



American Baptist Women's Ministries of PA & DE

Pittsburgh Baptist Association

159 N. Bellefield Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Some don't have internet access and are missing any form of gathering.

Some have loved ones that are very sick from the virus or have passed on due to the virus.

Some have used talents to make things like masks or care packages to distribute to front line workers, family, and friends.

Some have taken the opportunity to minister to elderly or health compromised neighbors and family through food deliveries or picking up prescriptions.

Some have nobody to look in on them.

Some do not believe the virus is even a big deal.

Some are believing God has a plan and are looking for miracles in 2020.

Some are full of despair and have not hope for 2020.

It is important that as we ride out and emerge from this storm that we not only LOOK at others, but we SEE others. We are all in **our boats** on this **huge storm - together, but apart**. Be careful to show a bit more kindness linked with a generous portion of understanding.



**'Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him.
Truly He is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.'**

Psalm 62:5-6

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PERMIT NO. 379

Greetings to our ladies across the Region! We pray that you are staying safe and healthy in these unprecedented times. Your leadership of ABWMOPAD has tried to keep in touch via Notes and News, the ABCOPAD website, Constant Contact emails and social media. We wanted to send a newsletter just to give one more touch point with information for our ladies. The information shared in this newsletter would have been what you would have heard from various leaders at our 2020 THRIVE CONFERENCE.



Meet your ABWMOPAD LEADERSHIP 2020-2021



PRESIDENT/LOVE GIFTBecky Crissman
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MISSION & SERVICE Sally Perry
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SAME STORM - DIFFERENT BOAT

As a wellness check on each other during our ZOOM TEAM MEETING, we each shared our perspective on the Pandemic and being sheltered in place. Sue MacDonald also shared a writing with us about the wide range of situations we find ourselves in during this storm. Due to copyright, I cannot share it word for word but will share thoughts from both the TEAM and the article.

Some are able to work from home.

Some expressed feelings of loneliness or estrangement.

Some are considered essential workers and are out every day, but under the stress of coming into contact with the virus.

Some are helping with children or grandchildren's care and/or education.

Some are missing their grandchildren very much.

Some have had no physical contact with aging parents.

Some were not affected by loss of income, some were.

Some qualified for unemployment, some did not.

Some passed through holidays with no gatherings, some gathered as if they had nothing to be concerned about.

Some can stay at home in comfy clothes and slippers every day.

Some show up to work in hospitals and nursing homes every day.

Some are stay at home parents helping their children with online curriculum. Some work full days outside the home and then help their children with their online education.

Some are involved in getting worship and messages out via the web so others can feel connected.

followed any news from Brazil, you will be aware of their lack of caution. The cities are very crowded, and this encourages the spread of a contagious disease. I spoke with Corene Smith in early March when the virus was just beginning in Brazil and we were experiencing 'stay at home' orders in the USA. At that point, her husband and two children were still in Indiana and she did not believe that they would be able to fly out since most flights were being cancelled. Corene assured me that she was where she belonged, helping the people at Hope Unlimited. Please keep this family and this mission in your prayers. Please do what you can to raise funds to support this project that keeps abandoned children off of the streets and gives them hope and a future. Please pray for God to be present at Hope Unlimited, that He would strengthen and encourage all who come through the doors. Pray that Jesus will be known to all who interact with the mission and pray for courage to continue this good work.

Thank you for being the beautiful people you are. Thank you for caring for those in other countries who have so little but have huge faith. Thank you for loving others and supporting the missions that God has laid upon our hearts.

God bless every one of you and fill you with joy as we work together for others.

ABWMOPAD Mission & Service Coordinator, Sally Perry



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AB GIRLS Kristi Young
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THRIVE GRANT Sonie Mervis
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CONFERENCE TEAM Jodie Vasbinder
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LADY AT LARGE Sue MacDonald
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SAVE THE DATE

THRIVE CONFERENCE 2021

JUNE 11-12, 2021

ALTOONA, PA

*God planned a great 2020 conference
and we will carry it out in 2021!*

Join us!

This information can also be found on the ABCOPAD website:

<https://www.abcopad.org/>

From Tabs select 'MINISTRY'

From Drop Down select 'AB WOMEN'S MINISTRY'

Scroll down the page to the many links at the bottom for more information, downloads, etc.

