



# April

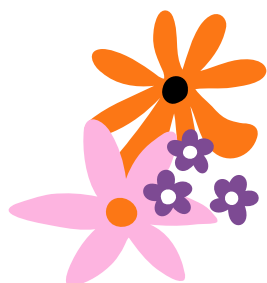
Vol. 76 No.7

## Central Connection

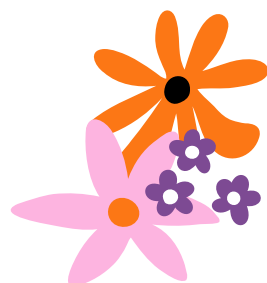
Connecting with American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region

Some of you may know me, but those who are new to the newsletter my name is Jordan Fritz. I took over the Central Connection from Janet Crawl back in 2023. Janet has been a wonderful help when mailing out the newsletters to a few of our ladies I greatly appreciate it. A while back my computer had a glitch, and I lost some email addresses for the Central Connection. Some I was able to restore, but I know there are still some I am missing. If you know someone has received the newsletter in the past and hasn't been receiving it, please have them contact me so that I can get them back on the list. You can see all past newsletters on the Central Region ABWM website <https://www.abwmcr.org>.

If you have any comments or concerns, please reach out to me directly. I know some feedback has been shared with others regarding the newsletter, and they have passed it along to me, but please reach out to me directly. I have provided my contact information below. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!



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# Lois Chiles,

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

An Easter in April: Living in the Light and new Growth of the Resurrection

Scripture: "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." – Matthew 28:6 (NIV)

April often brings signs of new life—buds on trees, warmer days, and the scent of spring in the air. Over the last few weeks, we have had a hint that Spring was near. One or two days would be springlike but then a blast of cold air reminds us that we are not quite there yet. Easter this year is in the first part of April and Easter reminds us that through Jesus' resurrection, God has brought new life to our souls. The empty tomb is not just a historical event—it's a present reality that changes how we live today.

Because Christ is risen:

- Our past is forgiven — no sin is too great for His grace.
- Our present is empowered — we walk in His strength, not our own.
- Our future is secure — death has lost its sting.

As we reflect on what Jesus did for us, think about where in your life you need to see "resurrection power" this month? Is it in a relationship, a dream, or your own faith? Invite Jesus to breathe new life into whatever, whomever or wherever it is needed.

The ABWomen's Ministries Board met on the first weekend of March in Topeka. The Board worked hard and many things were completed. I am blessed to serve alongside each of them.

The Conference Committee is almost ready for you to come to the Summer Conference June 5-6. You will be blessed, have many fun experiences and learn through the wonderfully planned workshops. The registration form is available on our website [www.abwmcr.org](http://www.abwmcr.org) or it is provided in this issue of the Central Connection. You will want to take advantage of the Early Bird Special of 50% off by May 15. I hope to see you all then!

Please check the website [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org) for opportunities that are available to you (some for free and others at a cost) from the national office. There are some really good things there.

If you have any questions or need anything that I could help with, do not hesitate to contact me. I will do my best to help. Blessings to each of you!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering death and offering me new life. Help me to live each day in the joy and freedom of Your resurrection. Let my life reflect the hope I have in You. Amen.



Lois Chiles, President

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# ABWM OF THE CENTRAL REGION SUMMER CONFERENCE

Save the date



Summer Conference Date: June 5-6, 2026

Location: First Baptist Church, Topeka

Theme: Making a Difference Together

based on national theme "Building God's Community"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathy Maxwell, Central Seminary

# Summer Conference Attendance Grants

Summer Conference Attendance Grants are available for the 2026 AB Women's Ministries Conference to be held on June 5-6, 2026 in Topeka, Kansas. The Summer Conference Attendance Grant application form is posted on the ABWMCR website. <https://www.abwmcr.org/>

Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$50.00. The number of grants is determined by available funds in the Summer Conference Attendance Grant Fund.

A simple application form is to be completed by all applicants focused on a description of interest and desired benefits in attending the Central Region ABWM Summer Conference. Applications are open to all American Baptist Women.

Applications may be submitted online at [www.abwmcr.org](http://www.abwmcr.org) Applications may also be e-mailed to Jo Templin at [Templin\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:Templin_2@hotmail.com) or mailed to Jo Templin, 2508 North Longfellow, Wichita, Kansas 67226.

The Summer Conference Attendance Grant Review Committee, which includes a chair and three appointed Association presidents, will review applications and make the determination of awards. Each applicant is notified of determination.

Application deadline is May 1; however, the date may be extended by the Summer Conference Attendance Grant Review Committee.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding the Summer Conference Attendance Grant program.

Jo Templin, Personal Development Coordinator

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# Flying Camels

God is the ultimate creator, as seen in the nature around us – the variety of vegetation and animals, the seasons, the weather, the skies. I enjoy visiting a zoo where I can glimpse up close the wonder and awe of creatures.

During advent, a devotion I read shared an insight about camels. Each morning, the camel bows before its master to receive the load to carry for the day. Each evening, the camel bows once more before its master to unload its burden. Then it rests so it will be ready the next morning to carry that day's burden. Spiritually, I need to be like the camel, bowing before my Master each morning to receive my "burden", assignment, or tasks that He has planned for the day. Then each evening I need to bow before Him once more, give up anything I am still carrying, and rest.

