

PNW Women

Winter 2023

PNW/ABW Ministries President's Report

“Now faith, hope, and love remain — these three things — and the greatest of these is love.” **1 Corinthians 13:13**

I have been active in American Baptist Women's Ministry since I was in my teens; back then ABGirls was called Girl's Guild. I remember Betty Bates & Chellie Rowland both mentioning *almost sixty years ago* that “our girls are the future of ABW.” When I think about the women who encouraged and supported me – and still do in some cases – several attributes stand out in each person: 1) they deeply loved the Lord, and they shared God's love to those they met; 2) they LOVED being with each other; 3) they LOVED to laugh and stay up until very late at night; 4) the accepted and encouraged each other and the young girls they met.

My reason for making the above statements is that each one of us can be, and must be, a positive and empowering woman to the women and girls we encounter. We should encourage, train, and empower them to move into the leadership at local, region/state, and national level – not only for ABW Ministries, but in many areas.

This past year has been full of activity and realizations. My oldest granddaughter, Alyssa, graduated from Whitworth; my Daughter, Heather, graduated with her nursing degree, completed her 'residency program' at a local hospital, and is now a full-fledged Registered Nurse in Labor & Delivery for the hospital where she was born. Since the day Heather was born, Christ has provided new procedures for delivering babies, and healing children who in years before didn't survive infancy.

I feel in my heart the ladies who have served as **ABW Ministries** leadership always have wanted to do the best of their ability to further whatever responsibilities they accept in their walk with the Lord; however, I wonder if we (I include myself) realize our way is not necessarily the best way...we want to continue as if nothing in our lives have changed over the past decades. I have known young gals who joined (any organization) with wonderful ideas, and left many meetings feeling unaccepted, unloved, rejected because they wanted to try something different.

I do not have the energy to do what I did sixty years ago when I was a youth; I have adapted how and what I choose to do to fit who I am today at the end of 2023... and I will continue to adapt. To keep ABW Ministries viable, we also need to adapt to who we are today; continue to pray and listen to God and accept different ideas from others – always this with LOVE.

My prayer for all of us is to be in relationship with Christ and listen to Christ for how we can empower others. God provides for the needs of today...not for how it was 20, 10, 5 years or even a month ago. If we have a strong relationship with Christ, we will be given the resources and gifts needed to be in a healthy relationship with others.

Blessings, Nadine

Report on Gail's Visit to Thailand

It's been five years since Paul and I have been able to visit Myanmar and Thailand. We were still unable to travel into Myanmar (Burma), although we were within feet of the border, to enter the country without visas was too dangerous. However, we were very excited to go to Thailand and to visit ABC missionaries, meet new people and learn about new ministries and opportunities to serve, and see friends we have come to consider family.

Our trip to Thailand centered on three locations, all in the norther part of Thailand: Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, and Mae Sot, the last of which is right on the border with Burma. Please see the accompanying chart of people we met with and the organizations that they are affiliated with.

First, Paul and I spent a week teaching at the Siloam Bible College in Chiang Mai. Paul taught a class on "How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth" and I worked with five seniors who were working on their senior thesis. I also had a lot of fun working with the choir of 60 students. By the end of the week they could sing three songs in English ("Swing Low Sweet Chariot, When the Saints Go Marching In, and I'm Going to Sing, Sing, Sing") which was really quite impressive since they knew very little English and I had no music!

Next, Paul and I spent five days visiting in Chiang Rai with Kyle and Katrina Williams, American Baptist missionaries. In addition to learning about what they do and meeting some of the people they work with, we had some relaxation time which was good for all of us. Kyle and Katrina really enjoyed seeing "faces from home".

Pastor Maggie, Steve Dun, Paul, and I visited with Naw Nana of the Paw Bu La Health Center, which is located in Burma. She made a special trip to Mae Sot to receive a financial gift from Panther Lake and Karen Community Church. In the midst of a war zone, the Center operates both in- and outpatient clinics, serves internally displaced persons, provides vaccinations, makes referrals to two partner hospitals as needed, conducts school health events, and provides health education and counseling. They also provide emergency relief in response to both COVID-19 and Burma's military coup.

After traveling back to Chiang Mai, we headed down to Mae Sot, a town very close to the Burma border. There is actually a sign that states that you are at the most western part of Thailand.

While there we visited with a family that has had to flee Burma and are now refugees in Thailand. There are eight of them and they live in a home with 5 other refugees near the Chedikho Church compound. While being refugees they have taken up the responsibility of starting a school for 170 migrant children who are there with their parents who work in the fields, but who unable to go to school, (Heaven Gate Education Center)



We spent 5 days in Mae Sot visiting other schools, one for 2300 migrant students, and other seminaries. We also got to meet mothers who had recently given birth and others who were quite ready to give birth. It broke my heart to see new mothers, quite emaciated, trying to nurse their babies. Some money was left to help the mothers in a small way. So little goes a long way, but so much more is needed to help them survive.

