = \$ 56,230.49

National Support = \$ 2,054.50

Refit for missionaries = \$ 1,272.50

National Endowment Fund = \$ 886.67

White Cross – overland = \$ 26,828.89

-- overseas = \$ 26,533.89

(including cash, postage and in-kind gifts)

Scholarships to 5 students at Central Seminary and 1 at Ottawa

There were also 16 Vital Partners from Central Region giving regularly to National Support.

Our *Central Connection* newsletter was sent to 931 subscribers and 35 complimentary issues.

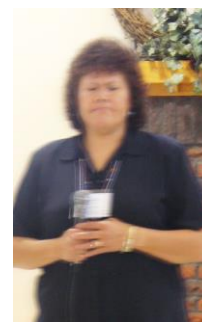
The position of Young Adult Women's Associate was established and Janet Crowl was appointed to serve in this capacity for a two-year term (Sept. 2007-09)

In addition to the usual responsibilities of the presidency in 2007-2008 Janie represented the women at a variety of gatherings, worship services, Love Gift banquets, special missionary speaker meetings, CWU local and state meetings and also installed local and association women's officers.

The national theme "Come to the Edge" continued for the 2008-2009 year. The mission study themes were "Children in Poverty: Look What God Has Done" and Myanmar and Thailand.

Central Region chose to use the national project "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century" as their 2008-2009 project. A total of \$ 33,120.58 was given by our women. Anita Yoakum, Valley Center, was the project associate.

The ABCCR annual gathering was held in Tulsa, OK with the women's luncheon on October 11. There were 127 present. Rev. Janice Blackman, representing the Good Samaritan Break the Chains program in Kansas City, MO was our speaker. The Rev. Kathy Longhat, pastor of the Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church blessed us with her inspiring vocal solo. →



During the week of April 14-19, 2009 Pat Brown, special interest missionary in Thailand, traveled across the region with the president to speak in each area. She told of hers and LaMon's ministry in Thailand as well as about the other missionaries. They logged 1,500 miles during the week speaking to 317 women and enlightening them to the missionaries' responsibility to develop partnership teams to help raise funding for their salaries. She offered the challenge to participate in the Luther Rice Society matching gift program and many met that challenge. It was a very significant week for Central Region women.

The board meetings were held at Cross Wind March 13-14 and August 21-22 with a mini board meeting on June 4 prior to the region conference.

The theme of the 2009 summer conference was "Come to the Edge...On Purpose" with Scripture of Psalm 138:8. The Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray, past president of ABC-USA, was the keynote speaker. →



One of the Central Seminary scholarship students, Mary Ramavathu, was also present. She is a homeopathic physician from India where she worked in the rural areas of Andra Pradesh with the Banjara

gypsy tribal groups. The mini project at conference was to help with her ministry in India. There were 121 women registered to attend full-time. Monica Hendershot was the conference associate.

We had a wonderful worship experience where we lit candles and then put them in the sand in the shape of a cross.



← Another worship experience was the servant act of hand washing by pastors and leaders.

2009-2010 elected & appointed AB Women's Ministries officers June 5, 2010



l-r Janie Allen, Debbie Kiker, Myrna Snedecker, Carolyn Predmore, Norma Reddick, Mary Etta Copeland, Lorene Brannin, Eileen Smith, Ardith Hurst, Janet Crawl, Susannah Dryden, Rita Siglin, Anita Yoakum, Magada Craven, Marilyn Edwards, Ethelyn Branum.

Absent were Beverly Fink, Phyllis Cline, Karen Freeman

The AB GIRLS gathering was held at Cross Wind July 10-12. The theme was “Coming to the Edge”. There were 44 girls and 7 adults registered. Debbie Kiker was the AB GIRLS associate.

The 2009 national AB Women’s conference was held July 25-31 at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL. The theme was “Women... Destined for God’s Purpose” with theme Scripture of Psalm 138:8. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins.



There were 24 women from Central Region in attendance with Ardith Hurst, Rita Siglin, Nola Crooks (Peggy Smiley scholarship recipient) and Janie Allen as delegates. Apparently three were missing in this photo.

Our Central Region participants in the national mission trip to Nicaragua and Costa Rico were Dottie McCrossen and Eileen Smith.

2009 Love gift contributions were \$ 52,159.00.

National Support = \$ 2,391.82

Refit for missionaries = \$ 1,606.08

White Cross – overland \$ 18,909.97

Overseas \$ 24,080.03

(including cash, postage, and in-kind gifts)

2 Scholarship students – 1 at Central Seminary and 1 at Ottawa Univ.

Central Connection subscription list was 831 with 19 complimentary copies.

During 2008-2009 year Janie continued to represent the women at national AB Women’s Ministries board meetings, ABCCR board meetings and association meetings. She spoke at local church worship services, friendship teas, and special missionary speaking engagements.

In 2009-2010 there was a new AB Women's Ministries theme: "Women...Destined for God's Purpose" Scriptures – Psalm 138:8 and Philipians 2:13.

Geographical mission study themes for this year were Costa Rico, Nicaragua, and Panama. The other study theme was: "Human trafficking: Brought, Bought, Used and Abused."



At the 2009 Women's Day in Pasadena, CA. the 60th anniversary A B Women's Ministries endowment fund campaign began with a two-year emphasis "Envisioning...for God's Purpose".

← Lois Chiles is the national chairperson for the campaign. Shirley Fair and Wilma Engle are the region co-chairpersons.

The Central Region project selected for 2009-2010 was for refurbishing at the Cross Wind Conference Center (carpeting and possibly new furniture). We exceeded the \$30,000 goal contributing \$ 34,222.04. Ethelyn Branum, Newton, was the project associate.

The ABCCR annual gathering was held in Junction City on October 9-10, 2009. The women's luncheon on October 10th had 126 present. The speaker was the Rev. Mary Hulst, → president of ABC-USA, who challenged the women to realize they were "Destined for God's Purpose".



National AB Women's Ministries proposed a Violet Rudd Sister-to-Sister Walk named for the first executive director of AB Women's Ministries from 1951-1976. Half of the proceeds would go to the Break the Chains projects and half to national AB Women's Ministries to provide leadership, vision and resources for women and girls.

Region board meetings were held at Cross Wind March 12-13 and August 13-14 with a mini board meeting on June 3 prior to conference.

The theme and Scripture for the 2010 conference was "Measuring Up – God's Pattern for Life" Jeremiah 29:11.

The keynote speaker was Chris Marziale, → International Ministries partnership assistant.





←Tomoko Armogast, one of our special interest missionaries serving in Japan, was also present and shared with the women. There were 155 in attendance.

Anita Yoakum was the conference associate.-->



Pictured below are some of those who attended our women's conference for the first time.



Jan Lee installed the officers for 2010-2011. (pictured below)



One of the highlights in recent years has been Jan Smith's bell choir. 'Everyone' wants to play in it – all you need is to be able to count and know your colors!





Food and fellowship are always great!!!



As she completed her term as president, Janie received a gift and a book of remembrance with letters and pictures from many of those who served with her, expressing appreciation for her wonderful leadership.

The AB GIRLS Gathering/House Party was held at Cross Wind July 9-11. There were 42 girls and 14 adults in attendance. The theme was “Who’s Your Daddy?” emphasizing that they are all ‘children of the King’. They enjoyed having a variety of mini-mission trips in the area. Deb Kiker and Myra Snedeker were the coordinators.



The national conference was held July 10-15 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, OH. The theme for this year’s conference was “Mission Possible”. The Rev. Christine Rousch → of Rainbow Acres was the keynote speaker and the ← Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez, missionary in Mexico, also shared in the program.



The delegates from Central Region were Juanita Parker, president-elect, Carolyn Predmore, Lorene Brannin, and Susannah Dryden was the Peggy Smiley scholarship recipient.

From May 10-16 women across the United States connected through technology for our first 'Break the Chain Virtual Mission Encounter'. They participated with missionaries in Costa Rico and Thailand and shared in a variety of national and international mission focuses. Jane Smith from Central Region shared in this virtual encounter.

And our women continue to give...

Love Gift for 2010 = \$ 51,999.09

White Cross – overland = \$ 24,685.00

-- overseas = \$ 31,382.00

National Support = \$ 2,154.45

Refit to missionaries = \$ 1,190.50

Scholarships to 1 Central Seminary student and 2 at Ottawa University.

Central Connection subscriptions were 761.

Four Central Region women attended the BWA Women's Dept. leadership conference in Hawaii – Shirley Fair, Crystal Wolgast, Carolyn Predmore and Jan Smith.

The national 'Break the Chains' two-year project has exceeded all expectations and has been able to fund projects into a third year making possible new ministries to help eliminate human trafficking around the world.

During 2009-2010 the president continued to keep involved with ABCCR board meetings, conference committee planning, speaking in various churches for women's Sunday and visiting association meetings. She was present for the CBTS convocation and ground breaking for their new chapel building.

During her term as president, Janie felt very grateful to work with the gifted and committed women of Central Region. She felt she received far more enrichment and blessings than she was ever able to share with others. The officers and association presidents who served with her provided a rich support system for the work that was undertaken.

Those officers serving in 2007-2008 were:
Lois Chiles, Lansing, recording sec'y; Helen Edwards, Lawrence, corresponding sec'y; Mary Dean Nelson, Concordia, treasurer; Karen Morerod, Kansas City, KS, coord. personal development min; Jan Morony, Colby, love gift assoc; Janet Crowl, Topeka, young adult women's assoc; Monica Hendershot, Pratt, conference assoc; Carol Kirchmer, Newton, editor; Beverly Fink, Manhattan, coord. church and community min; Jan Lee, Ottawa, scholarship and student concerns assoc; Phyllis Cline, Minneapolis, historian; Dorcas Jackson, Bella Vista, AR, coord mission and

service min; Karen Freeman, Concordia, special interest missionaries assoc; Norma Frye, Haysville, white cross assoc; Magada Craven, Coffeyville, project assoc; Alva Skiles, Independence, MO, AB GIRLS coord; Marla Atkinson, Louisburg, AB GIRLS coord; conference committee area representatives: Deb Taylor, Pratt; Dianna Cook, Anthony; Debbie Kinder, Kansas City, KS; Susannah Dryden, Winfield.

2008-2009 changes:

Ardith Hurst, Leawood, corresponding sec'y; Norma Redick, Stilwell, treasurer; Rita Siglin, Catoosa, OK, coord personal development min; Eileen Smith, Edmond, OK, scholarship and student concerns assoc; Magada Craven, Coffeyville, white cross assoc; Anita Yoakum, Valley Center, project assoc; Deb Kiker, Wamego, AB GIRLS coord; conference committee area representatives: Dianna Cook, Anthony; Janice Hawley, Meade; Debbie Kinder, Kansas City, KS; Deb Kiker, Wamego.

2009-2010 changes:

Lorene Brannin, Oswego, recording sec'y; Susannah Dryden, Lindsborg, love gift assoc; Anita Yoakum, Valley Center, conference assoc; Mary Etta Copeland, DeSoto, conference assoc intern; Carolyn Predmore, Stilwell, coord mission and service min; Ethelyn Branum, Newton, project assoc; Myra Snedeker, Winfield, AB GIRLS coord; conference committee area representatives: Deb Kiker, Wamego; Nola Crooks, Parsons; Janice Hawley, Meade; LeAnn Simon, Hoxie.



Sept 2010 – Aug 2013

Juanita (Mrs. Arlan)

Parker

Juanita Parker, a member of the First Baptist Church of Ness City, was elected and installed as our president at the annual meeting of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region on June 5, 2010.

Although her term of office officially begins on September 1, 2010, the incoming president begins her training by attending the National AB Women's Ministries Board Meeting and the national conference in July.

Juanita's career was as a business education teacher for 40 years in Ness County. During her teaching career, technology moved from manual typewriters to computers. She not only helped students achieve academic skills but also basic personal traits and a positive attitude. A highlight of her career was being selected to serve as a member of the National Business Education Committee to write and develop a National Business Education Curriculum Guide. She also taught college outreach courses for Dodge City Community College and a workshop presentation on typing for Emporia State University.

Since 'retirement' Juanita has computerized the accounting system for Prairie Mercantile, a small gift shop in the historical Ness County Bank Building and assisted the Ness County Bank Foundation.

Juanita has served as their church's AB Women's Ministries president as well as many other responsibilities in the church including Sunday School superintendent, church moderator, trustee, finance chair and assistant clerk as well as a variety of committees. She currently serves as assistant clerk and teaches an adult Sunday School class.

Juanita also served four years as the Western Association AB Women's Ministries president.

The Central Region American Baptist Women's Ministries president is automatically a member of the national board, which Juanita attended in July. The theme of the meeting was "Women Destined for God's Purpose: Renew, Renovate, Revolutionize!" The Ministry Team to which Juanita had been assigned recommended "In the Potter's Hands" as the theme for 2011-2013. The Task Force to which she was assigned was 'Break the Chains'.

National Conference (July 10-14) followed the board meeting. On Tuesday evening, Susannah Dryden, (KS), Pam Davies (MT) and Juanita presented an original skit written by Jane Smith (KS) encouraging women to become Vital Partners. It was a fun time with a lot of adlibbing.

Another responsibility of the president is as a member of our ABCCR Board of Directors. She serves on the Mission and Stewardship Vision Team. They meet in February, May and September, so this meeting was one of the first as



president.

2010-2011 elected & appointed AB Women's Ministries officers June 5, 2010

l-r Myra Snedecker, Debbie Kiker, Ruth Clark, Carolyn Predmore, Norma Redick, Mary Etta Copeland, Eileen Smith, Ardith Hurst, Janet Crawl, Susannah Dryden, Jane Smith, Rita Siglin, Anita Yoakum, Juanita Parker, Magada Craven, Wilma Engle, Marilyn Edwards
Absent: Melanie Cooper and Dianna Cook

The first major task of the incoming president is planning for our annual ABWM luncheon following the ABCCR Annual Gathering in October. During the summer Janie Allen helped to plan and prepare for it.



The meeting was held in Atchison with 110 attendees. With the small facility, it was necessary for the men and women to share the buffet line and table space for eating and then the men went to a separate room

Due to allergies from the wind and fall harvesting just prior to the meeting, Juanita could barely speak above a whisper so was very thankful for a microphone.



Carolyn Predmore introduced our speaker, Felicia Zamoja, a missionary in Nicaragua. She shared slides showing how difficult travel is during the rainy season as well as her work with the AMOS program and other missionaries. →



The final total for our 2009-2010 Cross Wind Project was \$ 34,222.04. Ethelyn Branum, project associate, presented the check to Ron Jones, Executive Director of Crosswind.

Ruth Clark presented our project for 2010-2011 which is to provide 60 half scholarships of \$500 each for seminary/ college students of the Christian University of Northern Haiti. (Goal of \$30,000.00). The University has taken in students as well as professors from other universities damaged by the earthquake.



Love Gift total for the year of 2010 was \$ 51,999.09

During the March 11-12, 2011 Board of Managers meeting Juanita showed us a plaque that had been sent to Carolyn Predmore from the Lisu Seminary, Pyin Oo Lwin Myanmar in appreciation for our 1998-99 project.



We had sent \$36,171.77 toward the construction of the women's dormitory.

The plaque was a brilliant gold, mirror finish which made it difficult to get a picture.



After a long afternoon of discussions, reporting and planning, it was time for some fellowship and fun. The popcorn popper burned the popcorn but we didn't lack for snacks.



Dominos are still a fun time

On Saturday we closed with a circle of prayer and song →



And then the conference committee worked to finalize ← conference plans.



2011 Summer Conference



As 136 women arrived at Cross Wind Conference Center for a weekend of being *Transformed by the Spirit* on June 3, 2011, they were welcomed by a beautiful yellow butterfly with streamers of welcome fluttering over an inviting spot to visit.

Theme Scripture was II Cor. 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold all things are become new."*

Mary Etta Copeland was our conference associate this year, moving up a year to assume responsibility when Anita Yoakum found it necessary to resign because of a work responsibility this same weekend.



The conference committee worked very hard at creating an atmosphere for a spirit of transformation in all areas of the conference center.

At the June 3, 2011 annual business meeting the women voted to keep the Love Gift goal at \$60,000; approved the budget, scholarship students, president's appointments, the new project for a garage at Bethel and elected the nominated officers.



Lois Chiles installed the officers with a creative idea using a packet of flowers for each which was symbolic of their new duties.

Offerings received at conference were: Love Gift -- \$ 1,138.01; mini project --Shawver garden--\$ 1,926.06; Project -- Haiti \$ 50.00; Virginia Holmstrom celebration -- \$ 208.00; Endowment fund -- \$ 601.00; History books & CD --\$ 390.00; AB GIRLS Auction & donations --\$ 726.00; Resource Center sales -- \$ 693.25; Conference

offering --\$ 1,148.20.

Conference speaker Rev. Glynis LaBarre serves as a *Transformation Strategist* with the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Throughout her messages “The Scariest Story in the Bible –Matthew 25:31-46”, “Living with Eternity in our Hearts – Revelation 21:1-5” and “Don’t Pass By – Luke 25:1” she challenged us to realize our potential and make the necessary adjustments to achieve what God has prepared us to accomplish.



There were many workshop opportunities for renewal and spiritual transformation, as well as worship and just for fun.

It’s always exciting to have women attend conference for the first time and it was a great joy for past president, Janie Allen, to welcome 33 first time attendees. Helen Edwards assisted her in placing a special butterfly on the name tags so that everyone would recognize them.



We were pleased to hear of transformations at Bethel Neighborhood Center from Rakmi Shaiza and Arambula Manuala.



A group photo of the **2011-2012 officers**



l-r back row: Nola Crooks, Vera Goodman, Melanie Cooper, Wilma Engle, Myra Snedaker, Melissa Newberry, Carolyn Predmore; Middle: Marilyn Edwards, Ruth Van Arsdale, Debbie Kiker, Jane Smith, Dianna Cook, Mary Etta Copeland, Elsie Kandt; front: Vonda Brecheisen,

Rita Adams, Juanita Parker

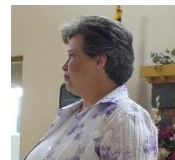
Absent: Lorene Brannin, Dana Bliss, Kami Minor.



first timers.