NOMINEES FOR ABWMOPAD TEAM

Due to Coronavirus and cancellation of annual conference, your leadership TEAM has endorsed this slate of new leaders. New Team members begin their duties October 1, 2020



PRESIDENT
BECKY CRISSMAN

Becky Crissman is a member of Franklin Union Baptist Church in the Clarion Association. Becky has served as the AB Girls Coordinator for the past three years and has enjoyed working with the girls at the past four conferences. Becky is currently the financial secretary at the church. She has served in other ways over the years including being a Sunday School teacher and a youth leader, as well as worked in the nursery, children's church and provided the children's message. Becky has participated in many mission trips, most recently leading a group to Puerto Rico. She has a heart for people. "I have discovered my job in social work to be my calling as I work with people who are struggling. I look forward to being in ministry with the American Baptist Women of Pennsylvania and Delaware".



WHITE CROSS COORDINATOR
BARBARA PRINE

Barb is a member of First Baptist Church, Reading in the Reading Association. Barb has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. She loves being "Grandma". At her local church Barb is on the Board of Deacons, and she is Financial Secretary. She also participates in the choir and bell choir. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, and many types of crafts. Barb says, "Forty years ago, when I joined FBC Reading, I realized the blessing of having a church family. I learned the difference between believing in God and having Christ live in you. I pray that His light now shines in me in a way that blesses others."

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of the many women of ABMWOPAD!!

The final gift to the 2019 Mission Project was sent to Puerto Rico in April 2020. In total, \$23,866.76 was raised in support of Rebuilding Primera Iglesia Bautista de Masas II.

To date, you have donated nearly \$12,000.00 towards the goal of \$15,000 for the Hope Unlimited for Children thrift shop.



ABWMOPAD Treasurer,
Cynthia Carter-Wedgewood

I wish to bring you up to date on what is happening with missions.

MISSION & SERVICE

Last year, as the conference began, we learned that there was a problem with our plan for the Masas II church in Puerto Rico. There was a huge question about whether we would be permitted to provide the church with the funds we had collected. We could not share this information because we really did not know the whole story. A mission trip was planned for October 2019. This gave us boots on the ground. There was a meeting with the folks in Puerto Rico where we determined goals for dispersing some of the funds. Pastor Miguel, of Masas II, prepared a proposal describing how the congregation planned to spend some of the funding. We accepted that proposal and dispersed \$5,000 for their use as they waited for word on how their church rebuilding project would develop. Part of the plan involved a community outreach in the form of a health clinic day for diabetes awareness in March 2020. (It has not been able to happen because of COVID19) Plans are now developing for rebuilding the church which allowed us to release the remaining \$18,000 that you wonderful ladies raised for equally wonderful people in Puerto Rico. Their church is certain to grow. They truly are people of the Word; they love and worship in spirit and in truth. It is a great joy to have met so many of them and know that God is at work in their community. Thank you for your support. Please continue to keep them in prayer.

Our new project for 2020 will be our project for 2021 - because of the virus! As I write this, Brazil is deeply impacted by the spread of COVID19. If you have

3. Limited staff. The best example is that the kitchen staff has been furloughed because they live off-campus and the campus is locked down. Corenne and other staff members, including house parents, are doing all the cooking for the 35 people on campus. When she is not cooking, Corenne is providing childcare for one of the women cooks.

4. The Smith family. This has been a difficult time for Corenne, being separated from her family and missing all their birthdays during the separation. She knows that God has called her to be in Brazil during this time and that Bella is safer in the U.S. with her compromised lungs, but that does not mean she does not feel the loss.

5. Praise for re-purposed vocational training facilities. Several of our staff are using the sewing machines to make masks and painting automobiles in our autoboby repair area.

6. Praise for 6 boys who have accepted Christ and are taking baptism class



FUNDS ON HAND	
Checking – Unrestricted	\$ 35,476.11
Checking – Restricted - 2020 Regional Project Donations	\$ 6,335.75
Checking – Restricted - Love Gift Donations	\$ 394.85
Total Checking	\$ 42,206.71
Savings	\$ 10,416.82
Investments (ABHMS/MyCCCU)	\$ 66,834.37
TOTAL FUNDS AS of MAY 31, 2020	\$ 119,457.90

INCOME AND EXPENSES	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,386.41
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,921.16
NET SURPLUS - FISCAL YEAR TO DATE MAY 2020	\$ 1,465.65



