

Important information you need for ministries with women and girls.

Fall 2022

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Support our ministry
with women and girls!

Helpful Links

[2021-2023 Ministry Focus: Let the Walls Fall Down](#)

[Shine the Light Award](#)

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*"Give thanks always for all things to God and the Father,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
— Ephesians 5:20*

Happy Thanksgiving! God calls us to be thankful and to give God glory. As you sit down with your family and friends on Thanksgiving day, count your blessings, and be reminded that God is good... the Word is good.

Support ABWM on GivingTuesday, Nov. 29

Start this Christmas season off by supporting American Baptist Women's Ministries on GivingTuesday, November 29, 2022, is a global day dedicated to celebrating generosity.

Your gift will allow ABWM to continue providing free webinars, scholarships for events, programs, resources, and leadership training for ministries with women and girls in your church, area, and region.

It's easy to be a part of the GivingTuesday movement! Just by giving, you are part of the movement. **Submit your tax-deductible donation** by [clicking here](#) or send a check to American Baptist Women's Ministries, 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406, and include "GivingTuesday" in the memo line.

You can also give your time by helping to spread the word. Use social media to share about ABWM and all the great things we do!



Support ABWM While Purchasing Your Christmas Gifts through Amazon

Do you plan on purchasing your Christmas gifts online through Amazon? Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to ABWM! AmazonSmile has the same products, prices, and features as Amazon.

All you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com, select American Baptist Women's Ministries as your charity, and start shopping!

You can shop on AmazonSmile using your Amazon App on your phone! Simply follow these directions:

1. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the App Store for iOS or Google Play for Android.

Note: AmazonSmile in the app is not available for iPads and other tablet devices

2. If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, simply sign up at smile.amazon.com and select American Baptist Women's Ministries as your favorite charity to start generating donations at no cost to you.
3. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Next, tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

Is God Calling You to Serve?

Are you passionate about the Christ-centered mission of American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM)?

Are you participating in and dedicated to ABWM's ministries like Building Beloved Community and Leadership Development for women and girls?

Does your testimony evidence commitment to addressing domestic violence, sex trafficking, and economic empowerment issues?

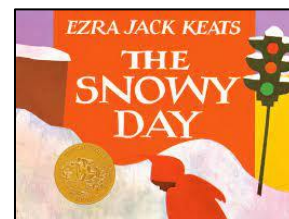
If you said yes to these questions and enjoy the diversity and growth opportunities inherent in an intergenerational ministry where all voices are welcomed and all gifts appreciated, please apply to be part of ABWM's National Board, Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT), or the National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS (NLT). Please refer to the application for more detail.

Apply by December 1, 2022, to serve American Baptist Women's Ministries':

- **Board as a National Officer** -- These positions are three-year terms that begin in September. Selections are based on skills needed for the position, experience, active membership in an American Baptist church, and a passion for women's ministries. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT)** -- The YAWMAT serves as an ad-hoc team that gives input to ABWM's ministry with young adult women (defined as approximate ages 18-35). For more information, [click here](#).
- **National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS (NLT)** -- The NLT consists of four teenage girls from across the country working together to plan programs and resources for ministry with girls. They also serve as consultants for churches. For more information, [click here](#).

The Snowy Day

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain will join fellow National Executive Council members for a special reading of *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keat. Check out the video on ABWM's website, www.abwomensministries.org.



The National Executive Council is comprised of Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries; Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies; Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of International Ministries; Dr. Louis Barbarin, Chief Executive Officer of MMBB Financial Services; and Dr. C. Jeff Woods, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA.

Seeking Nominations for the 2023 "Shine the Light" Award

Do you have a woman, or a group of women, in your church who shows God's love in all they do? Then nominate her/them for the Shine the Light award! We are looking for women who excel in showing the light of Christ in their churches,



families, and communities.

The award honors exemplary women from local American Baptist churches for how they shine for Christ in the world. It can be given to an American Baptist woman or a group of women from an American Baptist church. The award highlights women that exemplify the four criteria of creativity, commission (following the "Great Commission" of Matthew 28), collaboration, and communication.

For more information, visit www.abwomensministries.org/shinethelight. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2023.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day is January 11

Use January 11, 2023, as an opportunity to raise awareness in your women and girls' ministries and in your congregation and community about the tragic issue of human trafficking. Human trafficking includes sexual exploitation, but it's more than that. Human trafficking is about coercing persons into bonded labor and domestic servitude, enslaving people in agricultural work and factories, capturing children to be soldiers, and buying and selling human beings.