Rev. Mary Fabin led us in preparing our hearts and minds for our closing communion service together and our journey forward in our individual locations to transform the world for Christ. Mary Etta Copeland and her wonderful 2011 conference committee – l-r bottom to top:

Mary Etta Copeland, Nola Crooks, Naomi Teubner, Carolyn Predmore, Juanita Parker; Diane Denning, Theola Carter, Jane Smith; LeeAnn Simon, Rita Adams, Dianna Cook



AB GIRLS Praise Weekend had 49 attendees with 14 first timers.

Juanita attended the national board meeting in Milwaukee prior to the national ABWomen's Conference in Green Lake, WI. She became part of the Women's Day task force since it will be held in conjunction with the ABCUSA Biennial at Overland Park, KS on June 21, 2013.

The new missions statement for AB Women's Ministries is: **"American Baptist Women's Ministries is Christ centered, committed to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God."**

At least twenty-five Central Region women attended the **National ABWM Conference at Green Lake, WI. July 16-22, 2011**



1st row l-r –Rita Siglin, Crystal Wolgast, Magada Craven, Juanita Parker, Mina Adams

2nd row l-r –Gloria Tyler, Helen Edwards, Janice Wright, Dianne Cook, Eileen Smith, Jane Smith, Barbara Westfall, Elaine Clayton, Sally Clayton

3rd row l-r –Mary Wentworth, Patti Horner, Wilma Engle,

Karen Freeman, Carolyn Predmore, Jo Templin, Marilyn Matthews, Kay Pearson, Diane Zabokrtsky, Debbie Kinder (Dottie McCrossen missed the picture & there could have been others)



The conference theme was **"In the Potter's Hands"** with a theme Scripture of Jeremiah 18:1-6.

The first night Grace Johnson, seated at her potter's wheel, presented God as the Potter, whose



passion and power transform wounded, broken vessels into vessels of honor.



Karen Yee was a dynamic Bible study leader. Karen often reminded us that each of us need to study the Bible for ourselves.

Jill Lowery, who has been serving with her husband, Mike, in the Democratic Republic of Congo for over 16 years, shared news about the women who have been helped to get out of prostitution at the Mitendi Women's Center which was one of our projects in 1994-95.



We also heard from Dr. Bill Clemmer and Ann Clemmer who are involved in educational and medical ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of our poorest and most desperate nations in the world.



The AB GIRLS led the women in some praise songs

We even did some dancing



in the aisles

(Karen Selig & Barbara Westfall) →



The national board, complete in their western attire, presented a lively skit encouraging us to come to Nashville, TN for the national conference – July 21-27, 2012. (Juanita with her sunflower)

At our fall meeting August 12-13, 2011 we discussed that perhaps the tradition of women from Central Region wearing sunflowers with a banner that said “Central Region” was not being inclusive enough of the entire region as women identified the sunflower with Kansas rather than Central Region.



← Jill Lowery, missionary in the Congo, was our 2011 **annual luncheon speaker following the ABCCR Annual Gathering in Junction City in October.**

She spoke of the struggles that they have trying to protect the property at the Mitendi Center. They need to have a secure fence around the entire area to keep government persons from building houses on their property.

There were 92 women in attendance.

Anita Woywod introduced the 2011-12 project in the absence of Mary Etta Copeland. Bethel Neighborhood Center is in an impoverished part of Kansas City, KS. Their two 15-passenger vans are a vital tool for their ministries, but often the target of vandalism. A concrete garage will be built connected to the existing building at an estimated cost of \$30,000-\$35,000.

Our time was cut short as we were told we needed to vacate the room so they could prepare for the next group.

2010-11 Project total for scholarships for seminary students of Christian University of Northern Haiti was \$ 38,058.24 – providing for 76 scholarships.

Love Gift for 2011 was \$ 54,042.68

In 2012 Juanita was part of a national team who wrote an adaptive challenge for getting younger women involved in AB Women's Ministries: **"As women currently involved in American Baptist Women's Ministries, we need to determine if we can corporately promote the vision of identifying a core of younger women who will serve as the leadership of American Baptist Women's Ministries, equipping them with resources, providing them with a history, and offering them support for their future vision to be realized."**

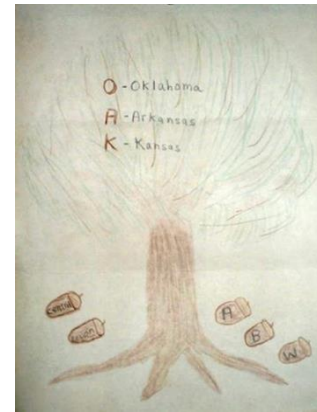
March 9-10, 2012 Board Meeting



The association presidents find their time of meeting together very valuable as they can share ideas and achievements and/or disappointments.



Deb Kiker reported that we had only four entries for our logo contest to replace our sunflowers so that it was more inclusive of our OK and AR members. The committee that also included Dana Bliss, Patti Horner and Rita Adams decided to let us choose from one of the four instead of only three.



There was a brief explanation by the artist. Each board member took time to look at each and then marked her vote. The choice was #2. The sunflower represented Kansas, the buffalo represented Oklahoma (although they were also in Kansas) and the pine branch represented Arkansas. The winner is Mary Atkinson, Coffeyville.

Plans are to have pins and perhaps T-shirts available for Nashville conference in July.



2011-2012 Board of Directors –

Not pictured: Rita Adams, Melanie Cooper, Amy Kiker, Marilyn Edwards, Bev Cummins and Katherine Simons

l-r bottom to top

Myra Snedecker, Kami Minor, Wilma Engle; Deb Kiker, Dana Bliss, Juanita Parker; Carolyn Predmore, Elsie Kandt, Nola Crooks; Susannah Dryden, Dianna Cook, Mary Etta Copeland; Ruth Van Arsdale, Vera Goodman,; Joyce Hudson, Jane Smith, Bev Cummins; Dottie McCrossen, Barbara Westfall, Patti Horner; Vonda Brecheisen, Melissa Newberry; Lorene Brannin,

Wilma Fast, Jo Templin; Crystal Wolgast.

On March 12, 2012 our executive director, Virginia Holmstrom, flew into Kansas City so that we (Lois Chiles, Virginia & Juanita) could view the Overland Park Convention Center where Women's Day would be held on June 21, 2013.

Virginia also wanted to meet with the faithful Vital Partners in Central Region who supported national women's ministries by contributing a minimum of \$120 annually and also with those who might be willing to become Vital Partners. We visited in Ottawa, Uniontown, Coffeyville, McPherson and Wichita.

The group in Wichita, pictured here, was the largest. The one in center front, Virginia Flesher, had been a prayer partner of Virginia's for years.



The week of **April 9-16, 2012** was the tri-annual **mission tour** across Central Region. **Marcia Binkley** was our missionary. First stop was Tri River Assn in Manhattan. While there they visited the shop of Carol Ann Holcomb and Lois Redman who created the stained glass windows that adorn



the hall that connects the new Baugh-Marshall Chapel to the newly renovated library and Central Seminary entrance. One of them includes a picture of the very first Baptist Church in Valley Center in 1902. →

Next stop was Gypsum for the Judson and Ark Valley Assn and then to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church at Hoxie for the Western assn. Next stop was Wichita for the Roger Williams/Walnut Valley Assn and then to Humboldt for Grace Hill & Crawford Assn and then to DeSoto to worship Sunday morning before going to Grandview Baptist in KC for the Luther Rice and Missouri River Assn. It was a very rewarding week although there were weather alerts throughout the entire week. Our women prayed and God protected throughout the entire 1,698 miles.

“In the Potter’s hands: uniquely and distinctly designed”

was the theme of our June 1-2, 2012 conference at Cross Wind , using the Scripture **“But now, O LORD, you are our Father, we are the clay and You are our potter, and all of us are the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8 NASB**

Members of the conference committee under the direction of Nola Crooks 1-r Front row: Juanita Parker, Ruth Van Arsdale, Naomi Teubner; 2nd row: Nola Crooks, Dianna Cook, Jane Smith, Carolyn Predmore; 3rd row: Diane Denning, Karen Freeman, Dana Bliss (Kathy Longhat not present)



A praise team of young women led our time of worship during conference.

Our Bible study leader was the **Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins** who is currently the Area Minister Consultant for Communications for the Philadelphia Baptist Assn and principal of Trust One, a spiritual direction and leadership coaching ministry.



Her interpretation of the Isaiah text and background history plus New Testament application was challenging and inspiring. Christians need to rise up and lead our country back to God.

Rita Chapman, Democratic Republic of the Congo, was our missionary speaker. Rita is a 3rd generation missionary married to a 2nd generation missionary.

Glen and Rita live at a rural church center and are involved in evangelism and leadership training. Glen teaches pastoral students at the Kikongo Pastor's institute where he is a professor of Old Testament, African religions and Baptist distinctives.

Rita develops and improves course materials for the pastors' wives. She teaches illiterate women to read and serves as a counselor. She emphasized that our White Cross bandages are still needed.

Because travel is so difficult by road or river due to mud and crocodiles, Glen invented a means to transport equipment to the various villages by air. He is met by a crowd at every village.





There were multiple excellent workshops provided, including ‘Tea with the President’, which also included Ruth Clark, ABCUSA president.

Proposed budget for 2012-13, changes to the By-laws, the Mitendi Fence Project for \$ 32,800, Love Gift goal of \$60,000.00 and Scholarship students Corey Fields and Jordan Rickerson, recommended by the board, were approved.

Special offerings received during conference were: Love Gift \$ 783.00, Mini Project (health care kits) \$ 1,035.21, AB GIRLS auction & donations \$1,322.00, Missions (Bethel) \$ 683.00, and conference offering \$ 977.00.

Following the election of nominated women, President Juanita Parker introduced elected and appointed officers to the group of 155 women assembled for the conference.



Past president, Ethelyn Branum, installed the **elected officers for 2012-2013.**

Pictured from l-r are: Ruth Van Arsdale, Juanita Parker, Rita Adams, Amy Kiker, Vonda Brecheisen, Theresa Hodges, Vera Goodman, Dianna Cook, Dana Bliss, Jane Smith, Melissa Newberry, Melanie Cooper, Elsie Kandt and Kami Minor. Debbie Kiker & Myra Snedeker were finalizing bids on silent auction. Gayle Thornbro and Janice Hawley were unable to attend and Carolyn Predmore had to leave early with her Japanese guests.



Rev. Melissa Newberry led our closing communion. It was a very meaningful and worshipful experience as we offered the basket of bread to our neighbor and then poured juice for her.



Then we held hands in concentric circles around the room as we closed with a song and prayer.



July 13-14-15, 2012

Sixty eight girls and leaders met together at the Mabee Center at Cross Wind Conference Center for a fabulous praise weekend.

For 27 of the girls this was a first time experience – and one they will never forget!! The girls stayed in the three lodges next to Mabee Center so it was a fun time deciding on who would share a room!



On Saturday morning they went to three different mission opportunities –Humane Society; Showalter Villa and Presbyterian Manor, who has four different areas to visit.

← waiting to go was the hard part. Note the pictures on the wall that they had made Friday night representing the four film clips they would

discuss in the afternoon.

Working together to measure, cut and roll, these girls completed 155 rolls of bandages for White Cross.



Group photo before they changed to pajamas for more movie fun and snacks!

The AB GIRLS will **not** have a Praise Week-end in 2013 as they will be a part of the Women's Day at

Biennial. They will have 30 minutes on the program and will have other activities during that time.

At the National ABWM Board of Managers meeting in July, the executive committee decided, because of expenses, to decrease the number of national officers. Each office would be phased out at the end of the current officer's term.

On the **national level** the position of Personal Development would end in 2012 and the position of Coordinator of Conference would be changed to Coordinator of Events in 2012. The positions of Coordinator of Love Gift and Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries would be phased out in 2013 and a position of Coordinator of Mission with Women and Girls would be

created in 2013. The Coordinator of Mission and Services would end in 2014. The president will appoint a national officer to serve as Board Chaplain annually (Sept through Aug)

It was recommended that states and regions continue with the present format of Coordinators and Associates.

Ten Central Region women attended the National Women's Conference in Nashville, TN July 21-27, 2012 →.



This was a combined meeting of American Baptist Women's Ministries and Women IN Ministry. There were approximately 170 in attendance with 27 first timers and 34 women in ministry.



Lois Olmstead was our motivational speaker and humorist. She shared her belief that strength, peace and joy come from a relationship with God. She has a very humorous way of sharing common ordinary events and encouragement.

Keynote speaker was Rev. Becca Stevens, founder of Magdalene Ministries and Thistle Farms. This is a community and social enterprise that stands with women recovering from violence, prostitution, addiction and life on the streets. It serves women for two years at no cost to residents.



Special music for our closing program was the First Missionary Baptist Church Women's Choir of Huntsville, AL.

At our **August 2012 board meeting** Juanita encouraged the women to read Central Region Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. John Williams' article in the FOCUS packet regarding the women's work in the Central Region and the theme for this year "In the Potter's Hands".

New board members Janice Hawley, Naomi Teubner, Winnie Davis and Theresa Hodges were welcomed.

Retiring officers Mary Etta Copeland, Lorene Brannin, Carolyn Predmore, Katherine Simon and Crystal Wolgast were recognized and thanked for their faithful service.

Juanita was one of three members of a national ministry team assigned to plan a ***Virtual Mission Encounter*** dealing with advocacy for the week of Feb 18-22, 2013 They included: *Monday – A Biblical Basis; Tuesday 0 American Baptists Speak Out; Wednesday – How to Raise Awareness; Thursday – Knocking on the Doors of Power – Advocacy in Person; Friday – What Can I Do?*

Our mission statement has been changed to: “AB Women’s Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.”

Since Jordan Rickerson has decided to go to Neosho County to pursue a nursing degree, we have only one scholarship student. Therefore, the Church & Community working group recommended that we open the scholarship application process for the spring semester with a Dec. 1, 2012 application deadline. Motion to approve recommendation was accepted.



Meeting was adjourned with the forming of a Friendship Circle and the group singing “Blest be the Tie”

Annual Gathering Meeting – Oct 13, 2012

The annual luncheon and business meeting of the American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Central Region was held at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park, KS following the Central Region Annual Gathering held at First Baptist Church of Olathe. There were 93 women and 2 children who gathered for lunch.



Prior to lunch President Juanita Parker recognized our ABC USA President Ruth Clark, other members who served in a national office, those who had ever served in an ABW/CR position, the current ABW/CR officers and the Association Presidents who were present.

After lunch Mary Etta Copeland, **2011-12 Project Associate, announced the monies raised for the Bethel Neighborhood Garage Project totaled \$ 36,729.00.** She will be presenting the check to Bethel.



Eileen Smith, 2012-13 Project Associate, presented information on the Mitendi Fence Project. The goal is

\$ 32,800.00. Mitendi Women's Center, located outside the capital city of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, ministers to marginalized and trafficked girls and young women.

Juanita Parker introduced our speaker Rev Patricia J. Hernandez, National Director of American Baptist Women in Ministry.

Patricia began her presentation with a bit of personal history – she had been a Guild Girl, scholarship student, and supported in Seminary – all by American Baptist Women.



She emphasized that when we hit rock bottom and are frightened or frozen in fear, we often give it all up to God – letting go of everything weighing us down, allowing God to peel off the layers, and opening ourselves to being 'formed and fashioned' by Him.

Routine reports were given. The offering received totaled \$530.



After forming the closing Friendship Circle, we sang 'Blest be the tie that binds' and Juanita thanked everyone for coming and

blessed all with a safe journey home through the midst of the storms in the area.

Total Love Gift for 2012 was \$ 53,003.63

At the March 2013 meeting the computerized logo, which was formatted by Juanita's grandson, Dylan Parker, was presented to the board. It was decided to add the slogan "Central Region is AOK" and to promote these as T-shirts and logo buttons at the upcoming Association meetings, through Central Connection and Central Region Life, with orders being taken for delivery at Summer Conference.



Adriana Chaney, Associate Executive Minister CR brought greetings on behalf of ABCCR. She thanked the ladies for their work and faithfulness, especially with missions.

The Annual Gathering will only be two days at West Side Baptist Church in Wichita on October 11 & 12. The goal is to make it possible for people to attend both the Biennial and Annual Gathering with the decreased time.

Mission and Service Ministries propose that the AB Women's 2013-14 CR project would be Murrow Indian Children's Home with a goal of \$33,040 for the various upgrades that are needed in order to comply with State regulations.

Elsie Kandt, White Cross Associate, reported that the Overland work is supporting four different locations and items are being sent to the Philippines and the Congo. To date we have less than 1/3 of the requested amount for Congo.



Deb Kiker, AB GIRLS Coordinator, reported that the AB GIRLS will be attending Biennial and will provide a VBS-style day care for children ages 4-7 on Friday to Sunday morning as well as attending sessions. They will be staying at Judson Baptist Church.

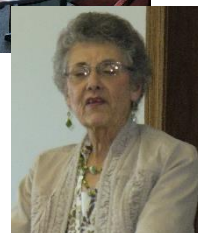
It was agreed that we would no longer provide complimentary issues of *Central Connection* for CR board members. We will continue with 9 issues with a cost of \$5.50 and \$7.00 for large prints with complimentary issues only for national board members and ABCCR individuals.

Application deadline for the Peggy Smiley Scholarship was moved to April 1.

ABWM CR Mini Board Meeting 6-6-13

On Thursday evening, June 6, 2013 the ABWM CR Board of Managers gathered to prepare for our annual summer conference and to conduct necessary business.

Of course, fellowship is a vital part of any board gathering.



Then it was time for business – Juanita Parker, president presiding.



← Melissa Newberry, Scholarship associate

asked for the board's recommendation to approve three qualified scholarship recipients – Cory Fields and Cindy Peterson at Central Seminary and Courtney Varney at Ottawa University.

Vera Goodman, Love Gift associate, recommended a goal of \$ 55,000 rather than the \$60,000 as we haven't been meeting our goal.



Following reports from other coordinators and associates, Juanita announced one-year appointments: Editor associate – Marilyn Edwards; Historian – Wilma Engle; Project – Anita Woywod.

Nominating committee report was given by chair, Wilma Fast: President – Mary Etta Copeland, DeSoto; Coordinator of Church & Community – Almira Collier, Topeka; Love Gift Assoc. – Jan Lee, Ottawa; Special Interest Missionaries & Refit Assoc. – Carolyn Paul, Goodland; Conference Trainee Assoc. – Jessica Williams, Overland Park; AB GIRLS Coordinator – Debbie Kiker, Wamego (agreed to extend her term 1 year)

Our new logo T-shirts and pins were to have arrived Wednesday but still were not here. Vonda was continually checking on them.

