

Women Alive

Summer/Fall
2018

President

A Vital Ministry

June 24th Terry Miller, former AB Women's Ministries of MA Coordinator of Personal Development and Coordinator of Love Gift, posted a plea for help on Facebook asking if any American Baptist women living in Billings, Montana could reach out to her friend, Alberta, whose son was attacked, badly beaten and lying in a coma in the hospital. That same day Barbara Anderson, former national AB Women's Ministries president and president of AB Women's Ministries of Massachusetts, responded and connected Terry to Pam Davies, former president of AB Women's Ministries of Montana. In Terry's words read how AB women came together for someone in need.



Terry Miller

When your daughter calls you and says, "MOM, I need your help!" What do you do? "Wayne's nephew is in great trouble and he needs a lot of prayer." "Mom, can you call your friends from the churches and ask them to pray for him?"

Raymond, a young 24-year-old, was badly beaten and was airlifted from South Dakota to Billings, Montana along with his mother. As his mother sat by his side each day alone in Billings, she began to run out of money. Her brother Wayne joined her in Billings, Montana but he too was running out of money.

My daughter asked, "Mom, do you know anyone who can help them?" "They need help Mom!"

God had his hand all over this story...in so many ways.

(Matthew 7:7) "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you shall find."

I reached out to Barbara Anderson, past president of AB Women's Ministries of Massachusetts, and she connected me to Pam Davies in Billings, Montana. Pam Davies contacted her church and they went together to assist Wayne and his sister Alberta. They brought food, prayer, and hope. And God even brought them a Native American woman/AB woman named Dolly Notafraid from Billings Baptist Church, who would be able to understand their culture and reach out to them in ways that we would not have known ourselves. They watched and prayed over Raymond and we asked for a miracle. Raymond lay in a coma for about 4 weeks. While God worked his miracles, we continued to pray for Raymond. Doctors were not giving us hope. During this time, Alberta and Wayne had run out of money.

(Proverbs 3:27) "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."

When money totally ran out for both Wayne and Alberta and they were no longer able to pay for their motel room, someone generously donated \$1,000.00 to Wayne from his place of business. Also, when Alberta needed to leave and return home to take care of important business, along with two

grandchildren left behind to her from her daughter who was killed in a car accident about two months before Raymond was beaten, a GoFundMe page was able to raise the funds that she needed.

(Job 5:8-9) "But if I were you, I would appeal to God, I would lay my cause before him. He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted."

While Wayne and Alberta have left Billings, Montana, our American Baptist support continued to visit and pray over Raymond, and as they did they witnessed themselves God's miracle.

(Ephesians 3:20-21) "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Within a week, Raymond was out of his coma, talking, and even walking. The Pastor at Billings First Baptist Church told Pam that Raymond had accepted Jesus into his life.

Raymond has since been transferred to another state for rehabilitation. Now that Raymond is out of his coma and able to identify his perpetrators, the police are involved, and information is scarce. We continue to keep Alberta in prayer and Raymond as his road is long and hard ahead of him.

I personally cannot thank AB women enough for all their support, beginning with Barbara Anderson, who has been an amazing sister to me since the day I met her, and Pam Davies for bringing the situation to her church and responding not only with all the right people needed, but continuous caring and prayer and concern for Raymond, Wayne and Alberta.

When I asked Wayne and Alberta did they have anything they wanted me to say, they just said to especially thank Pam Davies, Dolly Notafraid, and for all the prayer for Raymond.

Through this situation I saw so much of God's work: AB women connecting from state-to-state, the power of prayer, the generosity of so many, and then God's miracle for Raymond.

(Philippians 4:6-7) "Don't be anxious about anything, rather bring up all your request to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus."

As you can see AB Women's Ministries is a vital ministry. We are united across the United States and Puerto Rico through AB Women's Ministries as "a community of passionately faithful, mission-minded women and girls engaged in worship, service, and friendship."



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Mission and Service

I continue to share my experience leading a mission team to Puerto Rico last April. Our 12-member team worked alongside a team from West Virginia rebuilding a church that was damaged during Hurricane Maria. As you most likely know from media reports, there is still so much work to do to help that community regain their homes, churches, and schools.

During the Tri-State AB Women's Ministries conference, many of you showed interest in being part of an AB women's team. I have followed up with Abigail Medina Betancourt, who is the Puerto Rico Volunteer Coordinator for American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS).