Raising Awareness

American Baptist Women's Ministries has been engaged in raising awareness about human trafficking, particularly sex trafficking, for many years. Through the [Bridges & Gateways Endowment: Break the Chains Fund](#), ABWM will continue to provide education, advocacy, partnerships, and opportunities to learn how to prevent sex trafficking through workshops and events, partnerships, and grants for new projects. Help American Baptist Women's Ministries in this effort by giving to the Bridges & Gateways Endowment: Break the Chains. Give online at www.abwomensministries.org/give or send your donation to AB Women's Ministries, 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

You're Invited!

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) invites you to partner with us by joining the Violet Circle. The Violet Circle is a community of individuals, churches, and organizations who choose to support the mission, vision, and purpose of ABWM through their selfless



giving and consistent support exceeding \$1,000.00 annually.

Violet Circle donations are catalytic! They further empower ABWM to encourage women and girls to live into the fullness of whom they are created by God to be through powerful, relevant, and meaningful ministries.

In the Violet Circle, named for [Violet Rudd](#), 1976-1983 Executive Director of American Baptist Women, we stand on the shoulders of ABWM leaders who paved the way for the ministry of today and tomorrow.

To join the Violet Circle, give by::

- credit card at www.abwomensministries.org/VioletCircle
- Venmo @abwomensministries
- text ABWM to 443210
- check payable to "ABWM" (include Violet Circle in the memo line) to American Baptist Women's Ministries, 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

If you have questions about joining the Violet Circle, please contact us at (610) 768-2288 or email info@abwomensministries.org.

Reset and Reimagine Grants

ABWM's Reset and Reimagine supports new and existing programs and services that build community, and support women and children in American Baptist churches and communities across the nation as they *reset and reimagine* their future. Learn more and apply for a grant by January 30 at www.abwomensministries.org/ResetandReimagine.



Grants are available to support new and existing programs and services that build community, and support women and children in American Baptist churches and communities across the nation as they Reset and Reimagine their future.

www.abwomensministries.org/ResetandReimagine

Articles from Officers



2023 Ministry Goals

By [Rev. Dr. Christine Smith](#),
national president

Greetings, ABWM Women of God! With great joy and appreciation, I share the following accomplishments of American Baptist Women's

Ministries in 2022.

As you read this season's *Leader's Reader*, you will see the detailed reports of our Executive Committee members and other organizational leaders. I encourage you to stop by our website, www.abwomensministries.org, to hear recordings of our free webinars, video highlights of our 2022 Women and Girls conference, and upcoming events. **I also encourage you to refer back to our [immediate past Leader's Reader](#) (Summer 2022) to find a detailed overview of our MANY accomplishments in 2022**, including executive committee trainings and retreats, book study, summer conference, new officers, annual sessions, and so much more! Our Popcorn Fundraiser was a PHENOMENAL SUCCESS! In four days, ABWM EC members, R/S presidents, and other members raised nearly \$17,000, netting \$8,843 (50% of all proceeds raised) for our organization! Thank you to all who supported this important endeavor!

ABWM 2023 Ministry Goals:

During our annual ABWM national board meeting in the summer of 2022, we voted upon and passed the following ministry goals:

- Our 2023 Mission Focus is "Racial Justice." Look for bible studies, webinars, workshops, etc., surrounding this new theme.
- Beginning in 2023, ABWM region/states are being asked to alternate designating national ABWM as the region/state project for fundraising.
- Strategic fundraising training will be provided to the ABWM Executive Committee at least twice a year with at least 90% participation. All region/state presidents are urged to attend at least one of the trainings.
- The full ABWM board will participate/engage in ongoing strategic training for alignment with ABWM's mission, vision, and purpose. Region/State presidents are asked to share information and strategies given within their areas, across the U.S., including Puerto Rico, with 100% participation.
- The full ABWM board will participate in the Popcorn Fundraising events for ABWM

- All EC members are required to be Vital Partners (giving at least \$228 annually to ABWM National)

We give God HIGH PRAISE for the great things that we have been able to accomplish, the things that we are striving to accomplish, and all that we shall accomplish together in the name of Jesus! We can do all things through Christ that strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

Again, thank you, ABWM, for your dedication, service, love, prayers, and support!



Investing in ABWM!

By [Rev. Dr. La-Tonia Jackson](#),
national treasurer

Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. Luke 6:38 is a scripture that we've all read. It is a scripture that

helps us reflect on God's provision for us. And it helps us to reflect on ways we can be a blessing to others.

This is a fabulous season and a great time for you to join us in celebrating the goodness of the Lord and supporting ABWM. Making a gift to ABWM is an investment in the future of our ministry and commitment to the moral and religious development of women and girls.