Following the mini board meeting, officers and associates set up displays and had a little time for sharing with each other.

Dianna Cook & Kathy Longhat →



Treasures in Jars of Clay – June 7-8, 2013

Banners and friendly smiles welcome women to our summer conference at Cross Wind.



**Theme
"Treasures in
Jars of Clay",
was displayed.**



It's always a joy to greet old friends and make new ones as we gather together.



Dianna Cook welcomes 165 conferees. 156 were from Kansas, 7 from Oklahoma and 2 from other states. Twenty-nine women were attending for the first time.

We are extremely fortunate to have one of our own as the **ABC USA president. Ruth Clark**, who served as pianist, is the daughter & daughter-in-law, wife and mother of ABC pastors and is very involved in the worship and educational life of Judson Baptist Church in Kansas City. Ruth brought greetings on behalf of the entire denomination.



Jan Smith, music leader, got everyone involved in action songs of praise. We need to be willing to be molded by our Potter/creator to become what He wants us to be. →

Adrianna Chaney, ABCCR staff also brought greetings.



Each woman could choose 3 different workshops from the 12 that were offered.

During our 'free' time Janice Carter demonstrated how to make pottery. →

Rev. Sandra DeMott Hasenauer was our keynote speaker. She has served as associate executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries since 2002.



Sandy's theme was II Corinthians 4:7-9. She said that although jars of clay were common in Bible times and could be easily broken, today we could relate better to a single flimsy paper plate.

Each woman was given a plate as Sandy reminded us that a paper plate is a serving vessel in spite of its' weakness. When several plates are stacked together there is strength in number. Together we are engaged in ministry!

Our missionary speaker, Betty Martin, has served as Executive Director of Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, OK since January 2010.

The mission of Murrow is to provide a safe, nurturing environment, spiritual foundation and cultural experience to Native



American children in crisis. In order to comply with State regulations, Murrow is moving toward providing a “family- like setting” with live-in house parents. With this change, the three cottages must be upgraded with new living additions for the live-in-house parents. Door and window alarms and cameras must be installed. The total cost for upgrading each cottage is approximately \$160,000. Betty is applying for grants from various foundations to fund the cost of these renovations. The cost for just the security upgrade is \$ 23,040.

In the business session, we voted to adopt as our project for next year \$33,040 to cover the cost of the security upgrades with an additional \$10,000 to go toward the renovation costs.

Nola Crooks, national nominee for Coordinator of Mid Western Region of AB Women’s Ministries, installed the **2013-2014 officers and appointees.**



l-r Carolyn Paul, Marilyn Edwards, Elsie Kandt, Myra Snedecker, Kami Minor, Theresa Hodges, Rita Adams, Melissa Newberry, Janice Hawley, Elizabeth Spiess, Jan Lee, Vonda Brecheisen, Mary Etta Copeland, Gayle Thornbro, Dana Bliss, Danica Hellner, Valerie Paxson, Jessica Williams, Anita Woywod, Barb Beesley, Wilma Engle. Absent: Ruth Van Arsdale, Amy Kiker, Almira Collier, Debbie Kiker. Elizabeth Spiess, Valerie Paxson and Barb Beesley are conference committee (not on board)

Each one was given a “JOY” lapel pin to remind her to serve with joy.



Vonda called retiring president, Juanita Parker, up to receive her gift and then gave her a sack with beautifully wrapped items – including a silver tray with the \$1 Good Will price tag still

on it and a silver painted pitcher, creamer and sugar.



It definitely was not what was expected! But the levity helped prevent shedding tears of joy, as well as sadness for the end of her term.

Vonda explained that the real silver tea set did not arrive, and she’d been told that she could give it to Juanita at the annual gathering meeting so when it arrives, she can have it engraved and give her the real thing.

Juanita did get a book ‘*God Never Blinks – 50 lessons for life’s little detours*’ by Regina Britt, that she can enjoy now.

A special thank you to all of the conference committee: front l-r Elizabeth Spiess, Dianna Cook, Juanita Parker, 2nd row: Kathy Longhat, Valerie Paxson, Karen Freeman; 3rd row: Jane Smith, Dana Bliss, Theresa Hodges; top: Gayle Thornbro. Ruth Van Arsdale was ill and hospitalized so unable to be with us.



Rev. Melissa Newbery, Rev, Kathy Longhat and Rev. Jessica Williams led us in our closing communion service.

Next summer's conference will be June 6-7, 2014.

Within just a couple weeks (June 21, 2013) the big event took place – **National Women's Day at Overland Park Convention Center.**



We had gotten our T-shirts and thanks to Vonda Brecheisen's persistence the logo buttons arrived in time for the biennial so many women were identified as Central Region members.

The planning committee included: Juanita Parker, Janie Allen, Lorene Brannin, Lois Chiles, Mary Etta Copeland, Shirley Fair, Deb Kiker, Dottie McCrossen, Carolyn Predmore, Jane Smith and Naomi Teubner.

AB GIRLS were a vital part of Women's Day. In addition to being on the program, they came on Thursday afternoon and helped stuff 250 bags with the "goodies" donated by our Central Region institutions. On site committee members who could help were there also.



The luncheon tables were beautifully decorated with the glass square provided by the Conference Center plus a cluster of purple lilacs, donated by a flower shop in Ness City, arranged in the middle of the block.

In addition, there were more favors on the tables – some hand lotion made and donated by ABWM, DeSoto, KS, and a bag with hand sanitizer and other items from Bethel Neighborhood Center. To brighten the luncheon tables, a variety of brightly colored cloth napkins were placed in each glass, with colors being alternated among the tables. Tables were lined up all through the massive corridor.

Holly Balch was our music leader and Mary Etta Copeland and Karen Wells were at the keyboard for our time of worshipping in music. They are all from FBC DeSoto.



Women's Day was declared a **huge success**. This was only possible because of the unity and helpfulness of the Local Arrangements Committee. Central Region women made a very positive impression on all who attended.

The last of July was the

National Women's Conference at Pointe Hilton, Squaw Peak Resort in Phoenix, AZ. Only seven women from Central Region attended. 1-r Eileen Smith, Carolyn Predmore, Dottie McCrossen, Wilma Engle, Mary Etta Copeland, Pat Belden & Nola Crooks



Jim McCrossen and Richard Copeland also came with their wives.

Mary Etta Copeland, as the newly elected president, got an introduction to the work on a national level at a 4-day board meeting prior to the national women's conference.



← The new theme for the next two years is: "A Time to Serve" They did have excellent programming and it was very

inspirational.

There was a time for the alumnae (those who have been officers of the national ABW) to get together. Eileen Smith & Wilma Engle (in CR logo Tshirts) were a part of this group.



This is the entire national ABWM board, including Mary Etta & Nola from CR.

Then it was time for the **August board of managers meeting** – a very busy few months!

At the August board meeting the newly elected members are always invited to join us so that they can get acquainted and the retiring woman can explain the job to her.

Juanita gave a special welcome to all incoming members—Mary Etta Copeland, president, Jan Lee, Love Gift Assoc, Carolyn Paul, SIM & Refit Assoc, Jessica Williams, Conference Intern, Debbie Kiker, AB GIRLS Coordinator; Almira Collier, Church & Community Coord; Assoc. presidents – Lynn Hoyt, Grace Hill & Carolyn Predmore, Luther Rice.



We heard reports from officers and the association presidents. Marilyn Edwards reported that she anticipates a loss of \$456.01 for the Central Connection subscriptions. Discussion followed. Rita agreed to send National their copies in PDF format. Board members would be offered the same option to save printing & postage costs. It was voted to increase the rates for 2014-2015 by \$1. A free will offering of \$274.50 was received to help with the deficit.



John Williams, Executive Minister of Central Region, brought greetings to the Board. He thanked the ladies for their faithful service. He specifically referenced the recent Mission Summit and the incredible experience which occurred at the event. Central Region will host the Summit again in two years.

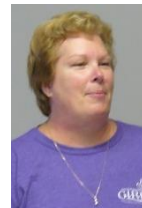
Lois Chiles has agreed to be the local arrangements chair once again.

John spoke of the recent flood damage to Cross Wind Conference Center and the significant impact of the damage. John reported that One Great Hour of Sharing funds were released to assist with the financial strain. The Annual Gathering is scheduled to be at Cross Wind for the first time on October 18-19.



Games, popcorn and fellowship followed adjournment for the evening.

Deb Kiker reported that 11 people had participated at the Mission Summit. The AB GIRLS hope to attend again in 2015 but they also desire to continue their Praise Weekend events.



Praise Weekend for 2014 is planned entirely with a theme of “Taste and See that the Lord is Good”. The weekend is scheduled for July 11-13. She thanked the ladies for their support and getting AB GIRLS into a better financial situation.

Juanita reported that each Region is eligible to apply for a \$1,000 grant from national ABWM to be used in developing leadership. Several suggestions have been given as to how we would want to use the money but no decision at this time.

Suggestions were presented for changing the Standing Rules and By-Laws regarding the term limits placed on officers serving on the Central Region Board. Current rules were examined and explained. It was voted to have a committee to examine them for possible revisions. This will be Deb Kiker, Barbara Westfall and Jo Templin.



Speaker for the Annual Gathering Women's luncheon will be Anita Gutierrez.

Juanita passed the presidential gavel to incoming president, Mary Etta Copeland and then recognized retiring board members, thanked them for their faithful service and presented them with a small gift.

Juanita shared: "It's always a joy to serve with other godly women but when there is a special connection, it's even more special.

"Many women with whom I served had connections common with mine. Some women with whom I was acquainted became 'real'; no longer a face and a name. "And last, but not least, Conference Committee, I loved building the three-layer cakes for our meetings!"

And then, Vonda presented Juanita the **real** sterling silver tea set. It was all packaged in a beautiful sack, but the box had never been opened. Juanita had to borrow 'tools' to get the box opened so that each lovely piece could be



removed and admired by board members.

We closed the meeting with our usual circle of prayer and song.

Our scholarship students this year were Corey Fields and Cindy Peterson.

Women serving with Juanita during her three year term included:

Ardith Hurst & Rita Adams, Corr. Sec'y; Lorene Brannin & Janice Hawley, Rec. Sec'y; Norma Redick & Vonda Brecheisen, Treasurer; Rita Siglin & Ruth Van Arsdale, Personal Dev. Coord; Susannah Dryden & Vera Goodman, Love Gift Assoc; Mary Etta Copeland, Nola Crooks, Dianna Cook, Dana Bliss & Gayle Thornbro, Conference Assoc & Interns; Jane Smith, Church & Comm. Coord; Eilene Smith & Melissa Newberry, Scholarship Assoc; Carolyn Predmore & Theresa Hodges, Mission & Service Coord; Melanie Cooper, Special Interest Missionaries & Refit Assoc; Magada Craven & Elsie Kandt, White Cross Assoc; Deb Kiker, Myra Snedeker & Kami Minor, AB GIRLS Coord. Janet Crawl & Amy Kiker, Young Adult Assoc; Marilyn Edwards, Editor; Wilma Engle, historian; Ruth Clark, Mary Etta Copeland & Eileen Smith, Project Assoc.

Association presidents included: Wilma Fast, Ark Valley; Joyce Hudson & Bev Cummins, Grace Hill; Patti Horner, Crawford; Linda Wallace & Susannah Dryden, Judson; Barbara Westfall, Missouri River; Jo Templin, Roger Williams/Walnut Valley; Crystal Wolgast, Winnie Davis -Tri-River; Dottie McCrossen, Luther Rice; Katherine Simon, Western.

Appointees to conference committee included: Dianna Denning, Karen Freeman, Naomi Teubner, Elizabeth Spiess, Valerie Paxson, Theola Carter, LeAnne Simon and Kathy Longhat.

Scholarship students included: Mary Ramauvathu, Corey Fields, Cindy Peterson, CBTS;

Brittany McCullough & Courtney Mabe & Courtney Varney, Ottawa Univ; Amy Kiker & Susan Zamen, Bacone.



Sept 2013 – August 2017

Mary Etta Copeland

(Mrs. Richard)

Mary Etta Copeland (DeSoto Baptist) was elected as president of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region at the annual meeting on June 8, 2013.

Although the term doesn't officially begin until September, the learning process begins in June.

Mary Etta was introduced in her early teens to 'ABW' as her mother was very involved and became president of Missouri River Association. At First Baptist Leavenworth Mary Etta was involved in camping leadership and as a sophomore in high school became the 'paid' organist/pianist and choir director.

Although offered a bigger scholarship at KU, she chose to go to Ottawa University where she met Richard Copeland on her first Sunday night at OU and 2 ½ years later married him. During his time at CBTS she taught 4th grade, was chapel organist and as president of student wives traveled with Mrs. Ruth Losh to churches in surrounding states.

Upon graduation from seminary Richard was called to the New Hope-Ruhama Baptist Parish -two extremely vital congregations. Against sincere, logical and sound advice they followed God's call in the fall of 1967 to pastor a congregation in DeSoto that was meeting in a small basement area under the shell of the current expanded building – and they have continued to minister there!

Mary Etta's plans were not always God's plans for her. Instead of six children, she had two very healthy and brilliant gifts from God who are now very respected teachers. She had only planned to teach until Richard finished seminary, but God's plans were for her to teach in elementary classroom for two years and

the remainder of her 50 year career in choral music with 46 of those at the high school level, which also included teaching psychology and community service with building a house for Habitat for Humanity.

Mary Etta also coached cheerleaders for 15 years and directed more than 50 Broadway shows. She founded DeSoto Community Theatre. She also earned her Masters of Music Education degree from KU. God provided many unique experiences for her – performing with John Jacobson in Chicago with 3500 students and making peanut butter sandwiches for the homeless; Carnegie Hall performance in NYC; performing American and Canadian National Anthems at the *International Conference on the Exceptional Child*; performing National Anthem arrangement by Brad Prince dedicated to her and her singers for a major Chief's football game on national television; induction into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame in Dodge City; 2001 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team; and finalist for National Teachers Hall of Fame.

During her career she also taught youth church school classes and has supported all ABW Ministries projects.

She has led about 15 Women's Retreats for DeSoto Baptist involving 50 or more women in each and was also Conference Intern and Associate on the region level prior to becoming president.

These are the elected and appointed officers and the association presidents who served with her as she began her term as president.

2013-14 Board of Directors:

l-r bottom to top:

Wilma Engle, Ruth Van Arsdale;
Debbie Kiker, Naomi Teubner,
Susannah Dryden; Carolyn Paul, Mary
Etta Copeland, Gayle Thornbro, Jo
Templin; Patti Horner, Theresa
Hodges, Barbara Westfall, Wilma Fast,
Carolyn Predmore; Marilyn Edwards,
Janice Hawley, Winnie Davis; Myrna
Snedeker, Melissa Newberry;
(Adriana Chaney -ABCCR Assoc
Exec), Elsie Kandt; Almira Collier,
Rita Adams; Vonda Brecheisen.

Absent: Jan Lee, Amy Kiker, Dana
Bliss, Jessica Williams, Anita
Woywod, Myra Snedeker and Lynn
Hoyt.



There were many notable accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities not previously experienced by Mary Etta. June was a month filled with an abundance of work, great inspiration, and great joy from the presence of God that was in each event that brought us together –Central Region Conference and then the Biennial at Overland Park.

July brought the introduction of work on a national level when the new president journeyed to Phoenix, AZ for 8 days, attending both the National Board Meeting and the Women's Conference. (see p 189 or separate report)

Planning for the Central Region ABW Ministries new year officially began with the August Board of Managers meeting held at Cross Wind Conference Center, with both outgoing and incoming officers attending. This process allows for verbal interaction on the job descriptions, challenges, and suggestions from outgoing officers and questions from incoming officers.

The first event for which Mary Etta was responsible was the Annual Gathering women's meeting on October 19th.



The 2013 annual luncheon and business meeting were held at Cross Wind Conference Center following the Central Region Annual Gathering. There were 114 women who gathered for lunch.

Following lunch, Mary Etta recognized our ABC President, Ruth Clark, other members who served in a national office, those who had ever served in an ABW Ministries CR position, the current officers, the association presidents who were present and the Bacone students who had joined us for lunch.

Cindy Peterson, scholarship recipient, expressed her thanks for the cards and e-mails as well as appreciation for the scholarship. She indicated that her calling from God was not to be a pastor, but to do community ministry, building relationships outside the church. Currently she is an occupational therapist in KC MO working with infants from birth to three years of age and she works with respite once a month for children with special needs.





Guest speaker, Anita Gutierrez, indicated that she will be returning to Africa on Tuesday following our luncheon. She grew a special bond with Central Region approximately 10 years ago when they were first a Special Interest Missionary. She expressed her gratitude for the wealth of fantastic communications as the ladies of the Central Region remember their birthdays, holidays, Christmas and anniversary.

Naomi Teubner provided piano music as our offering of \$728.72 was received.

2013-2014 Project Associate, Anita Woywod, presented information on the Murrow Indian Children's Home project, which is to help them meet state regulations. Our goal of \$ 33,040 is to cover the cost of security upgrades with an additional \$10,000 toward renovation costs.

During the business session minutes were approved and treasurer's report accepted. Written reports were distributed at each place to save meeting time and give everyone the opportunity to take the report packet home. Coordinators were given the opportunity to highlight their written reports.



After forming the closing friendship circle, the group sang "Yes, Lord, Yes" and "Blest Be the Tie". Mary Etta thanked everyone and prayed for a safe journey.

Love Gift for calendar year of 2013 was \$ 50,076.17. This is nearly \$10,000 short of our goal and brought some concern because of the impact on ministries within our own region.

In 2013 Central Region had 34 Vital Partners, comprised of 31 individuals and 3 churches, who support our national AB Women's Ministries through giving a minimum of \$10 per month throughout the calendar year.

In addition to our amazing women working on the Region level, we are thrilled with the involvement of women from Central Region on the national level: Ruth Clark finished her term as President of the ABCUSA; Wilma Engle, National Alumnae Coordinator for AB Women's Ministries; Lois Chiles, Vice President of American Baptist Home Mission Society; and Nola Crooks, Mid-West Coordinator for AB Women's Ministries.

A widening offering of opportunities with women across our nation and denomination will be available with the Virtual Mission Tours in May and September, the Intergenerational Retreat at Green Lake in July and the Bahama Cruise in September.

The Spring Board of Managers meeting was March 7-8, 2014.

