

American Baptist Women's Ministries

Nov/Dec 2016 A Bi-Monthly Publication by the AB Women of Highland, Illinois

Vol 1

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

Thursday, Nov 17, 6 p.m.

ARISE SHINE



Details below!



ABWM

Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.

Food, fun, music, games, prizes for all Ladies and Girls! Join us, and bring your friends and relatives as well. Details below!



Sat, Dec. 3, 9 a.m-1 p.m

Help supervise the little ones as their moms & dads enjoy a few hours of pre-holiday rest and relaxation. Games, movies, stories, videos...lots of fun for the kids and helpers as well. Contact the office @ 654-4145 to volunteer!

Adopt-a-Family



for **HACSM**

Take a gift tag from the little tree (soon to be in the narthex) purchase the item, attach the tag, and return it unwrapped by December 11. It's that easy to make Christmas a blessed time for a family in need!

"Focus on Families

is the theme for this year's Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer service, to be held on Thursday, November 17, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. right here at Highland First Baptist.

The family is the most important building block of our society, yet today's families are threatened with a myriad of problems and stresses, including marital problems, divorce, blended families, substance abuse, mental health issues, financial stresses, ... all of which threaten to weaken the very fabric of our society.

Led by our guest speaker, J. C. Plog--a Highland-area counselor--the ladies of Highland First Baptist Church, Highland Southern Baptist Church, and Faith Baptist Church will explore the issues which our local families, and those

world-wide are facing; and direct intense and specific prayers for the Lord's intercession to improve relationships and restore peace, tranquility, and mutual understanding among those whose family lives are in turmoil.

The evening will begin with dinner provided by the ladies of all three churches, and will include music and praise as well as vital information and suggestions for ways in which we can be of practical help to families in need, in addition to offering our prayers on their behalf.

Please mark your calendars and join us for this most important event.

Annual ABWM Christmas Party

For the ladies and girls of Highland First Baptist, the official start of the Christmas season is our annual Christmas

party and potluck, scheduled for Thursday, December 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will start with a potluck, with salads, side dishes, and desserts being provided by the attendees; meat, beverages and table service provided by the ABWM. There will be games and prizes, music--including singing and handbells--Christmas devotionals, and lots of time for socializing and fun! Each guest should bring a small \$1.00 wrapped gift to use as prizes for our traditional "Right/Left" game.

Although there is no charge to attend, we do ask the ladies to sign up in advance so that we know how many to prepare for.

So invite your friends and relatives to join us for this fun and festive event! See you all on December 1st!



The **American Baptist Home Missions Society** (ABHMS) is the arm of the American Baptist Churches, USA (ABCUSA) which supports and oversees a variety of home missions and mission projects throughout the United States and its territories. Peoria Friendship House, the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, and Rankin Christian Center in Rankin, Pennsylvania, are all under the umbrella of missions which ABHMS serves.

Throughout the US, the staff and workers of ABHMS continuously encountered so many children living at or below the poverty level that they felt they simply HAD to do something to call attention to this travesty, nation-wide.

In 2009, the Penny Project initiative was launched with the goal of raising 14,000,000 pennies--one penny representing each of the fourteen million children living in poverty in our country. The "rules" of the Penny Project are simple. Any individual or church can participate. Donors place their pennies (or other currency--any US currency is accepted) in piggy banks which are located in homes, ABC churches, and other structures where the inhabitants wish to participate. Money raised MUST be used for the benefit of LOCAL children! In other words, the donors' only responsibility to ABHMS is to register as an official Penny Project participant and to report the amount of money raised. The actual donations, however, remain with the person or group collecting them and can be used to support any legitimate cause or agency which benefits children in the donors' immediate area. That's all there is to it.

From September 1 through November 30 each year, the ABWM ladies of the First Baptist Church of Highland place piggy banks in all the Sunday School

classrooms to collect money for this project. These donations are given to HACSM--the local food pantry--in early December to be used specifically for the purchase of Christmas gifts for children in the Highland School District who might not have any presents under the tree were it not for the generosity of our members. Thus far, we've donated more than \$450 to HACSM for this purpose.

To date, over 13 million pennies, or \$1,300,000.00, have been donated nationwide. Many children have already benefited from these donations. Let's do all we can to make 2017 the year in which ABHMS's ultimate goal of 14 million pennies is reached, to the benefit of all those precious children whose hope for the future lies largely in our hands.

Kathleen Niles is an ABC missionary in Congo. She serves as a nurse in a church-related health center in Kinshasa.

Conditions in that center are primitive by any standards. Often patients have to sleep on mats on the floor because there are not enough beds. Surgery must occasionally be done by flashlight as their electricity doesn't always work. The people who come to

Kathleen's hospital are desperate; they have nowhere else to go for medical treatment. Kathleen has stated that, without the rolled cloth bandages that we send to her each year, plus the surgical gowns and masks, baby layettes, and other items which we White Cross volunteers supply, her hospital would not be able to function, and many would suffer and even die from lack of medical care.

Please join us for our next White Cross workshop on the 1st Thursday of February, 2017, 7 p.m. The people of Congo are counting on you for their very lives.



GOOD HUMOR

In the cafeteria of a Christian school, there was a tray full of apples, with a note that said, "Please take only one. Remember: God is watching!"

At the end of the serving line was another tray, this one laden with chocolate chip cookies. A student wrote a note which she placed on that tray which said, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples!"

At the end of the age when all the believers were standing in line waiting to get into heaven, God appeared and said, "I want all the men to form two lines. One line will be for the men who were the true heads of their households. The other will be for the men who were dominated by their wives."

God continued, "I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

The women left and the men formed two lines. The line of men who were dominated by their wives was seemingly unending. The line of men who were the true head of their household had one man in it.

God said to the first line, "You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. I appointed you to be the heads of your households and you were disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose. Of all of you, there is only one man who obeyed me. Learn from him."

Then God turned to the lone man and asked, "How did you come to be in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."