**ABGIRLS COORDINATOR
KRISTI YOUNG**

Kristi Young holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and is the author of *Fanning the Flame: Igniting Intimacy with God*. Through involvement with a corporate ministry, Kristi began writing devotions which she shares with hundreds of readers weekly. Her passion for writing continues and she hopes to, perhaps, publish more books in the future. Kristi serves as a youth leader to junior and senior high students at her church, Cornerstone Fellowship in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, (Central Union) as well as serving in children's ministries from time to time. Kristi has a passion for helping others and encouraging them into a deep and authentic relationship with God. She strives to build strong and lasting relationships with the youth in her church to help them grow in their identity as God's sons and daughters and to aid them in knowing, loving, and trusting God. In her spare time, Kristi loves being outside enjoying nature or curling up with a cup of coffee and a good book. Through the ups and downs of life, Kristi strives to find the silver lining in any circumstance and to maintain perspective of God's tremendous blessings towards each one of us in countless ways.



**THRIVE GRANT COORDINATOR
(Second Term)
SONIE MERVIS**

Sonie attends the First Baptist Church of Kittanning of the Clarion Association. Sonie has been married to Bob for 52 years and has 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. She is active in her church having served as ABWM President; teaching Jr/Sr Sunday School; serving as White Cross Coordinator. Sonie is the retired Armstrong County Treasurer. She volunteers at local cancer center and serves on local community boards. Sonie enjoys traveling, gardening, jewelry making and spending time with her family.

Our thanks to Sue MacDonald and her nominating team and all those that give suggestions and pray for our leadership.



LOVE GIFT

Do you have 20/20 vision in 2020? We planned an exciting THRIVE Conference. We were using the 20/20 idea throughout. None of us ever expected that our eyes would be drawn to a Pandemic. Our state, country and most of the world being shut down and things we have done for our missionaries in the past became projects for our own people – making protective face masks.

It made me think of our 1932 women. They met a need, which they heard about, with what little they had, and **LOVE GIFT** was born. I know not all women had gnarled hard working hands, but that is what I think of when I imagine them counting out meager earnings, coin by coin. Sacrificial giving during a time of a depression, by women that were used to hard work and had great faith that God would see them through each situation.

We can continue their legacy. Drop those coins in your love gift container and get them sent in. Our missions are on the frontlines. The need is great, and we can share. I know with the stay at home orders coins probably have not been in great quantity, but perhaps we could put IOU's in and then write a check.

We can all use talents we have, big and small. We can use the funds we have, big or small. We can pray. Let us go BIG on that one.

Be safe, be loving, be giving and be a Woman of God – use your 20/20 vision to meet needs of others.

ABWMOPAD President, Pam Hughes

PS Through June 2020, Love Gift is behind \$4,000 from last year in the same 6 months. We suspect this is due to women not being able to meet at this time.

WHITE CROSS

Our ladies no longer roll bandages for White Cross, after years of doing this, many were disappointed at its cessation. But I am happy to announce that the many bandages that were waiting for shipment arrived in Democratic Republic of Congo in October 2019.



Our Region no longer receives a quota from International Ministries. You or your groups can go to <https://www.internationalministries.org/> for project descriptions and how to (1) give financially, (2) pray for or (3) serve.

Our overland missions for last year were Crossroads Community Baptist Church in Erie, PA and Rankin Christian Center in Rankin, PA. They requested school supplies, kitchen supplies (such as paper products and table wear), balls, clothes, and toiletries. Thank you for supporting these organizations. I have not heard from the National office about what the missions will be for this year but will keep you posted when I hear. I am sure there will be greater need this year due to the virus and other factors.

ABWMOPAD White Cross Coordinator, Maureen Koeller



BRIGHTER DAYS FOR BRAZILIAN YOUTH PROJECT

Due to the need to cancel the conference, the Leadership TEAM made the decision to carry the Brazil Project forward into 2021. Continue to raise funds to be given to the project. As of September 2020, funds raised to that date will be sent to help with the Thrift Shop. It will be neat to not only help at this time, but to help through June 2021 THRIVE CONFERENCE and hear directly from Corene how funds were used and will be used!



Corene Smith needs our continued prayers during this tough time since so much has fallen on her shoulders due to the pandemic. Tension is growing on the Hope Mountain campus as people have grown weary of the restrictions from COVID19. The campus is on lockdown and tempers are short. Some specific areas you can pray about include:

- 1. Unity among the house parents.** Although Corene stresses the need to be of one mind, not all the house parents are as respectful of her leadership as they should be.
- 2. Boys who are acting out.** An example was a young man who chose to challenge another young man and when he did not get his way decided to stage a hunger strike for several days. It fell to Corene to resolve the issue.