Routine business was accomplished. Following discussion, Melissa Newberry recommended that the scholarship guidelines be changed to read, “must be enrolled as a full-time student of Central Seminary, Ottawa University, Bacone College **or another ABC private affiliated college or university** (sophomore, junior or senior)” This was approved and the change will be effective on the 2015-2016 applications. This was in recognition of the fact that some choose to go to an ABC college out of state although they are members in Central Region.

Mini board meeting was held on June 5, 2014 prior to the summer conference. Routine business accomplished and recommendations made to be voted on at the annual meeting.



78th summer conference of American Baptist Women of the Central Region “A Time to Serve” June 6-7, 2014

Theme Scripture was I Peter 4:10-11 NIV

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”



Conference Associate was Gayle

Thornbro. Conference Committee pictured from left to right are: Elizabeth Spiess, Gale Thornbro, Mary Etta Copeland, Ruth VanArsdale, Valerie Paxson, Danica

Hellner, Theresa Hodges, and Barb Beesley, registrar. Almira Collier also served on the conference committee but was attending her granddaughter’s wedding in the Bahamas.



Worship times were held at the Mabee Center. It’s a wonderful time of fellowship as well as worship.

The welcome and opening prayer were given by Conference Associate, **Gayle Thornbro**, who so



ably stepped up about three months ago when the elected associate was unable to continue those responsibilities.



←President Mary Etta Copeland introduced each member of the Board of Directors, who stood in place.

Our keynote speaker was Rev. Lisa Harris who used the Scriptures Luke 10:1-9, 17-20 for the ‘Re-hearsal’ portion; Luke 10:38-42 for “Re-creation” and Romans 10:14-15 for “Re-new”.

For Lisa, mission is a “call to be witnesses in a world that is out-of-balance spiritually, emotionally and materially. It is a call to be missionaries in a cross-cultural, cross-generational, cross-economical way that sometimes requires we cross oceans and borders and, other times, requires we just cross the street or county line.” She stated that it is not a question of *whether* we serve but *how*. Altogether this year we had 44 women who came to conference for the first time.



These were the ones present on Friday →

With a total of 172 women attending, nearly ¼ registered as first time attendees.



There were many fascinating workshops from which to choose and each woman had the opportunity to attend three of them.



We were thrilled to have special guest Jill Lowery, AB missionary serving in the Congo and manager of the Mitendi Fence Project of 2012-13 which resulted in \$39,288.34 toward building a wall around their 12 acres to protect their garden from the destruction of livestock and from squatters and soldiers.



← The Mitendi Center’s managers – Mama Alice Koba, Jill Lowery, and Mama Pauline Mfulu (*pictured here with the wall in the background*) – have fought several land battles in the last five years. Jill gave us an up-to-date report on the struggles and how God had often miraculously intervened when all seemed hopeless.

Worship was a very special time for all. Some songs we just sang, others we clapped and for others we lifted our hands in praise to our God.



Our project missionary, Betty Martin, who is Executive Director of Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee, OK was scheduled to be with us but an emergency at the home made it impossible for her to attend.

In a workshop which she had planned to lead, the group made gifts to send to the children at Murrow.

Lisa Harris also brought cards for us to write notes to each one of the children. Each child will receive 4-5 notes of encouragement from the women plus the gifts that were made for them.



On Friday evening we had a reception time for everyone – honoring EVERY woman serving. Winnie Davis organized the event and Tri River women baked the cookies.

A very special privilege was to have a report from Ruth Clark, past-president ABC/USA, including praises for answered prayer and requests for special prayers for countries in conflict and for safety of our missionaries.



During our business session, **the board's recommendation for the 2014-2015 project was approved.**

“It is a combined project with the goal of \$32,200.

- \$18,000 is designated to purchase a vehicle for the INSAAF ministry that provides ‘Justice and compassion in the name of Jesus’ in Lebanon to foreign maids in and out of prison. and
- \$14,200 is designated for a media system in the Mabee Center at Cross Wind Conference Center.

Any overage will be contributed to the Centre for Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon for the purchase of computers and computer training.



Ruth VanArsdale installed the new officers as well as those continuing and recognized those who were finishing their terms of service. She also presented a challenge to all those present to serve as well as to support the officers. Each officer was given a lapel pin with a clock & “ABW- A time to serve”. The officers went down from the stage and filled in the center aisle, joining hands with others as we had a closing prayer.



This year's mini project was to fill the book bags with monies for Bethel Neighborhood Center to aid them in the purchase of Back to School packets.

After another amazing message from Rev. Lisa Harris, we closed with communion.



Lisa explained that the cracker we eat is a reminder that Jesus gave his body for us. The grape reminds us that Jesus shed his blood for our salvation.



Servers stood at the four corners of the room and each



woman went to receive her communion in a paper container and then returned to her seat. All shared the elements at the same time. We joined hands in a circle for our closing song and prayer.



Gayle Thornbro was given a beautiful angel holding a clock in appreciation of her stepping up to lead conference this year. On the base was inscribed “Time? It’s time to serve! Conference 2014”



AB GIRLS hosted a Praise Weekend on July 11-13, 2014 with the theme of “Taste and See that the Lord is Good”. It was a cooking and serving event with various flavors. There were 27 girls present. A mission trip took them to Newton and Hesston. Games, a movie, a praise party and a visit from Snow White completed the weekend.

Central Region attendees at World Missions Conference – July 21-25, 2014



“Rise to the Challenge”

Imagine yourself in a 100’ X 135’ tent with approximately 1,200 other men and women singing praises to God, hearing Paul’s message to the Ephesians with applicable up-to-date examples as described by Dr. Miriam Adeney every morning and outstanding programs every evening. (Amazingly, it was air conditioned)



Then consider having the opportunity to attend your choice of about 65 workshops (two daily) led by our some of our 118 missionaries who serve in 74 nations; having the opportunity of one-on-one visits with any of our international missionaries as well as ‘Table Talks’ with your choice of 110 international leaders

from more than 50 countries around the world who work in partnership with our missionaries.

If you attended the early morning devotions at one of five locations you could have heard from missionaries around the world – France, Lebanon, South Africa, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Democratic Republic of the Congo and others.

That's just a taste of what it was like to attend the World Mission Conference at our American Baptist Assembly, Green Lake, WI. You should have been there!

Many participated in the Step Walk and their sponsors donated over \$7000. The first to finish was a 15 yr old girl who ran the route. Because hundreds chose a bowl of rice, lentils with a taste of chicken lunch instead of the regular lunch buffet on Thursday, we will be able to send \$2,610 to help feed those in refugee camps.

Approximately 40 men and women from Central Region were in attendance. Picture on previous page included 28 of them. Some failed to hear the announcement of when & where we were taking the picture. It was an unforgettable experience celebrating our 200 years of international missions!



← A group of women who had served on the national AB Women's Ministries board had an impromptu gathering one evening after the services. Wilma Engle, (4th from left), Eileen Smith & Shirley

Fair (on right) from Central Region attended.

A B Women's Ministries Intergenerational Retreat July 26-29, 2014 **"A Time to Serve: Deepening Relationships"**

"To equip His people for works of service; so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)



Registration began at 4:00 pm on Sunday with the opening gathering at 7:00 pm We met around tables in the Morehouse rooms in Bauer Lodge. There were 120 in attendance. Many more women attended the World Mission Conference but did not stay for our retreat.

We began with praise songs led by AB GIRLS.



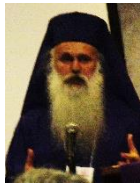
← President Patti Stratton called the annual meeting to order with prayer.



Bonnie Higgins presented the new **national logo** by means of video.



The national board felt that this would be easier for women to identify with since it is almost impossible to fully explain our current logo on the website, etc. This is a national choice and regions or local AB Women's Ministries groups are welcome to continue to use the 'Logo Lady' if they choose to do so. This is the logo for the AB GIRLS →



At our Sunday morning worship service, Virginia introduced the Most Rev. Dr. Malkhaz Songulashvili, Metropolitan Bishop of Tbilisi and Senior Pastor of Peace Cathedral in the Republic of Georgia. He shared with us how they must move new Christians gently from their ritualistic Catholic background to more freedom in Christ. They model their worship so that it is comfortable for participants.

Our retreat facilitator and Bible study leader was a dynamic little woman. Rev. Yana J. C. Pagan is 4'11" tall and 38 years old. She has been a professor of Justice at Esperanza College of Eastern University since 2010. Her general topic was: **"You are Worth It" Eph. 4:13-14**



The Christian life is like gardening. If you plant, you don't just walk away and come back later. You invest in the future. Growing disciples takes similar effort. You must cultivate relationships through consistent effort.



← This group from Puerto Rico led in praise and worship.

Peggy Johnson, former ABC/USA president, and her granddaughter, Rachel, presented a very meaningful skit showing the differences in thought patterns and how we do things in each generation. →



We were divided according to birth month and then paired together as prayer teams to discuss specific questions about ourselves and then we moved on to a new set.

← Prayer team – Marilyn Koch, (IL) Wilma Engle (KS) and Susan Price. (IA) (We had three instead of two)



Central Region women attending: 1-r back row – Gale Floyd, Wilma Engle, Jerre Brown, Carolyn Predmore, Lucy Silk, Diane Zabokrtsky; front row:-- Nola Crooks, Mary Etta Copeland, Barbara Westfall, Eileen Smith, Dottie McCrossen & Barbara Beasley.

At our **August 2014 Board of Managers meeting** we had the following reports: AB Women's Ministries of Central Region website is now operational.

Marilyn Edwards reported that the digital subscriptions to Central Connection resulted in a savings of \$225.

Elsie Kandt reported that 1,220 women, 62 men, 8 AB GIRLS and 21 youth worked to complete the **White Cross requests for the year May 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014.**



2014-2015 Board of Directors

1-r bottom to top --
Theresa Hodges, Gayle Thornbro, Mary Etta Copeland, Wilma Fast; Carolyn Predmore, Elsie Kandt, Wilma Engle, Janice Hawley; Elizabeth Spiess, Barbara Westfall, Marilyn Edwards, Jo Templin; Carrie Marion, Valerie Paxson; Beverly Fink, Rita Adams, Lorene Brannin; Danica Kitch, _____, Linda Callaway;
Absent: Kay Brown, Winnie Davis, Norma

Redick, Jan Lee, Amy Kiker, Almira Collier, Carolyn Paul, Mary Wendt



ABW Central Region Ministries Gathering Luncheon October 18, 2014

The women met in the conference center dining room for our luncheon and annual

meeting.

President Mary Etta Copeland welcomed all the women and Barbara Westfall asked God's blessing on our food and time of fellowship together.



Our Scholarship student, Cindy Peterson thanked us for our prayers, cards and financial support. She has used the gifts she has received to provide clothing and toys for needy families with whom she works in her job.

Our 2013-14 project associate, Anita Woywod, was not able to be with us due to the illness of her husband so **Mary Etta presented the check for \$ 40,850 to Betty Martin, Murrow Children's Home.** Anita had signed certificates for the participating groups.



← Betty accepted the check with tears of joy. She said the children had been sleeping on mattresses in plywood boxes and they felt each child should have an actual bed, so they had started to buy some. She asked to use some of the extra funds for the rest of the beds.

Jane Smith, project associate, promoted our new project for 2014-15.

Our guest speaker was Marcia Binkley who, along with her husband Duane, has served in Thailand since 1982, working with an irrigation and agricultural development project among the Karen tribal people of NW Thailand.

In 2007 the Binkleys were asked to remain based in the US to help refugees connect with each other and with our American Baptist and Cooperative Baptist churches wherever they are being settled throughout the US.



All reports for the business session were printed and approved.

We closed with a friendship circle of prayer and singing "Blest Be the Tie"



At our **March 6-7, 2015** AB Women's Ministries



Board meeting routine business was accomplished and Easter cards were signed for all our Special Interest missionaries, thanks to Carolyn Paul.

Adriana Chaney was our guest from the ABCCR staff. She is retiring so Mary Etta presented her with several gifts. Adriana has always been very supportive of our women's ministries.



Board meetings are not just a time for business but also for getting better acquainted and having good Christian fellowship.



We gathered in a circle for our closing song and prayer!



The **Mission Tour**, which takes place during the second year of the presidential term **was April 15-21**. Chauffeured by Pastor Richard Copeland, Mary Etta accompanied **missionary Miriam Noyes** of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a speaking tour across our region.

Miriam spoke at DeSoto Baptist Church and then on to association meetings and a final visit to the Central Region office.

The ABW Ministries Board of Directors met on **June 4, 2015** for a mini board meeting prior to conference. Carolyn Paul, Winnie Davis and Wilma Engle were unable to attend due to family illnesses. Cards were signed for them and were mailed by Rita.

Tammy Creech was nominated to replace Kami Minor and Debbie Kinder was selected for the position of Corresponding secretary to replace Norma Redick.

Mary Etta said the mission tour was a great experience and served as an enticement for her to be in the associations more.

The price of directories will remain at \$3.50 for the coming year.

Special interest missionary assignments remain the same until 2017.

It was noted that Turley's are to come off the list and the Chetti family has an address change.



June 5-6, 2015

Theme of the AB Women's Conference held at the Cross Wind Conference Center at Hesston, KS was

"Serve Him – See Him"

in celebration of the concluding theme and introduction of the new theme for 2015-17 which is SEE.

"There are different ways of SERVING,, but the same Lord is served." I Cor. 12:5 TEV *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may SEE your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* Matt 5:16 NIV

There were 146 attendees with 20 registered first-timers plus many more that realized they were first timers at a region conference after we started recognitions.



Conference Associate, Gayle Thornbro, and her team of Godly, diversely gifted women provided a weekend of fun, fellowship, learning and inspiration.

These are some of the women attending for the first time with their gifts.



Mary Etta displays the cup that was being given to every attendee.



Our keynote speaker, Lois Olmstead's messages were set in humor to open minds and disarm our guarded hearts against hearing words of rebuke that need to be heard. It was a message that lived on in your life long after leaving Hesston. She believes that strength, peace and joy come from a relationship with God. God gives us abilities to benefit others.



Missionary Terry Myers had a beautiful display of Bulgaria. Tom and Terry's work with the prostitutes of circle road, the refugee families, the Roma children and



families is very difficult and void of much apparent human success. They have been blessed by the love, warmth and generosity we have shown toward them and their ministry.

Our mini project was to purchase a used car for the Myers when they return to Bulgaria. \$ 1,536 was given,



There was a total of 15 workshops from which to choose.

Mary Etta presided over the business session in which we accepted the **combined project for 2015-16**

(1) “Raise \$15,000 to build a dorm to house 100 children to turn Meitei Baptist Association’s school in Wangjing, Manipur, India into a residential school. The purpose is to house and feed orphans and local children, many who come from illiterate families that survive by farming.

(2) raise \$15,000 to help Camp Christy upgrade kitchen facilities at the camp”. They have a comprehensive plan, Revive Camp Christy, to upgrade thee facilities. Any excess of the goal will go to Camp Christy.”

A reduced Love Gift goal of \$50,000 for the new calendar year of 2016 was approved.

Our scholarship student, Cindy Peterson, will not be able to attend CBTS full time this next semester as classes she needs are not available. It was voted that we give a half scholarship of \$250 to be sent to the seminary.

Minutes and a proposed budget of \$59,560 were both accepted.

The nominating committee Winnie Davis (chair), Wilma Fast, Jo Templin and Barbara Westfall presented the following nominations, who were elected. Debbie Kinder (Corresponding secretary 2 yr) Tammy Creech (AB GIRLS Co-Coordinator 2 yr) Milly Chard (recording secretary) Cosette Marsh (young adult women’s ministries) Linda Wallace (Mission & Service Coordinator) Sandy York (AB GIRLS Co-Coordinator) Melissa Newberry (Conference Assoc Intern)

Officers were installed by Vera Goodman.



Officers then put on their glasses so that they could “SEE”

Conference offerings were generous, with a total of \$ 6,315 designated as follows: Love Gift \$865; Conference \$991; Special Mission Project \$ 1,491; Mini-project for Myers’ car - \$1,536; Silent Auction for AB GIRLS \$ 1,431.50.

A continuation of scholarships for attendees, as available, was made possible through our HAM “Honor a Mentor” scholarships. A total of \$1,033 is now in the account for future conference scholarships. Money is given in memory or to honor faithful women whose lives have contributed to the work of our ministries.

The **National Board** met June 22-25 in Kansas City prior to Women’s Day. As the host region, Mary Etta gave Board members the same bags and mugs

that our women had been given at conference.

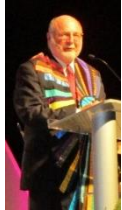
Since president Mary Etta Copeland had to leave for a granddaughter's wedding during that week, Jo Templin graciously filled in on the 2nd and 3rd days.



Mission Summit 2015 – once again in Overland Park, KS was co-hosted by Central and Great Rivers Regions.



Central Region's Lois Chiles was once again the local coordinator for the entire mission summit →



← Roy Medley, ABC USA General Secretary

Amazing music by different choirs throughout summit



Wil Brown and Kathy Longhat of Central Region added a Native American influence to the mission summit.

ABCUSA President, Don Ng. →



ABCUSA Past-President, Ruth Clark, (Central Region) →



A national alumnae breakfast was held on Women's Day at the Mission Summit. Central Region attendees included Lois Chiles, Wilma Engle, Harma McKenzie, Janie Allen and Jane Smith

Theme of Women's Day was "And Who is My Neighbor?" reflections on Luke 10:25-17.



Mid West Coordinator, Nola Crooks, was responsible for much of the organization of our Women's Day

Our Central Region was represented at Women's Day on June 26, 2015 with 91 women.



We were welcomed by AB Women's Ministries Executive Director, Virginia Holmstrom. → and by our national AB Women's



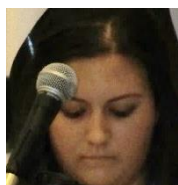
Ministries president, Patti Stratton →

This is 65th anniversary of being American Baptist Women nationally. (Kansas waited another 20 years to change from Woman's Mission Society to American Baptist Women of Kansas)



A group of AB GIRLS also shared in the program.

Mary Etta served as hostess for the keynote speaker, Rev. Tamara Jackson, who spoke on Sacred Safe Spaces →



← Meghan Cubbison, Central Region, and granddaughter of Jane Smith, was the National Leadership Team AB GIRLS nominee.



350 women attended the lovely luncheon at which decorations and favors were provided by Tri-River and Grace Hill/Crawford Associations and the DeSoto Baptist Women.