As of now, the registration cost for a trip through them is \$150. That covers housing and food. Abigail did say that might increase by next year. Additional costs include transportation in PR and round-trip airfare. Being a teacher, I did ask about the possibility of working in a school for a week after hearing an NPR story on the recent status of schools.

Right now, I am looking at the 3rd week of June 2019 for an AB Women's Ministries of MA mission trip to PR. At this point, I am sending out 'feelers' to see how much interest there is in putting a team together. If you are possibly interested in being part of the conversation, please contact me via email.



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Secretary

FEEL/SIENTE... "Hannah prayed out of her deepest feelings. '[God] rekindles burned-out lives with fresh hope, restoring dignity and respect to their lives—a place in the sun!'"
1 Samuel 2:1 (The Voice) and 8 (The Message)

I'm really excited about our AB Women's Ministries of MA Fall Women's Day on October 6th, at First Baptist Church Framingham. The committee has been working to prepare a program that will be informative and challenging. There's a real opportunity for us to learn about what's happening among our missionaries in Europe regarding human trafficking, as we listen to Rev. Brenda Lammie and Rev. Paula Alexander speak of their experience in Amsterdam. There will also be a chance to serve our sisters in need who struggle with addictions.

If you remember, the focus of the first year of the national theme of FEEL/SIENTE was on homelessness. This year's focus is on domestic violence. I was appalled to learn that around the world, thirty percent of women have experienced violence at the hands of a partner. It is hoped that our churches can be a fine source of safety and healing for those who have been victims of this scourge. More information and resources are available on the National AB Women's Ministries website (www.abwomensministries.org) under Mission Focus. If you need assistance in accessing these resources, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Last fall we were made aware of the hurricane damage to Puerto Rico, and the efforts of the AB Women's Ministries of the mainland to raise funds for the Ministerios de Mujeres Bautistas de Puerto Rico (Baptist Women's Ministries of Puerto Rico) for 2018 to be able to continue ministering to its women and girls. In this newsletter please read how Gina Grenier, Coordinator of Mission and Service, has found a way to bring a presence of helping hands to the island — and an invitation to join forces with her.

I hope to see you at our Fall Women's Day on October 6th at FBC Framingham.



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White Cross



The picture to the left shows the items donated by the congregation at the First Baptist Church in Hanson for 2017-2018 during their "Christmas in July" mission event for White Cross. Over 350 items were given to the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) and EVERYONE participated.

Your church's 2017-2018 giving and your White Cross reports should have already been sent or delivered to MBMM and your report to your association's White Cross coordinator. If you need a report form, contact the White Cross coordinator in your association or if you are not sure who your association's coordinator is contact me. Put in the subject line "White Cross Question." Make sure to send your reports in ASAP. Note the reports cover the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS/Overland) aspect of your giving to White Cross.

International Ministries (IM) goal of monetary donations for Massachusetts in 2017-2018 was \$10,000. The donations should be in by September 30, 2018. If you haven't made your donation, check your White Cross packet of information you received from your White Cross association coordinator. Your gifts will help purchase medical supplies for hospitals and clinics, educational materials for Christian centers and after school and adult programs, food, clothing, and baby items for families OR you may give to a particular "Focus Area" that your Church is passionate about such as Education, Health or Human Trafficking. By giving to a "Focus Area" your monetary gift will be divided equally amongst the missions that concern themselves with these specific "Focus Areas." YOU MAY GIVE ONLINE: <https://portal.internationalministries.org/project-support>. Under "I would like to support" section select any of the projects beginning with "White Cross..." under the sentence "For churches: If this donation is being made by a church (not by an individual), enter the church name, city and state. The tax receipt will be sent to this church" enter the information requested. Thank you!

2018-2019 The packets should be arriving to you sometime in September. The year starts October 1, 2018 and goes through 9/30/2019 for IM and 5/31/2019 for ABHMS. ABHMS will again be for MBMM and International Ministries (IM) monetary donations for Massachusetts in 2018-2019 is \$7,500. Your association coordinator should know what percent of the total your Church may give as part of the total state's request.

GET INVOLVED! If your Church doesn't have an active women's group or is not involved with White Cross, let your pastor or missions committee know that you volunteer to coordinate this wonderful mission. Contact your White Cross association coordinator or contact me and I will get your information to your association's coordinator to send you a packet for 2018-2019. Refer to the spring issue of *Women Alive* White Cross Coordinator's article for more information on the history and answers to other questions.