Later, after the new year started, a devotion I read shared an insight about the eagle. When eagles know a storm is coming, they wait until it strikes. Then they face the storm, spread their wings, and rise upward through it. When I see the pressures and obstacles of life coming, I can be like the eagle. With prayer and trust in my Creator, the "wing power" as the author calls it, will help me through the storm. (Phil 4:13)

God created imaginations also, and I like visual reminders for spiritual application. Since I enjoy science-fiction-fantasy as well as nature, I combined the surrender and trust of the camel, with the patience, awareness, and power of the eagle, and imagine.....a flying camel! When I thought of this, I laughed and am certain my Creator laughed with me. After all, He created the Seraphim and Cherub!

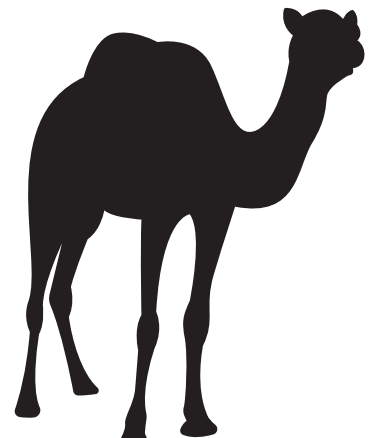
Connie Northup, Missouri River President

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# Crawford-Grace Hill Report

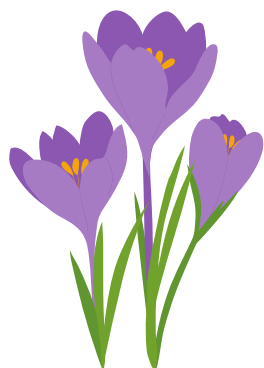
## March 2026

It's spring time which means it is time for our Spring Rally! Our rally will be held at Cherry Grove Baptist Church near Garland, Kansas. We are looking forward to fellowshiping together with our ABWM family of the Crawford-Grace Hill Association. The rally is April 17, 2026. We will meet in the morning at 10:00 until noon. First Baptist Church Ft. Scott will serve breakfast foods. The ladies of Cherry Grove will provide a meal and we will finish the afternoon with our business meeting.

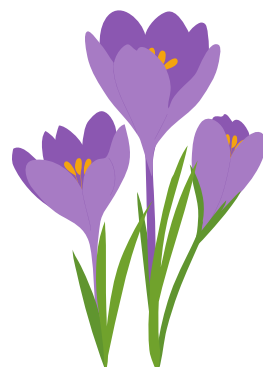
We are very blessed to have Jessica Henks as our speaker this year. Jessica was our speaker at the Summer Conference last summer and did such a wonderful job. She loves the Lord and has an awesome way of sharing what she knows in a way that helps others serve Him. We are certainly looking forward to having her share her message with us at our rally!

All of our churches are busy with raising donations for our project this year. The churches have held Soup Dinners, Chicken and Noodle Dinners, Sweet and Savory Sales, Pulled Pork Potato Luncheons and Soup and Sandwich dinners. Several churches have finished and sent in their money and a few churches have their project raising later this spring. Every church is busy working within their communities to help those in need. Every community has unique needs and it's amazing to hear about all the different ways that our churches help people in and outside their church. It is just so wonderful to see how God is working through ABWM to help others and spread God's love!

Easter is coming soon and what a time of anticipation it is to know that our Savior is alive and coming back to take us home with Him. What a day of rejoicing that will be!!



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# Bible Book of the Month

## Zechariah

Zechariah was a prophet speaking to the people of Israel after they returned from exile in Babylon. They were back in Jerusalem, trying to rebuild the temple and their lives – but they were discouraged, spiritually weak, and unsure if God was still with them. The main message of Zechariah is as follows:

**God hasn't forgotten His people.** Even though they went through hard times, Zechariah reminds them that God still cares about them and wants to help them start over.

**Come back to Me.** Zechariah tells the people that they need to turn back to God in their hearts – not just go through the motions. It's about being real and faithful.

**Strange visions with important meanings.** These visions show that God sees everything; evil won't last forever; and God is in control, even when things seem out of control or God seems silent.

**Hope for the future.** Zechariah talks a lot about a future king and a time when things will be made right, pointing to Jesus Christ.

### **The 8 Visions (Chapter 1-6)**

**Horsemen Among the Trees:** Riders report that the earth is at rest. Even though things looked quiet, God was still paying attention and cared about what was happening to His people.

**The Four Horns and Four Craftsmen:** Horns (which represent power) and workers who come to break them. The nations that hurt Israel would be brought down.

**The Man with the Measuring Line:** A man measuring Jerusalem to rebuild it. Jerusalem would grow and be protected by God.

**Clean Clothes for the High Priest:** A priest named Joshua gets his dirty clothes replaced with clean ones. God was forgiving the people and giving them a fresh start. Forgiveness leads to restoration and purpose.

**The Lampstand and Olive Trees:** A golden lampstand with olive trees supplying oil. God's work would be done by His Spirit, not just human effort. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit..." God empowers what He calls you to do.

**The Flying Scroll:** A giant flying scroll going across the land. It represented God's judgment against sin and wrongdoing. Right and wrong are real, and actions have consequences.

**The Woman in a Basket:** A woman (representing evil) trapped in a basket and carried away. Sin and wickedness are being carried away. Change and freedom from wrong is possible.

**The Four Chariots:** Chariots going out across the earth. God's power and judgment were going out to the whole world. Nothing is outside His reach.

Zechariah's book begins with a call to repentance, but it ends with a vision of a holy nation and a glorious kingdom. "We may feel as though we have very limited effect on the events that are swirling around us at the national and international level, but we have direct access to the supernatural level! Praying small as well as large will transform our lives. We should pray about the immediate issues in our lives, and we should also lift our eyes and hearts to participate in God's great plan, We can prayerfully anticipate seeing the fulfillment of those parts of Zechariah's amazing visions that have not yet come to pass." The Transformation Study Bible, David C. Cook, page 1570.



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