AB GIRLS met at Cross Wind on July 10-12 for their Praise Weekend.

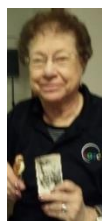
They had 47 participants and leaders. Their theme of "Can You Hear Me Now?" included internet safety, videos, movies, sessions, work projects and swimming. It was a beautiful combination of inspiration and fun as well as service opportunities. Girls were divided into appropriate age groups for presentations

since it included girls from third to twelfth grades.

Central Region AB Women's Ministries Board met on August 7-8, 2015 at Cross Wind Conference Center.

Several changes were made during the business session.

- Due to the high cost of returning unsold resources ordered for Summer Conference, we will only have samples available and groups can order their own supplies.
 - A major change came in the process of filling White Cross requests. The Division of Missions very quickly and successfully was able to work within the new guidelines so that associations would have quotas.
 - Mary Wendt reported that reports from 9 associations showed that 82 churches completed their **White Cross report for May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015**. There were 882 women, 52 men, 15 AB GIRLS and 14 youth who helped to give \$ 15,795.08 for our Overland quota and \$ 25,337.30 for the Overseas quota for a total of \$ 41,132.38.
 - It was approved for Elizabeth Spiess and Valerie Paxson to trade years to serve as Conference Associate. Elizabeth will serve in 2016 and Valerie in 2017.
- Shirley Fair shared that \$10,000 has been sent to Burma through One Great Hour of Sharing for the massive floods and difficult situations.



In response to a request from Beverly Fink, Wilma Engle read a bit of history regarding sending gifts to Japanese evacuees in relocation camps in 1942. Beverly's mother had sent gifts from their church and apparently included some information about her family as one of the girls sent a bird, as well as her picture, to Beverly. Beverly still has it and shared with us. → .



In response to a request from Danica Kitch, Scholarship & Student Concerns Assoc., it was determined that it might be fitting to broaden the scholarship criteria to include human services while still maintaining the integrity of the founder's intent. Church and Community group will reword the criteria and bring to the board for approval.



← Mary Etta distributed gifts to outgoing Board members with the Scripture Isaiah 4:18-19. Gifts included pottery, a book, a crystal clock, and a crystal dish – “not identical but equal”.

As we joined hands in a circle we closed with the songs “Near to the Heart of God” and “Blest be the Tie” and with prayer.



2015-16 Board of Managers of AB Women's Ministries of Central Region



l-r bottom to top: Sandy York, Linda Callaway, Mary Etta Copeland, Tamara Creech, Milly Chard; Elsie Kandt, Jo Templin; Carolyn Predmore, Barbara Westfall, Marilyn Edwards; Elizabeth Spiess, Valerie Paxson, Rita Adams; Carrie Marion, Danica Kitch, Naomi Teubner, Wilma Engle; Beverly Fink, Linda Wallace, Lorene Brannin; Melissa Newberry, Cosette Marsh, Shirley Fair, _____ Debbie Kinder.

AB Women's Ministries Luncheon at the ABCCR Annual Gathering October 10, 2015



President Mary Etta Copeland welcomed all to the annual luncheon and business meeting with a special welcome to first time attendees.





← Jane Smith gave us the final accounting for our 2014-15 project. The total was \$ 38,792.94 with \$ 14,200 going to Cross Wind for the sound system in the Mabee Center and the balance to the missionaries in Lebanon to purchase a van and other needs.



← Naomi Tuebner and Danielle Massaglia promoted our new project for 2015-16 which is another dual project of \$30,000:



- (1) \$15,000 going to the Meitei Baptist Association's school in Mangjing, Manipur, India to build a dorm to house 100 children.
- (2) \$ 15,000 to help Camp Christy in western Kansas upgrade their kitchen facilities at their camp, with any overage also going to Camp Christy. Danielle explained the great need and their plans for upgrading the facilities.



← Our speaker was our own Rev. Carolyn Predmore who, after graduating from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, was commissioned as a missionary to Japan. She worked with rural churches in the Seto Inland Sea area and then as an English teacher at Hinomoto Girl's School in Yokohama and then after earning her M.Div. she worked again with rural churches in the Seto Inland Sea area.

Carolyn's topic "Those called, Empowered – See" emphasized that those God calls, He also empowers. And Carolyn felt her calling for foreign missions through the Scriptures. She went to Japan to teach English in an area with less than 1% Christians.

During the business session Mary Etta reminded us that subscriptions to *Central Connection* are now due. All reports were printed for the attendees. Minutes of 2014 annual meeting, treasurer's report and the proposed budget had been approved by the Board.

She reminded us that we need to listen, then SEE, and then we need to feel God's call. The direction we think we are going may take a little different curve when we fix our eyes on Jesus.

We closed with a friendship circle, singing Yes, Lord, Yes and Blest be the Tie that Binds.

President's report for 2015

Love Gift total for 2015 was \$ 40,808.98 – \$9,191.02 short of our goal. This is both a positive and a negative – positive because while many regions are placing less emphasis on Love Gift, Central Region still recognizes the importance of these offerings to not just missions and women's work throughout the world, but also to ministries within our own Region, which, including the Kansas Plan,

receives a total of 64.64% of Love Gifts given through our region. It's negative only because we didn't reach our goal and total giving to Love Gift seems to decrease yearly.

All divisions had a year of successful involvement and activities.

Under the leadership of editor Marilyn Edwards, *Central Connection* is now available in digital form. Out of 523 subscriptions, 65 subscribers now receive it in a pdf format.

Melanie Cooper continues to share valuable information on our missionaries through her regular articles in *Central Region Life*.

Wilma Engle continues to do an outstanding job of documenting our ongoing history for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Central Region had 42 Vital Partners this past year comprised of 1 association, 2 local churches and 39 individual women, who support our national AB Women's Ministries through giving a minimum of \$10 per month throughout the calendar year.

We rejoice in the involvement of women of the Central Region and their leadership on the national level in various capacities. Ruth Clark has just finished her term as Past-president of the ABCUSA; and the following are currently serving: Shirley Fair, Board of General Ministries; Lois Chiles, V-P ABHMS; Nola Crooks, ABWM Mid-West Coordinator; and Meghan Cubbison (grand-daughter of Jane and Warren Smith) National AB G.I.R.L.S. Leadership Team.

Recognizing the impact of \$66,315 contributed in outreach with only 134 churches reporting an organized group, it's incredible to imagine the impact and outreach that could be accomplished if more were involved in our ministries.

=====

At the spring board meeting on March 4-5, 2016 a recommendation from Church and Community working group that "the requirements for the Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship allow for partial payment to students enrolled in at least half-time studies who meet the rest of the requirements" was approved.

Jan Lee, Love Gift associate, sent a motion that the 2017 goal be lowered to \$40, 000 since we have not been meeting our goal. Approved by board.

White Cross associate, Mary Wendt, reported that we are behind on our giving to White Cross and there has been a lot of confusion because no specific amounts were requested. It was voted that our goal for overseas White Cross be \$18,500 for the next year and that the White Cross committee select the countries to which these funds will be sent. Countries chosen were: Bulgaria \$7,000; Lebanon \$5,000; South Africa \$6,500.

The recommendation for the 2016-17 project was approved by the board and will be presented at the conference annual meeting.

Wilma Engle was presented gifts from board members to show their love to her in the loss of her home due to a fire in February. Included were cookbooks

signed by all board members, a money tree, tupperware and a dressy jacket.

Minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

During discussion of budget it was voted to change the standing rules under conference allowances to read "Remaining conference funds shall be placed in the conference fund" It was also determined that we would budget \$100 to National Support rather than the \$2,000 that we had in the past as that was more reasonable considering our income/expenses.

Marilyn Edwards recommended that the 2016-17 *Central Connection* subscriptions be changed to \$7.50 for regular print, \$10 for large print and \$5 for digital. Recommendation approved by the board.

At the June 2, 2016 mini-board meeting we approved the corrected minutes of the March 4-5 meeting as well as the financial report.

There are two scholarship applicants who are part-time attending Central Seminary. Nathan Marsh is working on his Doctorate in Ministry and Cindy Peterson needs 5 more classes to graduate with her Masters of Divinity. Both were awarded \$250 per semester.



**80th conference of
American Baptist Women of Central Region
65th anniversary of organization of
The National Council of American Baptist Women
June 3-4, 2016**

Seek... I Cor. 2:9 *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has*
Engage... *conceived what God has prepared for those who love*
Excite... *Him."*



Elizabeth Spiess, conference associate, introduced the conference committee who worked with her: l-r Cosette Marsh, Almira Collier, Rev. Jan Smith, Patti Horner, Linda Wallace, Mary Etta Copeland, Rev. Melissa Newberry, Eileen Smith, Vonda Brecheisen.

Not pictured: Rita Adams, Valerie Paxson and Linda Callaway



Jo Templin recognized those attending conference for the first time.

Peggy Johnson was our keynote speaker →
Peggy is a licensed lay minister, registered nurse, florist, writer, speaker, mother of two, grandmother of two and wife of Ted for 54 years.



In addition to numerous leadership roles in American Baptist Women's Ministries in Rhode Island and nationally, she also served on the ABCUSA General Board of Ministries, National Ministries Board, Executive Committee, Biennial Committee and ABCUSA President in 2004-05.

Topics of her three messages were:

SEEK: HIDE...and...SEEK

ENGAGE: CRUISE CONTROL...or...SELF CONTROL

EXCITE: THE ADVENTURE BEGINS



← We won't forget how she took this dead looking plant on Friday night and with proper care had a healthy plant on Saturday as she spoke about our new adventures.



The mini-project for this year was to provide new standard size pillows for every bed at Cross Wind, including the conference center and lodges. Goal was 189 pillows @ \$10 each. We took a pillow from the display as we donated and put it in the collection area. →



In February 2016 the Excel Industries plant in Hesston was the scene of a mass shooting rampage that left 3 dead and 14 injured (10 critically). The shooter also died at the scene. As a service project, we are providing a bookmark and two cookies per 1100+ employees for their Monday break time.



The board members brought nearly 3,000 cookies so first responders will also be included.

A special thanks to the three husbands who accompanied their wives to conference for their help in packaging the cookies for individual servings.

There were a variety of activities to enjoy during free time.



← Women brought a multitude of items for the AB GIRLS silent auction. This picture shows only a small portion of them. A total of \$1,025.50 was raised to help cover the cost of the girls attending the Praise weekend.

On Friday, during our free time, we celebrated the 65th anniversary of the organization of The National Council of American Baptist Women.



Traditional 65th anniversary star sapphire symbolizes hope, faith and destiny.

Rev. Melissa Newberry honored the women who have been part of our organization for at least 65 years with a certificate for 65 years of service.

Honored were: Jean Epperson (DeSoto BC); Virginia Sharp (Great Bend, Central BC) since 1943, Betty Fenton (Topeka FBC) since 1930, Ruth Gillham (Humboldt FBC) since 1948 or 1949, Donna Schirer, (WSBC Wichita) since 1949.



There were three workshop times and 15 choices.



As well as leading a workshop, Eileen Smith shared a little with the entire group about her recently completed mission adventure from Manila, to Iloilo to Negros Island as part of the 2016 Discovery Team.



During lunch on Saturday we had the privilege of having Meghan Cubbison, missions coordinator for the 2015-16 National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS speak to us.



President Mary Etta Copeland called our business session to order. Minutes, treasurer's report and the proposed budget recommended by the board were all approved.

Linda Wallace, Missions Coordinator, explained the proposed project for 2016-17 as recommended by the board: "Support the Baptist University of Congo – This project seeks to raise \$31,500 to help UNIBAC support core faculty and visiting professors, improve teaching facilities, expand library resources and support the program for wives of pastoral candidates. This project will be managed jointly by UNIBAC and IM missionaries Glen Chapman and Ed Noyes". It was voted to approve this project.



Lois Chiles will be the project associate for 2016-17.

It was agreed that we would grant half scholarships to Nathan Marsh, working on Doctorate at Central and Cindy Peterson completing M.Div at Central since they are only attending part time.



Carolyn Predmore, chair of the nominating committee, recommended that we suspend for one year the By-Laws that state the term of office is for three years; keep Mary Etta as president for an additional year; and if a new president is elected, that individual would serve the remaining two years of that term. This came as a recommendation from the committee since they had been unable to find a nominee for president and Mary Etta had agreed to serve another year. After some discussion, this was approved.

Carolyn then presented the nominees and all were elected.

President for one year – Mary Etta Copeland, DeSoto

Coordinator of Church & Community – Karen Campbell, Topeka, KS

Love Gift Associate – Dianna Cook, Paola, KS

Special Interest Missionaries & Refit Associate – Gale Floyd, Topeka, KS

Conference Associate Intern 2019 – Kathy Longhat, Norman, OK

Scholarship Associate – Dorcas Romary, Humboldt, KS



Jane Smith installed the newly elected officers who were present, using the theme ‘Yes, Lord, Yes, to your will...’ using the Scripture from Psalms 39:1-6.

Returning officers and associates were asked to stand in place as she called out her name and position. Puzzle pieces were given to all Board Members; and they were asked to bring them to the August board meeting.



Melissa Newberry, Conference Associate for 2018, gave gifts of appreciation to the outgoing conference

associate, Elizabeth Spiess, president, Mary Etta Copeland, our mission speaker, Eileen Smith, and our guest speaker Peggy Johnson. Eileen Smith presented Peggy with a quilt she made →



Rita Adams recognized Mary Etta and her husband, Richard, for their service to ABWM and on Mary Etta’s retirement from teaching. She was given a basket of cards for them

to enjoy later and a gift card for a vacation to Green Lake.



Following the singing of “Passion” and “Abide with me” Rev. Keli Burfield, our conference pastor, led us in communion.

We were encouraged to GO FORTH...

“Seek. Engage, Excite.” We joined hands in a circle around the room to sing our closing song and have prayer.



AB G.I.R.L.S. Praise Week-end July 15-17, 2016
Sharing God's Kindness Ephesians 4:32

There were 49 attendees – 35 girls/youth and 14 adults. The girls started the weekend on Friday night making no-sew fleece blankets for the Asbury Nursing home. Thanks to the ladies who donated the blanket materials, they made 24.

On Saturday some went to Asbury Nursing Home in Newton and played bingo with the residents, handed out the blankets and then got to pet a huge pot-bellied pig that visited the home. Another group went to the Caring Hands Animal Shelter and delivered three tubs of supplies for the animals, including blankets, cat & dog food, toys, collars, cat litter & treats. The girls were able to feed the animals, make the treats, pet and play with the dogs and cats and walk the dogs. The third group stayed at the Mabee Center and made bracelets or necklaces to share with others.

Meghan Cubbison, member of the National AB GIRLS Leadership Team led the girls in two workshops that focused on bullying, kindness and caring for others.

On Saturday evening 16 yr old Suan Sonna delivered a message entitled “Overcoming Barriers to Kindness: Beyond Expectations” based on Ephesians 4 and John 4. He was the highlight of the evening.

Even though the weekend was a success for everyone that attended, the cost was \$514.79 more than the income, so the coordinators were paying for the gift cards for the speakers, gas money for Suan's travel and also for their registrations.

Eight churches were represented with 10 girls- grades 3-5; 17 girls- grades 6-8; and 8 girls- grades 9-12.

Board of Managers fall meeting – August 5-6, 2016

Mary Etta led in prayer for the many concerns among our board families. Carolyn Predmore presented Rebecca Pushee as the nominee for AB GIRLS Co-coordinator. She was elected.

Board approved the association presidents' recommendation that **nominating committee be comprised of two association presidents and one board member from a different area appointed by the president.**

They also approved the recommendation that conference committee take over the banner, Association Presidents act as communion servers and those who had these responsibilities will be open for special assignments.

The board also agreed with the recommendation that the speaker be right after the meal at the October annual gathering luncheon and that the business

meeting follow the speaker, with all reports being printed.

Christmas cards were signed by all board members for our scholarship students and special interest missionaries.

White Cross report for May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016 presented by Mary Wendt showed that 8 churches turned in reports with 63 churches involved, including 7 new churches. We had 774 women, 71 men, 21 AB G.I.R.L.S. and youth working on White Cross this year. We had 59 out of 63 complete their request. Our giving for overseas totaled \$ 18,389.06 and overland was \$ 9,849.38.

On Saturday morning everyone got out their puzzle piece given to them at the installation of officers in June. We had three puzzles to work and had to find our puzzle and put it together. We had a few missing pieces, but what a great break in the meeting.

Mary Etta recognized the new members on the board – Lois Chiles, Dianna Cook, Dorcas Romary and Karen Campbell and presented each with a pin.

Mary Etta also recognized those going off the board – Carolyn Predmore, Jan Lee, Carolyn Paul, Naomi Teubner, Carrie Marion, Barbara Westfall and Jo Templin. She thanked them for serving, sharing, and in God's timing doing His work. She also presented each a gift in appreciation for her service.

2016-2017 AB Women's Ministries Board of Directors



l-r bottom to top: Jane Smith, Mary Etta Copeland, Valerie Terrazas, Karen Campbell, Wilma Engle; Lorene Brannin, Milly Chard, Dorcas Romary, Shirley Fair; Barbara Westfall, Dianna Cook; Rita Adams, Gayle Floyd, Debbie Kinder; Melissa Newberry, Lois Chiles, Sheryl Stemmons, Jo Templin; Cosette Marsh, Linda Wallace, Rebecca Pushee.
Absent; Beverly Fink, Linda Callaway, Kathy Longhat, Marilyn Edwards, Mary Wendt, Tamara Creech, Sandy York, Kay Brown and Elsie Kandt.

Annual Gathering Annual Meeting – October 15, 2016

The women met Saturday noon at the Cross Wind Conference Center dining hall for their annual luncheon and meeting.



Songs of praise was led by Rev. Melissa Newberry and Ruth Clark.



Our guest speaker was Kristy Engel who is a Global Consultant for Health for International Ministries. She goes anywhere in the world there is a need. She was head of the pediatric department at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Limbe, Haiti; then assigned to the Dominican Republic.

In 2010, following the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Kristy coordinated the emergency medical relief, leading mobile medical teams every week for four months and then returned later that year to assist with the cholera relief efforts. She also began ministries in La Roma, including the social service program, physical therapy, employee wellness program and the children's education initiative, Esperanza (Hope).

In Dec. 2012 she became the regional health care missionary for the Ibero-American and Caribbean and has worked in health education, assessments and emergency relief, as in the Ebola crisis in Liberia in 2014. She had a multitude of fascinating stories to tell.