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Love Gift

stew-ard

NOUN

stewards (plural noun)

A person whose responsibility it is to take care of something.

VERB

Supervise arrangements or keep order at a large public event.

Curious word. As American Baptists we usually hear this word used on Stewardship Sunday when we are asked to increase our yearly pledges, but on a recent trip to New Mexico I heard this word used by the park ranger giving us a guided tour of the Valles Caldera. He was giving us the history of the caldera and spoke of how previous owners had not been good STEWARDS of the land. Later again I heard this word used in the same tone of “we” have not always been good stewards. Curious.

Have we been good stewards for the Lord?



Love Gift began in 1932. Individuals were asked to give financial contributions in excess of their tithes and offerings to help avert a financial crisis that threatened to limit God’s work in the denomination at the time. Receiving the challenge, AB women began the over and above contributions called Love Gift.

Stewards. Over 85 years of Love Gift. The first were called Silver Boxes, illustrating that beneath every cloud there exists a silver lining.

Stop by the resource table at Fall Women’s Day and pick up a silver Love Gift box or join the challenge...bring your “silver” (nickels, dimes and quarters) and see which silver box fills up first – 5 cents, 10 cents, or 25 cents. Which one will be of higher value?

“If we know we pray, if we pray we give.” See you at Fall Women’s Day that will be held at the First Baptist Church in Framingham on Saturday, October 6th.



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Announcements

www.abwmof.org

The AB Women’s Ministries of MA website is not looking good. web.com has made some changes that are not easy with which to deal. We are looking for someone to help us to get the website to be more presentable and informative. Thank you for your patients.

AB Women’s Ministries of MA Directory

It was voted at the AB Women’s Ministries of MA business meeting held June 2, 2018 at the Tri-State AB Instead a brochure will be produced with relevant information.

State Support for AB Women’s Ministries

One of our Eight Steps of Giving is State Support for AB Women’s Ministries of MA. Contributions to State Support are used for this organization to provide ministries that empower women and girls to serve Christ. Funds provide speakers, conferences, retreats, a newsletter, a website, and more.

The average cost to mail the newsletter three times a year to an individual is \$6.00 (\$3/printing plus \$3/postage and envelopes). Multiply it times 113 snail mail subscribers and it equals \$678 per year. Last year (2017/2018) \$350 was given by ten women’s groups, churches, or individuals to State Support for AB Women’s Ministries of MA. Just one line item in the budget and we are over! Encourage your women’s group or missions committee to give to AB Women’s Ministries of MA State Support.

Speakers

Members from the executive committee are available to speak at your women's group or mission event. Each member has a different expertise. If you would like to learn more about AB Women's Ministries, White Cross, Love Gift or missions, contact a committee member directly or email abwmass@gmail.org.

National Leadership Team

Congratulations Phwe Aung of Calvary Baptist Church in Lowell, MA for her appointment to serve on the AB Women's Ministries National Leadership Team.

Invitation

All Hands In, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about local human trafficking, cordially invites you to a tea with Lauran Bethell, global consultant for human trafficking whose main goal is to encourage new grassroots projects addressing the exploitation and abuse of women and children. The tea is Sunday, September 9th at 3 PM. It will be held at Trinity Baptist Church, 115 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington. Attached is the invitation/flyer.



2018/2019 Mission Focus Theme: Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. It may be termed intimate partner violence when committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner, and can take place in heterosexual or same-sex relationships, or between former spouses or partners. Domestic violence can also involve violence against children, parents, or the elderly. It takes a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse such as choking, beating, female genital mutilation, and acid throwing that results in disfigurement or death. Domestic murders include stoning, bride burning, honor killings, and dowry deaths. (Wikipedia)

The statistics on domestic violence are heartbreaking. 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence or stalking at the hands of an intimate partner. Over half of women and men who have experienced some form of domestic violence were victimized for the first time before they were 25 years old. A representative from Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence (IPADV) spoke at our AB Women's Ministries Breakfast Buffet this past May. Visit IPADV at <http://www.interfaithpartners.org/> for more information.

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple has been designated as the color for the domestic violence awareness because it is said to represent courage and bravery. Wear the color purple in October to show support for the fight against domestic violence.