- **You can make a gift to ABWM online:** [Click here to give a gift to ABWM](#)
- **You can mail your donation** to American Baptist Women's Ministries, 1075 1st Avenue, Suite C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406
- **You can give by Venmo:** @abwomensministries
- **You can give by text:** Text ABWM to 44321
- **Gifts of securities:** Give through appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.
- **Matching gifts:** If you or your spouse work for a company that matches gifts, your gift to American Baptist Women's Ministries may be doubled or tripled!



ABWM's tax ID number (EIN) is 23-2853745.

Thank you! Your support can make a difference in someone's life.



What Is Human Trafficking?

By [LaRose Karr](#), coordinator of mission with women and girls

Human Trafficking is defined as the unlawful act of transporting or coercing people to benefit from their work or service, typically in

the form of forced labor or severe sexual exploitation.

Severe exploitation – a crime against human rights where someone's individual choices and dignity have been removed.

Compelled labor – any work or service in which the individual is forced, tricked or coerced to do against their will, under threat of punishment.

Commercial sex – any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by another person.

Force - includes physical restraint, physical harm, sexual assault, beatings, monitoring, and confinement.

Fraud – includes false promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, love, marriage, or a better life. Unexpected changes in work conditions, compensation or debt agreements, or nature of the relationship.

Coercion – includes threats of serious harm, psychological manipulation, document confiscation, shame, and fear-inducing threats, to share or report to authorities to prevent someone from leaving.

American Baptist Women's Ministries strives to raise awareness to prevent these crimes. During the 2022 Women and Girls Conference, we compiled blessing bags for those coming out of human trafficking and survivors. This can be done locally in our churches and communities as well.

Education is key. Be sure to use our website, www.abwomensministries.org. With videos or websites, make this topic a part of women's events using the technology in your churches.

Taking Action - Visit the website of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation for excellent information. <http://endsexualexploitation.org/>



Tips for Planning Events & Meetings for Young Adults

By [Olivia Banks](#), coordinator of young adult women's ministries

Think Ecumenically – invite someone outside of your normal circle of influence! Don't be afraid

to send an invitation to that woman you may not speak to regularly: a neighbor down the street, a teacher from your child's school, a person in your workout class, etc.

Be Flexible – young adults are busy people! From school to families, young adult women have many responsibilities, recognizing that is important. If it is difficult to get together in person, be open to having a meeting virtually or doing it hybrid.

Use an Icebreaker – have the group share a highlight from their day or where they saw God that week. If you want to get everyone up and to mingle, create a bingo card with an interest in each square. Attendees will have to go from person to person to find a match for each square. The first person to get a bingo wins a prize.

Set a Rain Date – if it is an outdoor event, be mindful of temperamental weather or have a plan to reschedule. When having a virtual meeting or event, have a backup leader selected in case there are any absences.

Follow-Up – when appropriate, send thank you notes to those who attended and presented. Create a simple survey to be filled out at the end of the event or sent after via email. Send prompt minutes while the information is still fresh.



Women's History Month Event Ideas

By [Dawn Doerr-Johnson](#), coordinator of events

Are you ready for Women's History Month? March is only four months away. It's not too

early to think about how you will recognize Women's History Month in your local circles.

Luncheon with a Speaker – Look for a local woman with an interesting perspective on Women in the Workforce, maybe a small business owner. Do you have a local woman who has achieved an outstanding goal? Maybe a woman who has adopted a child would speak. How about asking a

teacher to speak on STEM or STEAM activities for girls?

Special Interest Evening – An evening of quilting where someone speaks on quilts as art pairs nicely with a "Bring Your Own Project" time of crafting together. Trivia Night? You can develop your own set of questions. This could be a fundraiser with a set price per team.

5k Run for Women for fun or funds – Is there a golf course or nature preserve where this can happen?

Sweetheart Dinner where men cook for the women – Is there a gentleman who would take this project on?

Women's Health Fair – Would your hospital sponsor an informational event on women's health concerns, like breast and ovarian cancer, weight loss, etc.?

Women's March – Let your legislative body know how you feel about women's issues as a voter. Celebrate the month! Celebrate women! Get to planning!



Let the Walls Fall Down: Immigration

By [Carol Wright](#), coordinator of the western section

"When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who

resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself." Leviticus 19:33-44

The Bible consistently spells out that it is the citizen's responsibility to ensure that the immigrant, the stranger, and the refugee is respected, welcomed, and cared for. It is what God wants us to do. The golden rule, "Love your neighbor as yourself," carries equal weight with the stranger. Romans and Hebrews call on those who follow Jesus to extend hospitality to strangers. It is said to be a shelter for them enabling human beings to find a home. Deuteronomy says the stranger has rights and "You must love the stranger." Then, in 10:18, "he loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." In addition, Isaiah says, "Let outcasts find asylum in you; be a shelter for them."