Naomi Teubner, project associate, reported the successful completion of our 2015-16 project to raise \$15,000 for a residential school in India and a total of \$18,493.86 for Camp Christy kitchen renovation.

Mary Etta Copeland presented the check for Camp Christy to Danielle Massaglia. →



← Lois Chiles promoted our 2016-2017 of Congo with a goal of \$ 31,500.

Closing circle of prayer



AB Women's Ministries Spring Board Meeting – March 3-4, 2017

In addition to routine business the following decisions were made:

- The 2017-18 project will be \$28,000 to be split between Homestead Health Center, Wichita and Central Region office. Homestead wants to update the dining room and fellowship room which are next to each other with new tables and chairs, update the snack bar area with a refrigerator. Central Region conference room will be updated with tables and chairs. Any overage will be split between the two projects.
- We accepted the nominating committee's recommendation that we combine Personal Development Coordinator and Love Gift; Scholarship with Church & Community Coordinator; White Cross and Special Interest Missionaries

with the Mission & Service Coordinator; and eliminate one conference intern and entertain the possible option of co-presidents. Positions would be combined when the current terms expire.

- We also approved the nominating committee's recommendation that an Association President be eligible for an elected position on the board.

It was reported that ground breaking for Bethel Neighborhood Center will be Saturday, April 8th at 11 am. Our 2011-12 project of \$36,583.89 multiplied to \$2,000,000 when the board decided to do a major renovation rather than just a garage for the vans.

ABWCR Summer Conference – June 2-3, 2017

SEE...the Light

See = Faith

CONNECT...to the Source

Feel = Love

FEEL...His warmth

II Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

I Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain...faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The conference theme was chosen using the analogy of a light bulb. Just as we can SEE the light from a light bulb, through faith we can SEE the light Christ brings into a dark world. For a light to shine the light needs to CONNECT to a power source. Through worship, prayer and studying the Word, we are able to CONNECT to our ultimate source Jesus! And finally, as we can feel the warmth that a beautiful lamp brings to a dark room, we can FEEL the warmth and love of Christ as we are renewed through spending time with fellow Christians and growing closer to Him.

This conference is a little unique in that Meghan Cubbison, AB GIRLS national missions coordinator, organized a girls event that is running simultaneously with our program.



Women and girls gather at Mabee Center in eager anticipation of events.

Valerie Terrazas, conference associate, welcomed the 133 women and girls to the 81st annual conference of the American Baptist Women of the Central Region and to 85 years of Love Gift Revitalization Celebration.



Valerie introduced the conference committee as they stood in place: Melissa Newberry, Kathy Longhat, Mary Etta Copeland, Linda Callaway, Karen Campbell, Linda Wallace, Cosette Marsh, D. Eileen Smith, Patti Horner, Carol Glover, Sherill Carlson, Rita Adams and Barbara Beesley.



President, Mary Etta Copeland, then introduced the Central Region American Baptist Women's officers as well as those serving on the national ABC level –Lois Chiles, AB Home Mission Society; Shirley Fair, Board of General Ministries; Rev. Kathy Longhat, International Ministries; Susan Rhodes, International Ministries; and Meghan Cubbison, AB GIRLS Mission

Coordinator.

Our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque has been pastor of the Community Church of Barrington since 2007. →

She has served on the staffs of multicultural, urban and suburban churches, both large and small. Rev. Zina has done extensive work in the areas of education, counseling and support programs.



Her topics were: **SEE the dawn: In the morning, we rise!; Connect with His Word – connect with your pillow; and FEEL your season – trust God's timing!**



Before we went to lunch, Kathy Longhat introduced those who were attending for the first time, so we could be sure to invite them to join us at our tables and make them feel welcome.



We could choose three of the fifteen workshops to attend. During the free time there were multiple activities – “85th Anniversary Love Gift” doodling; prayer walk; shopping at Unique Finds; or visit the Silent Auction



AB GIRLS Silent Auction total receipts were \$ 1,754 to help cover the cost of the Praise weekend in September as well as scholarships.

On Friday evening the girls joined with the praise team in leading our time of worship and praise!!



Dianna Cook led us in celebrating **85 years with**



Love Gift. Our Love Gifts from

1932 – 1937 were given through the K.I.N. District (Kansas, Iowa & Nebraska) and so we don't know the exact amount we gave, but from 1937 through 2016 we have given a total of **\$ 3,709,650.56** to aid ministries of our entire denomination! Our highest year was 1991 when we gave \$82,036.64 but since that time the amount has declined. Our goal for 2017 is \$ 40,000

Eileen Smith and Carolyn Predmore brought us updates on the missions that are supported by our Central Region.

As Dr. Zina came to give us her final message, Valerie expressed our thanks and appreciation for her challenging messages. She was presented a beautiful quilt. →



A bountiful supply of items were brought for our mini-project for Victory Village as well as \$ 786 in cash. These were gratefully received by Bill & Carole Cowell.



President, Mary Etta Copeland, conducted the business meeting.

In addition to routine business, we approved Mary Iang of Bacone College as a scholarship recipient for the 2017 fall semester.

Recommendation from the Board for the 2017-18 project was accepted. It is: \$28,000 to be divided evenly between the Homestead Health Center Inc and the Central Region office building. \$14,000 will be used by HHC to furnish a refrigerator for the snack bar and new tables and chairs for the dining area. The region office will use the \$14,000 to update the tables and chairs in the conference room. Any monies over the \$28,000 will be divided evenly between them.

Beverly Fink, treasurer, reported that in our offering we received \$1,021 for the current project, \$786 for the mini project, \$506 for conference and \$830.95 in a love offering for the keynote speaker. The 2017-18 budget was accepted following much discussion. It was voted to increase the love offering for Zina to \$1500 plus travel expenses.

Jo Templin presented revisions to the By-Laws and the Standing Rules of the ABWCR. These were accepted as presented.

Shirley Fair presented the nominations from the nominating committee: President: Barbara Westfall – 2 year term; Treasurer: Lois Chiles; Corresponding secretary: Jan Lee; AB GIRLS Co-Coord: Debbie Kinder; Scholarship & Student Concerns: Dorcas Romary; Personal Development Coord & Love Gift: Dianna Cook. Nominations were accepted and nominees were elected.

Shirley Fair installed the officers with a summary of each person's role



for their office. Each was presented with a memento to help them remember their role.

Pictured are: Jane Smith & Marilyn Edwards in front; Millie Chard, Cosette Marsh, Dianna

Cook, Lois Chiles, Barbara Westfall, Lorene Brannin, Melissa Newberry, Jan Lee, Rebecca Pushee, Kathy Longhat, Sheryl Stemmons, Karen Campbell, Dorcas Romary, Rita Adams, Wilma Engle, Linda Wallace, Valerie Terrazas, Elizabeth Spiess, Sandy York, Debbie Kinder & Shirley Fair.

She also presented a bag to Mary Etta, Linda Callaway and Debbie Kinder as they were completing their positions.

Rev. Julie Robinson and Rev. Melissa Newberry led us in our communion service. Then we formed our traditional circle around the room as we sang "Make me a



servant" and "Yes, Lord, Yes". Mary Etta closed our conference with prayer.

At the August 4-5, 2017 board meeting the minutes of the mini board meeting and the annual meeting at conference and the treasurer's report were accepted.

The association presidents recommended that each association collect \$50 as a gift to the missionary on the April 2018 tour.

Nate Marsh, ABCCR Assoc Exec., told us that John Williams is retiring at year end and the system is in place to start the search and call process so that we can hopefully have a new Exec. Minister within six months of his retirement. We

have a new church plant in Topeka. Julie Robinson is doing a phenomenal job with youth leaders and youth. Camping season was very successful. Dr. Lee Spitzer, new ABC General Secretary, will be our keynote speaker for the annual meeting in October. He expressed appreciation for us choosing the conference room as part of our project.

Mary Wendt reported that there were eight associations working on White Cross requests with 60 churches completing them. Overland requests went to Wichita Community Church in Anadarko, OK and Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS. Overseas requests were to Bulgaria, Lebanon and South Africa. There were 2,000 roller bandages, 50 baby blankets, 50 baby gowns, 50 cotton squares, 25 health kits & 25 sewing kits. Total monies sent to Valley Forge was \$ 15,441.95.



Dianna Cook suggested that as personal development we might have 40 days of prayer following conference incorporating some of the themes to take home and pray.

We signed cards for our scholarship student and all our special interest missionaries.

Lois Chiles did a spontaneous collection for this year's project, asking everyone to drop loose change in the basket. \$177 was received.

Barbara Westfall announced that the speaker at our annual gathering luncheon will be Debbie Myers, our missionary to Mexico.

Mary Etta shared about feelings – both positive and negative. We need to go through the proper motions to feel the proper emotions. We need to heed God's call even when we don't want to. Feelings are connected to actions.



← Mary Etta gave out recognition gifts for the incoming and the ongoing members.

Mary Etta gave incoming president Barbara Westfall a purple hat plus other gifts. →



She felt it was a great privilege to be the ABWCR president and is very thankful for all the board's friendship and help.



We closed with our traditional circle and singing “Blessed be the Tie that binds”.



Those **elected officers** who served with Mary Etta include:
 Recording secretary -Janice Hawley, Milly Chard
 Corresponding Secretary – Rita Adams, Norma Redick, Debbie Kinder,
 Treasurer - Vonda Brecheisen, Beverly Fink,

Personal Development Coord – Ruth Van Arsdale, Linda Callaway,
Love Gift Assoc – Jan Lee, Dianna Cook,
Young Adult Women- Amy Kiker, Cosette Marsh,
Conference Asoc & Interns - Dana Bliss, Gayle Thornbro, Jessica Williams,
Valerie Paxson, Elizabeth Spiess, Melissa Newberry, Valerie Terrazas, Kathy
Longhat,
Church & Community Coord- Almira Collier, Karen Campbell,
Scholarship & Student Concerns – Melissa Newberry, Danica (Hellner) Kitch,
Dorcas Romary,
Mission & Service Coord – Theresa Hodges, Linda Wallace,
Special Interest Missionaries & Refit – Carolyn Paul, Gale Floyd,
White Cross Assoc – Elsie Kandt, Mary Wendt,
AB GIRLS Co-Coord – Debbie Kiker, Kami Minor, Myra Snedeker, Leslie
(Palacio) Richards, Tamara Creech, Sandy York, Rebecca Pushee,

Appointed positions:

Editor – Marilyn Edwards;
Historian – Wilma Engle;
Project – Anita Woywod, Jane Smith, Naomi Teubner, Lois Chiles,
Webmaster/Technology – Rita Adams

Conference Representatives (also appointed):

Eastern – Elizabeth Spiess, Barb Beesley, Melissa Newberry, Jan Smith, D. Eileen
Smith, Carol Glover,
Western – Valerie Paxson, Danica Hellner, Tamara Creech, Vonda Brecheisen, Patti
Horner, Sherill Carlson,

Association presidents who served:

Arkansas Valley – Wilma Fast, Shirley Fair,
Crawford – Patti Horner, Lorene Brannin,
Grace Hill – Lynn Hoyt (combined with Crawford in 2014)
Judson – Susannah Dryden, Elsie Kandt,
Luther Rice – Carolyn Predmore, Jane Smith & Dianna Cook,
Missouri River – Barbara Westfall
OIABA – Pam Fodder, Kay Brown,
Roger Williams/Walnut Valley – Jo Templin
Tri-River – Winnie Davis, Sheryl Stemmons,
Western – Naomi Teubner, Carrie Marion, Valerie Terrazas,

Scholarship students:

Central Seminary -Corey Fields, Cindy Peterson, Rev. Nathan Marsh



Barbara Westfall

September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2019

Barbara Westfall was elected as president of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region in June 2017 to complete the term ending August 31, 2019.

Barbara has been involved with American Baptist Women since the 1970s. She has held a variety of positions including Coordinator of Mission and Service and president of Missouri River Association for many years. She is the local church ABW president.

She is a retired human resources pension analyst from Sprint and currently works as a checker at Hy-Vee. She has two sons and three grandchildren.

She lives in Kansas City, Kansas and has been a member of Grandview Baptist Church since 1977.

Barbara loves going to Green Lake, to Colorado to visit her grandchildren and travel to see new places. Barb loves sports of all kinds and currently goes to a lot of T-Bones baseball games.

These are the women who served with her in **2017-2018**

l-r bottom to top:
Jane Smith, Jan Lee,
Valerie Terrazas, Karen
Campbell, Wilma Engle;
Lorene Brannin; Milly
Chard, Dorcas Romary,
Shirley Fair; Barbara
Westfall, Dianna Cook;
Rita Adams, Gayle Floyd,
Debbie Kinder; Melissa
Newberry, Lois Chiles,
Sheryl Stemmons, Rebecca
Pushee, Cosette Marsh,
Linda Wallace, Connie
Northup; Elizabeth Spiess.



Not pictured: Marilyn Edwards, Kathy Longhat, Sandy York, Elsie Kandt, Betty Witters and Kay Brown.

AB GIRLS Praise Weekend - September 8-10, 2017.

Theme was “Child of the King” with Scripture I John 3:1.

The weekend included a talent show, decorating tiaras, filling out a sheet about themselves, break-out sessions on self-esteem/self-worth, scavenger hunt, break-out sessions on acts of service, free time, banquet, a night swim, and camp fire.

Shanta Kemp (Ottawa Baptist Church) led an etiquette class before our banquet; Julie Brame (Judson Baptist Church) led hand bell class for two groups who performed their songs on Sunday morning. We concluded on Sunday morning with a message from Julie Robinson (ABCCR).

Praise weekend is usually held in July but they thought they would try September to see if attendance was better. They decided to go back to July.

* * * * *

The first responsibility of a new president is always the women’s luncheon and meeting at the ABCCR Annual Gathering in October, but preparation starts long before that – thus the election in June so she can begin working early.



Women’s luncheon is at noon Saturday at the close of the Annual Gathering.

Information is available at each place to keep business to a minimum.



Susannah
Dryden
and
Naomi



Teubner led us in worship following lunch.



Carolyn Predmore introduced our speaker, Debbie Myers, missionary to Central Mexico. Debbie grew up in West Virginia and got involved as a young woman because of the ABW encouraging her to get involved with the young women in the state.

She met and married Keith and they both felt the call to missionary work. When they got the call to go to Mexico it was a decision that also got the approval from their kids as this was a big change in all their lives and they felt the kids needed to be involved. Their children are now in college and both are looking to enter the medical field and become missionaries after they finish their education.

The Myers are working to show the people how to improve their skills and

create jobs. They are building chicken coops so they can keep the chickens contained and protected from the preying animals, which will increase the yield of both chickens and eggs which they can sell.

They partner with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico to provide pastoral accompaniment to the indigenous churches. Included in their work is travel to six different areas outside of Puebla to serve and empower the people.



Lois Chiles, project chair for 2016-17, which was for support to the Baptist University of the Congo, reported a total of \$33,283.03 had been received. Rev. Eleazar O. Ziherambere, Area Director for Africa for international missions for International Ministries was present to accept the check and give a huge thank you to the women for their hard work. He stressed that there is a tremendous need for better education in the Congo.

Elizabeth Spiess, project chair for 2017-18 reminded us of our new project to raise \$28,000 to be split between Homestead Health Center, Wichita and the ABCCR office in Topeka. HHC needs a refrigerator for the snack area and new tables and chairs for the dining area. ABCCR wants to update the tables and chairs in the conference room.



We received an offering of \$1,125 for our Central Region American Baptist Women's Ministries.

President Barbara Westfall called the business meeting to order. The printed minutes and treasurer's report were accepted.



Dorcas Romary introduced our scholarship student, Mary Iang from Bacone College in Muskogee, OK. Mary was born in Burma and is majoring in Christian Ministry. Her family lives in Indianapolis. Mary stated that she appreciates being chosen as our scholarship student and for all the help that she gets from the women.



Mission and Service Coordinator, Linda Wallace, shared that we are promoting gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing to help with Hurricane relief and earthquake relief. Overland White Cross requests are for the Wichita Community Church & Christian Center at Anadarko, OK. Overseas purchase plans are for the Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, Chile and El Salvador.

Barbara Westfall closed the meeting with all singing "Blest Be the Tie that

Binds.”



It was so good to have mothers with small children join us for our meeting



March 2-3, 2018 Board meeting

Worship was led by Melissa Newberry & Rita Adams played the piano. At the beginning of each session we had a time of worship and a devotional.



Barbara welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. We had numerous prayer requests for health concerns, moving, and family issues.

Mike Justice gave an ABCCR update: Search committee is working diligently. Joe Kutter is our interim Executive Minister. Julie is busy with youth initiatives and gearing up for the upcoming mission trip in conjunction with ABHMS to Houston over Spring break with 40 college age students and adults participating. They will be helping with reconstruction following the recent hurricanes. The 4TEN youth will be finishing up with a Kodiak Alaska summer mission trip.

Barb presented a small gift for the first five ladies who responded to the RSVP for this meeting: Betty Witters, Debbie Kinder, Connie Northup, Linda Wallace and Lorene Brannin.

Total Love Gift offering was \$ 110.03.

Dianna Cook reported that the Women's National Conference is in Elgin IL July 19-22. Dormitory housing and meals are just a little over \$300. Rev. Dr. Zina Zacque is speaker and Hornette Washington will be music leader. It is the same weekend as our AB GIRLS weekend.

Melissa gave an update on conference. She stated the schedule has been changed to do more worship together. On Friday night instead of games of trivia, we will have a campfire and S'mores.

Mission and Service working group recommends the following for the 2018-19 project: Murrow Indian Children's Home's request for \$25,000 to purchase furniture, small appliances and dishes for three 2-bedroom independent



living/transitional apartments. The monies will purchase three computers and help fund educational and independent living skill workshops and conferences. Murrow is changing their transitional program for 18-21 years of age to focus on the 16-18 year population and is designed to provide them with the skills and tools necessary to live independently. The program is 12-24 month program. Following much discussion, recommendation was made to extend the goal to \$30,000. Approved by board.

Rebecca Pushee reported that they have moved the Praise Weekend back to July 20-22 with the theme “Back to Basics – God’s Word”. This is for girls in 3rd – 12th grade. They are reaching out to OU and Bacone College girls to see if they’d like to be staff and mentors.