There are so many ways our friends are serving: supporting others in the IDP camps, teaching children, teaching and empowering women, educating women on family planning, and lifting the refugees spiritually and emotionally. They serve in so many other ways also. We were blessed to be able to share in their experiences and to help in whatever ways we could.



Our last four days were spent back in Chiang Mai where we continued to meet old and new friends. While we were in Chiang Mai those last days we were surprised to meet some of our old students from Myanmar Institute of Theology. It was such an unexpected and happy reunion.

We were so blessed to be able to continue our ministry to the people of Myanmar. It certainly was different from how we served in Myanmar (Burma) in the past.

Our trip opened new doors and we pray that God will continue to use us to help others.



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

WHERE: CAMP BETHEL

WHEN: JUNE 26-30, 2024

BIBLE STUDY LEADER: GEORGIA MCDADE

THEME: BRIDGING CULTURAL BARRIERS WITH LOVE

BIBLE VERSE: I COR. 13.13

It is time to start planning the conference! We will repeat what we did last year in selling items that you make and bring to the conference in lieu of per capital. Please start thinking about what items you would like to make and donate.

We are trying something new this year. For the women and girls who would like to spend a little more time at camp for fellowshiping, getting to know one another or spending some alone time, we are going to begin arrival on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. You may arrive anytime on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. There will be a few planned activities on Wednesday and Thursday with the main part of the conference beginning on Friday. More details and registrations will be sent out later.

The additional cost of the conference for Wednesday and/or Thursday will be between \$70.00 and \$110.00, depending how many nights you stay and how many meals you have. To help offset the cost of conference to you, we will be having a fundraising luncheon/entertainment at Panther Lake Community Church on January 27, 2024 at noon. Our entertainment will be provided by the girls and women of Panter Lake. The cost will be \$20.00 per person with the proceeds going into the conference funds. We will also be having a raffle. We are hoping to raise enough funds to help any women or girls that need help to attend conference.

Included in this newsletter is a flyer for the fundraiser. Please RSVP to Linda Po or Lorna Flannery by January 20th. You may send a check to Linda Po or pay when you arrive. Please make checks payable to ABW/PNW and mail to Linda Po.

Linda Po - 32744 35th Ave SW Federal Way WA 98023
Tel: 206-437-3552 Email: lindapo2001@gmail.com

If you have any questions about the fundraiser, conference, and/or the extra days, about the extra, please contact Lorna Flannery at: 253-307-2245 and flanbaker@gmail.com

PNW/ABW Ministries
CONFERENCE
FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY - JANUARY 27TH - NOON
PANTHER LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH

FOOD *RAFFLE*
ENTERTAINMENT

COST - \$20.00

PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 20TH TO LINDA OR LORNA
MAIL CHECK TO LINDA PO, OR PAY WHEN YOU ARRIVE

LINDA PO - 206-437-3552
32744 35TH AVE SW
FEDERAL WAY 98023
lindapo2001@gmail.com
Checks payable to ABW/PNW

LORNA FLANNERY
253-307-2245
flanbaker@gmail.com

COORDINATOR OF EVENTS – Judy Gage

**NEXT EVENT: MARCH 9 10:30 am
at Hope Church,
22415 – 19th Ave. South, Des Moines, WA 98198**

Coming up on Saturday, March 9, the Hope Church will host a social for American Baptist Women at which we will explore the theme, BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS, have lunch, and play BINGO. To participate in playing BINGO, bring one or two wrapped white elephant gifts. All gifts will be placed on the gift table and each winner will be able to choose a gift after they get a BINGO. It's a fun time with lots of laughter and conversation. It's also a good opportunity to gift items you no longer need. The event will start at 10:30 am. Mark you calendar and do bring friends with you.

The third annual Quilting/Crafting weekend was held at Camp Bethel on October 20-22. We all enjoyed the time away and the opportunity to create. The meals were excellent, and the accommodations were, too. There was another quilting group across the road in the Retreat Center. They came over to join us in the Lodge for meals. The weekend of November 15-17 has been reserved for 2024. Plan now to retreat with other women who love to quilt and craft. Registration forms will be available at Women's Conference.



Quilting/Crafting Weekend at Camp Bethel – October 20-22, 2023

American Baptist Women of the Pacific Northwest

We would like to hear from you.

Please submit articles and news for our Newsletters and Website to:

Winehlertha@gmail.com
Also, please let me know if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

We are on the web!
www.abwm-pnw.org

HEADS UP

Please check our webpage at www.abwm-pnw.org for further information. We will also be making contact by e-mails.

SAVE THE DATES:

January 27th, 2024— PNW/ABW Conference Fundraising at Panther Lake Community Church
Time: 12:00 PM

March 9h, 2024—PNW/ABW Social event at Hope Church, Des Moines, WA
Time: 10:30 AM

June 26 –30th, 2024— PNW/ABW Conference at Camp Bethel, Hoquiam, WA