In a recent "What's up ABWM?" Lorna showed hospitality when asked by the diaconate, "What policies should we have for the refugees? She

responded, "What policies do we have for the whites?" And with that response, there were no policies needed.

As American Baptist women, we know these things, so it's up to us to show our church, our communities, and our families what this hospitality looks like. Is God inviting you to grow closer to someone who is different from you?

What's Happening in your ABWM Region?



MIDWESTERN SECTION

By [Lovena Van Haften](#), coordinator of the midwestern section

What walls have you built up? What walls do you want to help tear down? Micah 6:8 tells us, "He has told you what

is good and what the Lord requires of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." So let us be fair, just, merciful, and walk humbly with your God.

Great Rivers Region's special project for 2022-2023 is to provide medical supplies and nurses training for 13 hospitals. Their July conference provided the women with a drama skit from Corrie ten Boom and Storytelling.

Central Region's Midwinter Mission Conference will be on January 20-21, 2023.

Mid-American women have had their fall events. Plans are complete for a fall Quilting Retreat and a fall wellness weekend.

ABWM Core Values:

- We provide Christ-centered ministries.
- We strive for excellence in all we do.
- We practice faithful stewardship.
- We are relevant for women today.
- We assure that our diversity as a denomination is represented in our ministries.
- We affirm and encourage the use of spiritual gifts.
- We recognize the worth of all women and girls.
- We value our American Baptist family relationships.
- We work to provide solutions for the social justice challenges and opportunities facing women and girls.

www.abwomensministries.org

News and Information for AB GIRLS

The National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS is Seeking Applications!

The national leadership team of AB GIRLS (NLT) comprises four high school-age girls and one adult from across the country. The NLT works together to plan events, programs, and resources for ministry with girls. The NLT is seeking applications for youth members to serve a two-year term. For more information and to apply, visit www.abwomensministries.org/NLT.



AB GIRLS Christmas Hangout

Join us for the AB GIRLS Christmas Hangout on December 10, 2022, at 3:00 PM EST. Read below to learn more!

Events for Women and Girls

National ABWM Upcoming Events

2022:

Dec. 10 — AB GIRLS Christmas Hangout

2023

Jan. 11 — Human Trafficking Awareness Day
Jan. 19 — Winter Webinar: Racial Justice
Feb 2 — Winter Webinar: Racial Justice
Feb 16 — Winter Webinar: Racial Justice
Mar. 2 — Winter Webinar: Racial Justice
Feb 23 — YAWMAT's Soothe Your Soul
Mar. 6 — Women's History Month Gathering
Mar. 13 — Women's History Month Gathering
Mar 13 — Midwestern Section: What's Up ABWM?
Mar. 20 — Women's History Month Gathering
Mar. 27 — Women's History Month Gathering
Apr 20 — YAWMAT's Soothe Your Soul
April 29 — Domestic Violence Workshop and Certification
June 2 — Western Section: What's Up ABWM?
June 23 — Annual Meeting
June 23 — Women and Girls' Day
Oct 3 — Eastern Section: What's Up ABWM
Oct 6-8 — Shalom Retreat
Dec 9 — AB GIRLS Christmas Hangout

2024

July 18-21 — Women and Girls' Conference at Roanoke College in Roanoke, Virginia

For more event information, visit www.abwomensministries.org/events.



AB GIRLS Christmas Hangout

Saturday, December 10, 2022, 3:00-4:30 PM EST

We invite elementary through high school girls for an AB GIRLS Christmas Hangout. Girls will enjoy activities within the Christmas Spirit, such as baking Oreo Truffles, worship, and caroling. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to develop a service project and join in prayer for all girls worldwide.

Shileah Huggins, 2021-2022 AB GIRLS Convenor, National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS, will lead Bible study for the girls.



Register by December 3, 2022! [Click here for more information and to register!](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events)



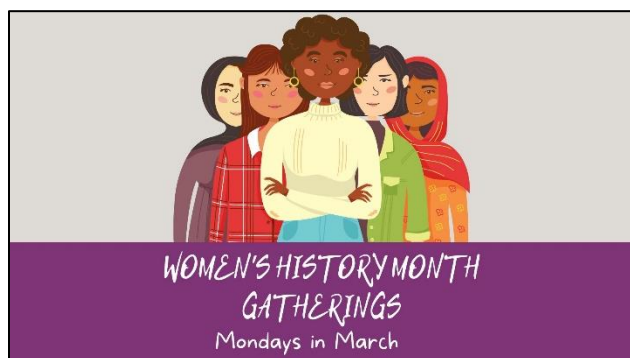
***Let the Walls Fall Down* Winter Webinar Series** Beginning January 16, 2023

This Let the Walls Fall Down webinar series will focus on racial justice (racial justice is ABWM's mission focus for 2023). Save the Dates!