Resignations of Milly Chard (immediate) and Gale Floyd (effective August 2017) were reported. Milly’s term ends August 2018. According to new By-Laws Gale Floyd’s position as SIM will be assumed by Mission & Service Coordinator.

Upon recommendation of the AB GIRLS Coordinators, we agreed that 10% of any financial contributions or from Silent Auctions would go to the AB GIRLS Scholarship Fund.

Barbara announced that Sharon Buttry, part-time global consultant for community transformation, will be the speaker for Annual Gathering.

Meeting closed with singing Barb’s favorite “Victory in Jesus” and prayer.

Tri-Annual Missionary Tour in April

Association presidents organized the locations and dates of the tour. Because Barbara was unable to be off work for another week, the missionary, Anita Guiterrez, drove herself around Central Region and was paid for the expenses.

Anita and her husband, Rick, serve in South Africa. They are both family doctors and they train and equip local missionaries, or “health builders,” to combat lifestyle-related disease like HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, heart and artery disease, diabetes and malaria in homes schools, places of worship and marketplaces. Health builders also receive training in gardening and poultry skills to help them promote good nutrition and provide income, and they lead Bible study groups in their communities.



They have a project that seeks to raise \$34,500 per year for the next three years to build on an already successful project implemented in 2012 to train and equip people in South Africa who are living in poverty to breed chickens for food and income.



Although first noticed 40 years ago the Ebola outbreak from Dec. 2013 to June 2016 was the first to get to major cities and threaten the health care systems of three nations while killing 40% of people infected for a total of over 10,000 horrible deaths. In October 2014, with funding from One Great Hour of Sharing they began work on the animation: “Understanding Ebola: Prevention, Symptoms and Treatment”



The good news is that they now have an effective vaccination and a stockpile of 300,000 doses against the day Ebola virus is detected again in Africa or elsewhere.

Mini-board meeting May 31, 2018

Routine business was accomplished – minutes and treasurer’s report and budget were accepted. There were three scholarship applicants but unfortunately, none met the scholarship requirements. It was agreed that we would not print the information available in dropbox for board members, but would continue printing How-To sheets for hard copies and special last minute reports only.

Barbara announced new appointments: Project 2018-19—Wilma Fast; new conference committee representative – Sherill Carlson (west) she doesn’t have one from the east yet.

Board members were requested by conference committee to have a prayer time for the entire conference center. In addition to other prayer requests, prayer was requested for global missionary, Dan Buttry, whose cancer has returned.

“Feel... His Leading...”

AB Women’s Ministries June 1-2, 2018 Summer Conference

Psalm 119:105 “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”

John 10:3 “The gatekeeper opens the gates for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”



There’s always a lot of preparatory work prior to conference. Here board members and conference committee put all the necessary items into bags on Thursday night.

Then it's finally time for attendees to register, get name tags and pick their favorite colored bag of information.



Then it's off to Mabee Center for our first meeting!



Mona Huggins read Psalms 119:105 and then was joined by the rest of the praise team – Morna Wood, Jen Kane & Debby White with Sharla Testorff at the piano. →



We were welcomed to the Cross Wind Conference Center by director, Rev. Steve Brecheisen. He also led us in our opening prayer of praise and thanksgiving!

Conference associate Rev. Melissa Newberry also welcomed all the women and introduced the conference committee (who are all wearing the safety vests), conference nurse, Lucy Silk, and conference pastor, Rev. Adina VanOs.





Barbara Westfall, president, introduced the Central Region officers and our women serving on the national level.

The effervescent Rev. Julie Robinson brought greetings from ACCR and told us of exciting upcoming events.



Following more songs of praise, we were blessed with a message from Karen Smith who is the program consultant to the New Life Center Foundation based in northern Thailand.



The New Life Center Foundation (NLCF) serves ethnic minority women who are at risk for labor exploitation. The NLCF also provides protection and rehabilitation services to young women who are survivors of human trafficking, forced labor and sexual abuse.

Karen's first topic was **"FEEL God's leading through...the witness, character and testimony of His people"**.

The second message was **"FEEL God's leading through...His written Word"** and the third message was **"FEEL God's leading through...Our**

relationship with Him"

We recognized those attending conference for the first time



Attendees had the opportunity to attend three different workshops from a choice of fifteen.

During free time you could join the choir, have a personal prayer time and guided reflection using the prayer labyrinth or prayer walk or shop the Silent Auction



Sandra York and

Rebecca Pushee reported the winners in the silent auction from which the AB GIRLS received a total of \$ 1,556.50 toward expenses and scholarships for their praise weekend in July.



Elizabeth Spiess, project associate introduces Beth Green, administrator at HHC, who shared a mission moment with us.



Barbara Westfall, president, presided over the business session in which minutes and financial report were approved.

There are no scholarship students for this semester.

Elizabeth Spiess gave a report on current project and thanked all for the monies they had given or would give.

Linda Wallace presented the 2018-19 project recommendation from the board for vote. It is for Murrow Indian Children's Home to update facilities with a goal of \$30,000. Recommendation was approved.

Valerie Terrazas, nominating committee chair, presented the following nominees: Danica Kitch, recording secretary to complete a term; Mary Etta Copeland, Mission & Service Coord; Cosette Marsh, Conference associate intern for 2020. Nominees were accepted and elected.



Rev. Julie Robinson installed the officers:



Linda Wallace, Sandy York, Marilyn Edwards, Wilma Fast, Mary Etta Copeland, Wilma Engle, Dorcas Romary, Cosette Marsh, Dianna Cook, Lois Chiles, Barbara Westfall, Danica Kitch, Jan Lee, Rita Adams, Shirley Fair, Connie Northup, Jane Smith, Lorene Brannin, Valerie Terrazas, Sheryl Stemmons
Not pictured: Karen Campbell, Betty Witters. Debbie Kinder, Rebecca Pushee, Kay Brown



Conference Associate, Rev. Melissa Newberry, gives president Barbara Westfall a gift in appreciation for all her service. After assisting with opening the box, Melissa showed all the beautiful cross.



She also presented gifts to our missionary speaker, Karen Smith.



Rev, Adina VanOs led us in our closing communion service.

And then we closed with a circle of song and prayer



Total conference offerings: AB GIRLS Auction \$1,556.50; Conference \$ 1,160.;

Love Gift \$ 709; Project \$ 764; Conference Mini Project \$ 1,336 which was monies for needed educational and art therapy program supplies for New Life Christian Foundation in Thailand.

All Girls Praise Week-end July 20-22, 2018

Theme: Back to Basics – God’s Word

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” Psalm 119:105 KJV



There were 9 churches represented with 25 girls and 12 adults. They had service projects and a Friday night banquet. As a result of attending, Meridian Ave. Baptist Church in Wichita has now established an AB GIRLS group.



Linda Anderson presented dramatizations of women in the Bible. One of the projects was



tying lap robes from flannel pieces. All the girls



enjoyed their Friday night banquet as well as the times they could go swimming.



Fall Board Meeting – August 10-11, 2018

Barbara welcomed everyone and thanked Wilma Engle and Melissa Newberry for the music.

Lois Chiles had our devotional thought – we are all gifted and have talents -each different from another. What you are is God’s gift to you – what you become is your gift back to God.

Minutes of the June mini-board meeting were approved with spelling corrections and the annual meeting minutes were approved as printed. Financial report was also accepted.

Jan Lee shared ‘thank you’ notes from Anita Guiterrez (for trip & money) Murrow and Karen Smith for gifts, Tom & Terry Myers, Bulgaria for money, and Chetti’s newsletter.

Angela Audiss was approved for a partial scholarship at CBTS but she did not attend so no scholarship issued.

Rev. Julie Robinson reported for ABCCR staff. Region is in transition – awaiting our new executive minister. Rev. Dr. Nate Marsh is helping to improve our communication system and website. Julie took 21 youth to Kodiak, Alaska. They spent about two hours sitting on the beach and talking to Jesus. They helped

with farm work and other projects. 4TEN is for 10th – 12th graders based on I Peter 4:10 equipping leaders for God and beyond. Cost is \$200 for each 4TEN and Region picks up additional costs. They meet three weekends a year and are going to Costa Rica in 2019. Cost for this trip will be about \$800 including air fare.

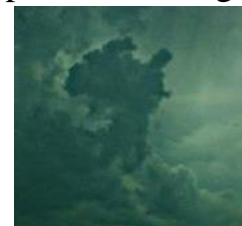
Working groups met for about an hour to discuss future activities and then reported back to the group. One-on-one with new officers was after the regular meeting.

Barbara Westfall and Lois Chiles reported on national women's conference held at Judson University in Chicago. They reported that there was a lot of walking – nearly ¾ mile from dorm to the chapel. Conference has changed from what it used to be. There was a lot of free time. Two workshops were a big disappointment. Spontaneous talent show was fun! It was a long drive for basically two morning worships and Saturday afternoon table talks which were hard to hear. Overall it was a disorganized event with less than 100 attending. Three groups were meeting simultaneously – AB GIRLS, women and multicultural from Burma and Thailand.

Dianna Cook reported that 13 ladies paid their own way to come from Burma to participate in the multicultural group. Conferences over there have 8,000 women in attendance with 6,000 walking in daily.

Christmas cards were signed for the missionaries. White Cross annual report was read showing \$ 6,743 plus other items for Overland ministries and \$ 12,873.57 for overseas plus 3,550 roller bandages, 45 baby gowns and receiving blankets for Congo and 14 school kits and sewing kits for the Philippines.

Conference associate, Kathy Longhat, was happy to be present although she is battling cancer. She is very concerned about the American Indian women. She requested prayer for OIABA as they are really struggling. She shared a photo of the cloud she saw as they were driving here in the rain. She felt it was a sign that “God is going before you”.



Motions approved:

Tour Homestead Health Center during March 2019 meeting to view project.

Extend invitation to national to host a national conference in 2020 or whenever they see fit at Cross Wind and with those who have served nationally as endorsers.

Form a committee to set up 100 year anniversary of Kansas Baptist Union. Those appointed are: Shirley Fair, Wilma Engle, Barbara Westfall, Lois Chiles, Lorene Brannin, Cosette Marsh and Rita Adams.

President, Barbara Westfall, recognized the following incoming and outgoing officers with a Proverbs 31:25 cross book mark.



Gale Floyd – outgoing SIM associate;
Melissa Newberry – outgoing conference associate;
Cosette Marsh – outgoing young adult women’s ministries & incoming
conference associate intern;
Elizabeth Spiess – outgoing project associate;
Wilma Fast – incoming project associate;
Sandy York – outgoing/incoming AB GIRLS Co-coordinator.

Not present were:

Linda Wallace – outgoing Coordinator of Mission and Service &
incoming association president;
Mary Etta Copeland – incoming Coordinator of Mission and Service.



Meeting was closed with friendship circle and singing “Blest be the Tie” and the chorus of “Victory in Jesus”



2018-2019 Board of Directors

l-r bottom to top: Valerie Terrazas (Western pres), Magada Craven (Crawford/Grace Hill pres), Wilma Fast (Project assoc), Karen Campbell (Church & Community Coord), Barbara Westfall (President), Dianna Cook (Personal Development Coord), Linda Wallace (Judson pres), Shirley Fair (Ark Valley pres), Mary Etta Copeland (Mission & Service Coord/White Cross & SIM Assoc), Betty Witters (Roger Williams/Walnut Valley pres), Wilma Engle (Historian), Connie Northup (Missouri River pres), Sheryl Stemmons (Tri River Pres), Cosette Marsh (Conference assoc), Debbie Kinder (AB GIRLS Co-Coord), Lois Chiles (Treasurer), Rebecca Pushee (AB GIRLS Co-Coord), Jan Lee (Corresponding secretary), Dorcas Romary (Scholarship & Student Concerns assoc), Rita Adams (Webmaster/technology), Sandy York (AB GIRLS Co-Coord)

Absent: Danica Kitch (Recording secretary), Marilyn Edwards (Editor), Kay Brown (OIABA)

Annual Gathering Luncheon – October 13, 2018

The women met at the conference center dining room for a luncheon at the close of the ABCCR Annual Gathering.

President Barbara Westfall extended a welcome to all and Cosette Marsh asked God's blessing on our meal and fellowship together.



Following lunch Ruth Clark led us in 'Feeling' through music.



Barbara Westfall introduced our speaker, Sharon Buttry, who just retired Oct. 1st from being a global consultant for peace and justice.

In seminary Sharon was a recipient of ABW scholarship funds for which she thanked the women. For the past 22 years she has been a missionary in Hamtramck, MI, with people who are marginalize and Muslims.



She issued a challenge – how can we be more in solidarity and strive to be more diligent to make a radical difference for women around the world? Sixteen women read papers about women in Thailand, Myanmar and USA – trauma experienced by women. Highlights included: what doesn't kill you will make you stronger; the devil tried to kill Jesus, but God had a plan; if all the devil can do is make me sick, he must be really weak; in Christ we are strong – we serve a RISEN Jesus; Jesus lives to make us one so we can fulfill Christ's mission.

In the Bible there are women who stood beside men. May we have the courage of these women. We are still too much male and female. We can push back the darkness. We will have to get up off our couches, go pray – dig deep into our pockets and into our hearts.

Elizabeth Spiess celebrated a successful 2017-18 project of conference room furniture for ABCCR office and dining room furniture and refrigerator for Homestead Health Center in Wichita. Total received was \$ 31,023.85.



Checks were presented to Dr. Nathan Marsh, ABCCR and Beth Green, HHCI. →

Wilma Fast presented the 2018-19 project at Murrow Indian Children's Home. She offered patterns for the moccasins that decorated the tables.



Barbara Westfall called the business session to order. Printed reports, minutes and treasurer's report were on the tables including sheets of special interest missionaries. The reports were approved.

Cards were on the table for suggestions for the 2019 summer conference. The 100th anniversary committee wants your ideas. Barbara shared the sad announcement that Kathy Longhat had resigned as conference chair due to the severity of her cancer. Cosette Marsh will chair both the 2019 and 2020 conferences.



Barbara introduced and welcomed our executive minister's wife, Diane Hemmen and his daughter, Ainslee.

We closed with friendship circle singing "Open Our Eyes" and prayer.

March 1-2, 2019 board meeting ...

Following the executive committee meeting, the women journeyed to Homestead Health Center in Wichita to view last year's project updates.



Beth Green, Administrator, started our tour in the lobby area.

On one of the hallways



was some Valentine art and the reminder to "Be exceptional – no exceptions"



These are the new chairs and tables in the dining area which was part of the project.



This is the fellowship area where they can relax or share in games.

The ABCCR Conference room was the other half of the project. We received before and after pictures. The lighter weight folding tables and chairs are so much more convenient and they are also quite comfortable.



From this.....to this !

When we got back to Cross Wind, Mike Justice reported to us about changes in staffing at ABCCR. Julie and Nate both accepted other positions and

Mike plans to leave in April to become more full-time at his church. Travel was getting rather difficult to keep up and after 4 years he decided to make the change. We have only 9 of 200 churches without pastors now so it's a good time for change. We need a new model for Region ministry. We're now using contract ministry consultants – using the talents of some of our part time pastors. He thanked us for the remodeling of the conference room. The chairs are quite comfortable, foldable and nesting as are the light weight movable tables.



Wilma Engle (piano) and Mary Etta Copeland (singing) led our time of praise and then Sandy York provided devotions. She reminded us that no matter how much we plan, God's plan may not be our plan, so we need to seek His direction. Planning needs to be bathed in His guidance.

Lois Chiles, treasurer, reported that we received \$1,545.50 from a Charitable Gift Annuity of Greta Ladd. Voted to give \$545.50 to AB GIRLS scholarships and \$1,000 to H.A.M. scholarships.

Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship applications have been re-vamped to specify students do not have to attend an ABC college but do have to serve and be active in a CR ABC church

Project chosen for 2019-20 is \$35,000 to AMOS Health & Hope in Nicaragua (Dr. Laura Parajon). It is for development of a series of replicable and scalable training materials to empower local volunteer Mother leaders to facilitate breastfeeding, parent-child bonding, and early childhood stimulation, thereby decreasing the long term impact of the crisis on their children and families. It's a 3 ½ year program targeting women with children under 5 years of age.

Mary Etta is struggling with White Cross and SIM being included in the Mission and Service Coordinator responsibilities. It was suggested that Mary Etta enlist a White Cross volunteer to assist her, but not a member of the board.

Proposed budget for 2019-20 was accepted.

Nominations are: President – Melissa Newberry; Church and Community Coord – Connie Northup; Conference intern – Mona Huggins; AB GIRLS Co-Coord – Rebecca Pushee.

Consensus was for Barbara to ask for resignation of recording secretary as it is such a critical position and she has not attended a meeting this fiscal year.

Mini board meeting June 6, 2019

Minutes of March board meeting approved and treasurer's report accepted.

Cindy Fritz was presented as the nominee for Recording secretary.

Marilyn Edwards resigned as editor due to health issues.

Out of five applications, three students were recommended for the Mary Gates Atkinson scholarships – James Irwin, Lai Awi and Jordan Fritz for \$500 per semester.

Wilma Engle and Shirley Fair created a new document "Board Members

Responsibilities and Guidelines”. This was in response to our March decision and to guide the president, if necessary, to ask for an officer’s resignation. There was lengthy discussion and some corrections suggested. It was approved with corrections.

Board members each received a copy of “Witness of Native Americans in Kansas and Indian Territory/Oklahoma – Tribal history, Baptist missionaries and indigenous Baptist leadership” and it will be available to all attending conference. This is a prelude to the 100th anniversary (1920-2020) history of the Kansas/Central Region women’s organization. These were prepared by historian, Wilma Engle.

AB GIRLS have awarded 13 scholarships for the 2019 Praise Weekend in July.

ABW CR Summer Conference –June 7-8, 2019

PLANS... Past, Present, Future

As we worship and fellowship together, we know that God had a plan for our past, we are still living in His plans in the present, and His plan for our future is greater than we could ever imagine.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you”, sayeth the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



Focus at the front of the Mabee center showed Jesus birth, death and resurrection – representing our past, present and future.

Conference associate Cosette Marsh welcomed the 121 women in attendance and introduced the conference pastor, Rev. Jennifer Schneider.

President, Barbara Westfall, introduced the Region board and the CR women serving on the national level.



CR officers present included



Sandy York, Debbie Kinder, Lois Chiles, Rita Adams, Cosette Marsh, Jan Lee, Dianna Cook, Dorcas Romary, Wilma Engle, Mary Etta Copeland and Wilma Fast.