The National Domestic Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Adoniram Judson Association

The annual meeting of the Adoniram Judson Association Women's Ministries was held at the First Baptist Church of Medford on May 23, 2018. Many churches were represented and then everyone enjoyed a delicious salad buffet and dessert. After a brief meeting and a review of reports, Dave Dorvilier, Director of Youth Harbors, presented an interesting and informative program about this agency that works in high schools in six Massachusetts cities. Youth Harbors works with students ages 18-22 years old who are homeless or unaccompanied to ensure their graduation, housing stability, and successful transition to adulthood. They help students with job readiness, with independent living skills and provide counseling. The speaker invited everyone to the special graduation for students and suggested several ways that churches can assist in the Youth Harbors program.



The Judson women's annual Toy Harvest will be held on Saturday, November 17th at the First Baptist Church in Salem. The program focus will be on how food pantries are benefiting a large number of people weekly in the Boston area and how the individual programs operate. Toys and other gifts will be collected and distributed to needy children in the area.

Women's Ministries of Melrose First Baptist Church are continuing to participate in "The Little Dresses for Africa" project and they have had many people from the community join in this very worthwhile project. They will join with women from Green Street Baptist Church on September 27th for a Paint Night with a portion of the proceeds going to charity. The women are working on the annual church fair which will take place on Friday, November 2nd and Saturday, November 3rd.

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Merrimack Valley Association

SPECIAL NEWS FOR MERRIMACK VALLEY AND CHANGES ARE COMING

The annual Christmas Party for the Merrimack Valley will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

We will be celebrating the beginning of Advent at Calvary Baptist Church, 13 Ashland St., Haverhill with a Christmas tea and time for fellowship. Select choirs from Calvary Baptist Church will inspire us with music.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SET YOUR CLOCKS WITH THIS SPECIAL NEWS!!!

We hope to see all our churches represented.



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Mission-A-Rama

Saturday, November 10th
11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

West Acton Baptist Church
592 Massachusetts Ave.
W. Acton, MA

Because the Samuel Stillman AB Women's Ministries is currently without a president Nancy Dodge from West Acton Baptist Church and Bonnie Sestito from First Baptist Church - Cambridge have volunteered to plan this traditional mission event. The 2018/2019 AB Women's Ministries national mission focus is on domestic violence and we will address this mission focus at Mission-A-Rama. Detailed Information will be available soon so that your women's groups and churches may collect items needed. If you would like more information about Mission-A-Rama, email us at abwmass@gmail.com.

NATIONAL NEWS

Harvesting SHALOM

Harvesting Shalom: A Retreat about Wellness

For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." (Acts 17:28, NRSV)

Friday, September 28 – Sunday, September 30, 2018
(Begins after dinner Friday and ends before noon on Sunday)

Canonicus Camp and Conference Center
Exeter, Rhode Island

For details or to register visit the AB Women's Ministries website at www.abwomensministries.org or if you don't have online access contact Marilyn Glover, AB Women's Ministries of MA Secretary at 781-322-5361 and she will assist you.

2018-2019 Mission Focus Theme

For 2018-2019, AB Women's Ministries national mission focus is on domestic violence. This issue impacts women and girls right in our own congregations. Find information (Bible studies, webinars, etc.) on the AB Women's Ministries mission focus page (www.abwomensministries.org) and stay tuned for updates.

Vital Partners for a Vital Ministries

Vital Partners are individuals or groups that give regularly (\$120 or more per year) to National Support of American Baptist Women's Ministries. **Vital Partners** give monthly, quarterly, or annually, and they may also set up automated giving by direct withdrawal from their bank account or credit card. Vital Partners have a vision for the future of AB Women's Ministries and financially support our work with women and girls. Your support of national AB Women's Ministries, whether great or small, collectively makes possible great things!

As a **Vital Partner** in this ministry, your support will

- **Develop** strong and exciting ministries with girls, building courageous and enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Build** a ministry dedicated to growing leadership skills in women, so they can create, plan, and implement ministry visions.
- **Empower** American Baptist Women's Ministries to reach new heights in envisioning programs, producing resources for your ministries, and expanding ministries for young adult women.
- **Ensure** the future of American Baptist Women's Ministries; today's funding reaches tomorrow's leaders!

Vital Partners Yearly Giving Levels

Inspired by our mission statement, "AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God," AB Women's Ministries recognizes these Vital Partner yearly giving levels:

\$120 - \$499	Sustaining Partner
\$500 - \$999	Encouraging Partner
\$1000 +	Empowering Partner



Become a Vital Partner for a Vital Ministry!

To make a gift visit the AB Women's Ministries website where you may give on-line or download a Vital Partners Pledge Form.