- **Thursday, January 16, 2023**, with Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan,
- **Thursday, February 2, 2023**, with Rev. Dr. Shannon Delay-Harris,
- **Thursday, February 16, 2023**, with Rev. Dr. Christine Smith,
- and **Thursday, March 2, 2023**.

Learn more at

www.abwomensministries.org/webinars.



Women's History Month Gatherings Mondays in March, 12:00-12:30 PM EST

During Women's History month, ABWM curates a gathering every Monday during March. We hope you'll join us in celebrating Women's History Month! [Click here](#) to learn more and to register for each gathering!



Domestic Violence Workshop & Certification Saturday, April 29, 2023, 9:00 AM-5:30 PM EDT

Held virtually and at the First Baptist Church of Detroit (21200 Southfield Rd, Southfield, MI 48075)

American Baptist Women's Ministries is partnering with Safe Haven Ministries for Bible study and a Domestic Violence certification. This workshop will enable clergy, church leaders, community groups, and domestic violence educators to come together in a safe and intentional manner to learn ways to support and aid those in their communities suffering from Domestic Violence. The Bible study will take familiar scripture text and look at it through the lens of domestic violence. Together we will reflect and see how our actions and inactions may impact a survivor in our families, churches, and communities. [Click here to register!](#)

Domestic Violence Workshop & Certification guest speakers include:



Bible Study Leader: **Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain**, Executive Director, American Baptist Women's Ministries



Certification Trainer: **Tara Aday**, Director of Prevention and Education, Safe Haven Ministries



Certification Trainer: **Mykal Ward**, Training and Education Manager, Safe Haven Ministries



Women and Girls' Day

Friday, June 23, 2023, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM EDT

Held virtually and at Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas, Calle Gautier Benítez y Baldorioty, Esq. Forastieri, Caguas, PR 00725, Puerto Rico

Join women and girls from across the country and Puerto Rico for worship, fellowship, Bible study, and community service project. Our theme is "Be Strong, Be Courageous," and our Bible Study leader is **Rev. Yamina Apolinaris-Concepcion**, a preacher, professor, and workshop leader.



There is **programming available for middle and high school girls!** Girls will engage in activities with peers, worship, and participate in a community service project! Scholarships are available for girls to attend!

The afternoon programming will include **community service projects** for our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico. Participants will create hurricane emergency kits or visit a local school.

Register now at

www.abwomensministries.org/womensday.



Shalom Retreat

Friday, October 6-8, 2023, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM EDT

Held virtually and at Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc (140 Richmond Road; Euclid, Ohio 44143)

Our National President, Rev. Dr. Christine Smith, is the senior pastor at Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc.

Enacting God's calling on our lives involves attending to our wellness: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally. This weekend spent in the company of your American Baptist sisters will help you find refreshment and renewal, as well as learning new techniques for attending to your health.

Learn more at www.abwomensministries.org/events.

Support ABWM

Make a gift to American Baptist Women's Ministries today! Gifts allow ABWM to continue providing free webinars, scholarships for events, programs, resources, and leadership training for ministries with women and girls in your church, area, and region.

- Give by Venmo: @abwomensministries
- Give by text: Text ABWM to 44321
- Give online by credit card: Give online at <http://www.abwomensministries.org/give>
- Give by check: Mail a check payable to "ABWM" to American Baptist Women's, 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406



Become a Vital Partner to support the vision for the future of American Baptist Women's Ministries. Vital Partners regularly give \$228 or more a year to support our work with women, young adult women, and girls. 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. Become a Vital Partner today at www.abwomensministries.org/VitalPartners.

Find Us On Social Media

Do you ever feel like you find out about American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) events after they've taken place? Do you need more info about ABWM? Do you want to feel part of a community of like-minded women who enjoy helping others and rejoicing in God's Word? Then, follow American Baptist Women's Ministries on social media: Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Be a part of this dynamic Christ-centered organization; stay informed.

- www.facebook.com/abwomensministries
- www.instagram.com/abwomen/
- www.twitter.com/abwomen



Be Part of the Leader's Reader Conversation!

Send us "ideas that worked for me" in women's and girls' ministries, women or girls you'd like to thank or honor, theme-related devotionals, or other materials you think would be helpful to women and girls in our congregations! Please send contributions to info@abwomensministries.org.

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