Association presidents also serve on the board – pictured are Betty Witters, Dianna Cook, Shirley Fair, Linda Wallace and Connie Northup

On Friday afternoon the 100th anniversary task force had a tea honoring Kathy Longhat, who was to be the conference associate this year. She wanted to recognize her Native American heritage and the valuable part they have had in our ministries. The Lord chose to call her home on 12-1-2018 so the conference committee continued with her plans.



We had a short video of Kathy. We had fry bread and gluten free cookies, a huge choice of teas, and each one was given a mug and beads. Historian Wilma Engle had prepared a 64 page “Witness of Native Americans in Kansas and Indian Territory/Oklahoma - tribal history, Baptist missionaries and indigenous Baptist leadership” for each attendee.



This is a prelude to the 100th anniversary (1920-2020) history of the Kansas/Central Region women’s organization which will be available next year at conference.

We had a good variety of workshops to attend.

There was also a prayer labyrinth or prayer walk with several inspirational stations for a private prayer time anytime.

Lots of great items were brought for the AB GIRLS silent auction!



It's always good to check out the displays and pick up information.

Registrar Melissa Newberry reported that we had a total registration of 121 with 28 attending for the first time and 8 coming for the second time.



Cosette and Melissa had a unique way of recognizing attendees. They had everyone stand and then those



attending for 50 years sat down – and they progressed down until only the first timers were standing.



Picture of attendees:





← Kelli Foreman was an amazing speaker. She is the assistant director at our Kodiak Baptist Mission in Alaska

Her themes were: *Peace in the Storm* in which she reminded us of Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?" When we are obeying God's call, you can be at peace. God can NOT be contained by our limitations! *An Old Mission Growing Young* and told about her work in Kodiak.; *the TWO most important*

days. She quoted Mark Twain as saying "The day you were born and the day you figure out why". She quoted Nehemiah 6:3 and challenged us to not let anything deter us from the 'why' of God's call. Joshua 1:9 "...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Cosette gave Kelli a 'thank you' gift of a picture with her favorite verse on it.



During lunch on Saturday we had our business session in the dining room.

Minutes of the previous meeting and

treasurer's report were printed and in each packet. Lois reported the preliminary amounts collected in the offering: Conference - \$1454.50, Love Gift \$800, Project \$836.10, Conference mini-project \$ 1022.50, HAM Scholarship \$110 and \$1075.50 for the AB GIRLS Silent auction.



Barbara announced the appointments to the conference committee for the 2019-2021 term are Karen Wall (East) and Karen Freeman (West).



Dianna Cook, nominating chair, presented the following nominations:

President – Melissa Newberry 2019-2022; Church & Community Coord – Connie Northup 2019-2022; Recording Secretary – Cindy Fritz 2019-2021; Conference Assoc. Intern – Mona Huggins 2019-2021; AB GIRLS Co-Coord – Rebecca Pushee 2019-2022

Nominations were accepted and nominees were elected.

Mary Etta Copeland gave an update on Bethel and indicated the White Cross requests would be mailed. She read the **proposed 2019-2020 project which is “Parenting for Love – Amos Health and Hope in Nicaragua” (Dr. Parajon) Support development of training materials to empower local volunteer mother leaders to facilitate breastfeeding parent-child bonding, and early childhood stimulation, decreasing long-term impact on their children and families. This 3 ½ year program targets women with children ages 0-5 yrs. Our goal is \$35,000. She also mentioned that the Annual Gathering has a missionary speaker from AMOS. Proposed project was accepted**



Wilma Fast, project associate, said total to date for the 2018-2019 project is \$ 16,886.50 and encouraged the women to work hard in the next three months so we could reach the \$30,000 goal for Murrow Indian Children’s Home.

Three students have been awarded the Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship for the fall semester. They are James Irwin and Lai Awi at Central Seminary and Jordan Fritz at Ottawa. Information provided in each packet.



‘Thank you’ plants were given to those who worked behind the scenes: Melissa Newberry & Darla Meyer (registration), Rita Adams (webmaster) and Cosette Marsh (Conference Assoc – filling in for Kathy Longhat this year).

and then the gift for our retiring president, Barbara Westfall, in appreciation for her service to the women of Central Region.

She got lots of wrapping paper.... →



....and then this gorgeous queen size Carpenter's Star quilt made by Lisa & Robin Terrill from Leavenworth.



Jo Templin installed the elected officers.



We then went back to the Mabee Center for a time of worship, communion and our closing song and circle of prayer.

GIRLS PRAISE PARTY WEEK-END July 19-22, 2019

Theme: A Servant's Heart Galatians 5:13 NLT ... called to live in freedom.

(pictures not available)

They had 11 leaders and 22 girls. They had mini-mission trips to McPherson and Hutchinson for a variety of activities including home cleaning, putting away buggies at Wal-Mart, verses on mirrors in public restrooms, picked up trash, worked in a few thrift stores and gave bouquets to several people.

In Hutchinson there is a 102-year-old lady and the girls took her a vase of flowers. She wasn't doing well when they arrived, and the girls were disappointed. Wilma Fast and Sherill Carlson, hostesses for the girls' mission trips, went above and beyond with maps, flowers, vases, and the girls ate lunch at their churches. They had a hard time in Hutchinson as no one outdoors to give things to, but they made it work.

President Barbara Westfall and Connie Northup were also sponsors.

Interspersed throughout Friday night and Saturday were 'God Servant Announcements' using eight different Scriptures and a clacker to start a move and two stage hands to hold up frame/announcer/director/clacker "Silence on the set", "announcement #1, take 1" – they read Scripture, had questions about what they heard about being God's servant. It was short and quick. The girls loved it so

much they did it themselves and made some up.

They had their own service Sunday morning with 3 different bell numbers, dramatic reading by 8-9 girls, choir sign language to “Make Me a Servant”. The girls really took to the servant part of it.

Rebecca paired them so each secret servant was paired with the same one to receive 3 gifts in secret gift bags. It was a great weekend!

Barbara’s last official meeting was **August 2-3, 2019** at Cross Roads Conference Center.



We began with a time of worship and praise led by Mary Etta Copeland at the piano and Rita Adams leading the singing. Cosette Marsh presented devotions based on a book “Mended”. We need to glorify God by lifting others up.



Barbara called our meeting to order.

The minutes of the mini-board meeting and the annual meeting at conference and the treasurer’s report were approved.

Since ABCCR staff had other commitments, Lois, as ABCCR president-elect, gave a report of the region activities.



Each of the five groups needed to decide what they would do for display at the ABCCR Annual Gathering in October.

New and retiring officers had some time to share information during the meeting but mostly it was done after the regular meeting.

Motion made to go all digital on *Central Connection* starting with the December issue. If paper copies needed, editor will send one but most can have copies printed in the church offices and distributed. Therefore, there will be no charge for subscriptions – simply give the editor your e-mail address. Marilyn has to resign as editor due to health issues.

Board reduced number of conference interns to a conference associate and one intern – serving two years.

Sandy York reported on Praise Party Week=end in July (See report above for details)

Meal time is always a good time to get better acquainted. →

Barbara reported that at the national board meeting the sound system wasn’t working so most of them could not hear. She was very disappointed as she has nothing to report from it.



Several women attended Women’s Day – Barbara, Melissa Newberry, Lois Chiles, Shirley Fair and Mary Etta Copeland. We had a brief report from each. National is starting a new “Endowment”. Others were called endowments but even the principal amounts were spent – so not truly an endowment.

All can be in same meeting but hear something different. General consensus was that the biennials in Kansas were better than this one. Several asked Rev. Gina Jacob-Strang, our executive director, questions but couldn't get answers, which was very frustrating. Alumnae breakfast was down to 10 when we usually have more than 30. Very impressive was the representation from Central Region.

Biennial was made up of a very diverse group with singing and Scripture in different languages. AB GIRLS were highly involved. There's a good generation coming up behind us! Table conversations were good.

Connie Northup had Saturday morning devotions focused on Gal 6:1-10. She used thoughts from Charles Spurgeon's "Sunbeams in the Dark" and again emphasized the need for real fellowship and carrying each other's burdens. Warmth and joy are deep within us – just like sunbeams.

Christmas cards were signed for scholarship students and our missionaries.

Changes in White Cross – roller bandages will not be accepted after September 1st. We need to switch our focus to other items. Mary Etta said there are patterns for baby gowns from pillowcases, sani-pants, sani-pads, britches for boys, travel packets, etc. We can make baby blankets from flannel.

Bethel Neighborhood Center is placing a thank you plaque on their new facility for AB Women's \$39,000 gift that ultimately grew to \$800,000.

IM has changed title of missionaries to Global Servants.

Patty Hodge presented the 2019-2020 project. See June report-page 249. Goal is \$35,000. The Parajons have visited Topeka churches several times and First Baptist Topeka has worked with them over 20 years.

Barbara gave gifts to retiring officers and the incoming officers. Connie Northup as new Church & Community Coord; Melissa Newberry as president; Karen Campbell retiring C&C Coord; Rita Adams had been acting as recording secretary until Cindy Fritz was elected in June.



Barbara thanked all for the opportunity to serve as president these last two years. She went out on a 'shaky limb' but God has guided her all the way. It has been quite an exciting and wonderful journey. It's hard to put feelings into words but it has been a great privilege to serve the women of Central Region. We are highly respected on the national level.

Melissa Newberry, on behalf of the entire board, thanked Barbara for her service – not only as our president but also for many years as association president.



She presented her with a collage of pictures during her term of service that had been taken by Debbie Kinder.

Melissa had a special time of prayer for Barbara as board members extended their hands toward her.



After closing comments by Barbara, we sang her favorite song - “Victory in Jesus”.



Those who served with Barbara Westfall include:

Corresponding Secretary: Jan Lee

Treasurer: Lois Chiles

Personal Development Coord/Love Gift Assoc: Dianna Cook

Young Adult Women’s Ministries: Cosette Marsh

Conference Assoc & Interns: Melissa Newberry, Kathy Longhat, Cosette Marsh

Editor: Marilyn Edwards
Church & Community Coordinator: Karen Campbell
Scholarship & Student Concerns Assoc.: Dorcas Romary
Historian: Wilma Engle
Webmaster/Technology: Rita Adams
Mission & Service Coord/ White Cross Assoc: Linda Wallace, Mary Etta Copeland
Special Interest Missionaries & Refit Assoc: Gale Floyd
Project Assoc: Elizabeth Spiess, Wilma Fast
AB GIRLS Co-Coord: Sandy York, Rebecca Pushee, Debbie Kinder
Conference Committee: Eastern Representatives: Carol Glover, Mona Huggins, Martha Nelson
Western Representatives: Sherill Carlson, Karen Freeman,
Association presidents: Sheryl Stemmons, Valerie Terrazas, Shirley Fair, Lorene Brannin, Elsie
Kandt, Jane Smith, Connie Northup, Kay Brown, Betty Witters, Linda Wallace,

Scholarship student: Mary Iang (Bacone)



**September 1, 2019 –
August 31, 2022**

Rev. Melissa Newberry
Leavenworth, Kansas

One of my most favorite books from childhood is the church pictorial directory. Perhaps this was because my dad's picture was always at the front with the title "Pastor" below it. But I also knew many of those faces and could tell you how they were instrumental in the formation of my faith.

Through the faithful folks of FBC Hutchinson, Bellville, Indianola, IA and Mason City, IA, the love for Jesus, the love for the local church and the relationships with other believers was planted from the moment I first occupied the church nursery and has continued to grow ever since. My mom was active in the ABW circle meetings of each church and was Central Region vice president of Christian Service in 1990-93. I was with her at circle meetings even though my little five-year-old face was probably eyeing the refreshment table rather than listening.

While those earlier year directories contained good memories, I'll never forget the first time my dad was not in our family picture. My brother and I were in high school and my mom had just become a single parent. It was just three of us now. Every picture has a story and this one included the divorce of my parents.

Even through this time of questions, struggle and heartbreak, God continued to demonstrate His goodness through other faces in the directory – my grandmother and granddaddy, my aunt and uncle, and the youth leaders who walked alongside us. And finally, a more current directory for FBC McPherson, shows my mom with a new last name and no longer a single parent. God is so good!

A directory from FBC Manitowoc, WI captured the faces of my Grandpa and Grandma Newberry as well as my Aunt Bene. I give thanks often that God saw fit to entrust my life and part of my faith journey to them. Not only were they instrumental in my growth as a person and believer, they were also instrumental in demonstrating a love for the larger ABC family as well as the importance of servant leadership both regionally and nationally.

The first time I ever appeared on the first page of a directory the words below my name said “Rev. Melissa Newberry, Associate Pastor of Youth and College”. God brought this call into my life in the spring of my final year of study at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. The pages following captured the images from my brief ministry at FBC Emporia. It also features the picture of my best friend of over 20 year with whom God has orchestrated the continued intertwining of our paths. The most profound attribute God added to my character during this time was learning how to handle very challenging circumstances with grace.

During my nine year tenure as pastor of Grandview Baptist Church (Kansas City, KS) we have never had an official pictorial directory but the journey has been well documented by a member of the flock who loves photography, for which I am most grateful. As I begin the tenth year of ministry with this courageous, brave and faithful body of believers, I pause and give a resounding thanks to God for all that God has brought us through and the evident movement of Divine activity.

And now this pictorial history shows me as **“Rev. Melissa Newberry, President of the American Baptist Women of Central Region”**.

The service opportunity as President for the American Baptist Women of the Central Region comes only because of the unrelenting support and encouragement



from sisters in Christ and the soul friendships God has placed in my life. For such a time as this was only made possible through the formative opportunities as the Scholarship and Summer Conference Associate positions.

And these are the pictures of some of the faithful women who will be serving with and supporting me in the **2019-2020** year of ministry.

l-r bottom to top:

Valerie Terrazas (Western president), Magada Craven (Crawford/Grace Hill pres), Dianna Cook (Personal Dev. Coord/Love Gift Assoc), Linda Wallace (Judson pres), Betty Witters (Roger Williams/ Walnut Valley pres), Shirley Fair (Ark Valley pres), Mary Etta Copeland (Mission & Service Coord/White Cross/ Special Interest Missionaries), Connie Northup (Church & Community Coord & Missouri River pres), Sheryl Stemmons (Tri-River pres) Wilma Engle (historian), Debbie Kinder (AB GIRLS Co-Coord), Cosette Marsh (Conference Assoc), Rebecca Pushee (AB GIRLS Co-Coord) Cindy Fritz (Recording secretary; Lois Chiles (treasurer), Dorcas Romary (Scholarships & Student Concerns assoc), Jan Lee (Corresponding secretary), Patty Hodge (Project Assoc), Rita Adams (Webmaster/Technology) Sandy York (AB GIRLS Co-Coord) **Melissa Newberry (President)**, Mona Huggins (Conference Assoc Intern & Luther Rice pres).

Although the official term does not begin until September 1st, every president-elect has opportunities to be involved prior to that time.

In June Melissa was able to attend the National Women's Day at the ABC Biennial in Virginia Beach, VA.

"What a delight it was to gather with our American Baptist sisters from across the nation. As I walked into the small conference room on a beautiful June

day, we were welcomed and greeted by our dear sisters from ABC of the South.

“Our time began with greetings from our National President, Lori Hill, and Executive Director, Gina Jacobs Strain. The morning was filled with worship and very insightful words from Jessica Young Brown.

“During our delicious lunch, we were invited into a very relevant and poignant conversation guided by Jolene Erlacher. She brought to the forefront the widening gap between the multiple generations that currently exist in our everyday world.

“We also had the opportunity and joy to hear from several young ladies who are actively involved in the AB GIRLS National Leadership Team. It gave me a deep sense of hope in regard not only to the future of ABWM/AB GIRLS, it was also a true blessing to hear their stories of how God has been and is continuing to work in their lives.

“Our afternoon concluded with more words of insight from our morning presenter. What a gift it was to see and experience firsthand how the Spirit of God is moving profoundly throughout the entire body of American Baptist Women across this nation and around the globe.”

The first official responsibility was the first weekend in September at the ABCCR Board of Directors meeting. The president serves on the Mission and Service Vision Team that is responsible for the Mid-Winter Mission and Evangelism Event in January each year.

These meetings help to give a better understanding of the Central Region as a whole, rather than just the women’s ministries.

The first big event for which the president is responsible for planning is Women’s Luncheon at the close of the ABCCR Annual Gathering in October.

Central Region’s AB Women’s Ministries Annual Meeting – Oct. 12, 2019

At the close of the Annual Gathering Saturday at noon, the women went back to the conference center for our luncheon and annual meeting.



We were welcomed by president, Rev. Melissa Newberry → Past-president, Juanita Parker, led the opening prayer and asked God’s blessing on our meal.



Minutes, financial statements and other reports were placed on the table so they could be reviewed prior to the business meeting. All were accepted.



Our songs of praise were led by Susannah Dryden with Naomi Teubner accompanying on the piano.

Mona Huggins, conference intern, gave a conference report and invitation to our big 100 year celebration at conference on June 5-6, 2020.



← Sherill Carlson, member of the conference committee, shared a brief devotional thought.



Wilma Fast, project associate for the 2018-2019 project for Murrow Indian Children's Home, reported that we did not meet our goal of \$30,000. The original request from Murrow was for \$25,000 but the board thought we could raise more so recommended the \$30,000 goal. A total of \$ 28,727.40 was received. However, an anonymous gift after the meeting brought the total to \$30,000.



Patty Hodge, 2019-20 project associate, gave a slide show presentation of our new project which is: Parenting in Love – AMOS Health & Hope in Nicaragua led by missionary Dr Laura Parajon.

Goal of \$35,000 for Development of a series of replicable and scalable training materials to empower local volunteer Mother leaders to facilitate breastfeeding, parent-child bonding, and early childhood stimulation, thereby decreasing the long term impact of the crisis on their children

and families. Projected numbers directly impacted are 1,903 and another 3,384 indirectly and primary focus would be on communities themselves teaching local people to provide basic primary health care service. Total cost of this 3 ½ year program is projected at \$470,976.

Rev. Patricia Hernandez was our speaker. She stressed the importance of 'family' and supporting each other. Some don't have the biological family support, so we as brothers and sisters need to offer it. She told some of her family life and commented on the special circle of pine trees on her grandfather's farm where she could go to be alone and commune with God. We all need that special place without distractions to be alone with God.



Malissa presented Pat an honorarium and a gift and thanked her for her message to us.

Theola Carter gave the benediction

Offering received was \$656.

