



**...you will
be my
witnesses
in
Jerusalem,
in all Judea
and
Samaria,
and to the
ends of the
earth.
Acts 1:8**

Women's Ministries REAL LIVE MISSION

by **Virginia R. Holmstrom**
Executive Director of American
Baptist Women's Ministries

I was hooked on missions when I met my first "real live missionary" at an ABW association meeting in South Dakota. I was enamored with the exotic ambiance that "mission" brought to mind—multi-cultures and languages, different ways of life. My church's ABW group led me into projects to do something in my world that made a difference in another part of the world.

American Baptist women have always been among the strongest mission advocates our denomination has. But a passion to continue a strong mission presence prompts women loyal to ABW Ministries to ask: "How can we attract younger women?" In most churches, ABW groups are aging and dwindling, and attracting little interest from others.

But I believe it's the wrong question.

A better one may be, "How might we minister among the women in this church?" You see, mission includes ministries with women right here at home. We will do well to become aware of women around us who are at different places in their lives right now—women seeking deeper relationships with God, who need Christian companionship, who struggle with the competing responsibilities for family, aging parents, careers, and commitments.



A 5-day leadership seminar track at our national women's conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin this summer (July 27-August 3, 2002), is for women who want to learn skills

Some ABW Ministries groups are daring to try new things. One aging group decided to forego their lengthy business meetings and sponsor a quarterly Saturday morning women's brunch. The high attendance tells them that they are effectively ministering to women around them.

Young mothers in one church began to gather for coffee and Bible study at the invitation of a woman who effectively relates God's word to their lives. A handful of women in another church interested in a community mission project joined hands to make a difference.

Women's ministry is a mission that is blooming in our midst! Can you recognize it?

The national organization of American Baptist Women's Ministries is sharing new models for ministries with women. We're making dramatic changes to our magazine to appeal to every woman! Through humor, education, encouragement, and challenge, future magazine issues will deal with issues of family, career, current events, spirituality and discipleship, and mission.

for building vital women's ministries in their churches. Participants will learn how to discover needs of women in their churches and how to plan ministry opportunities for them.

Christian women have a variety of needs and interests. There are women in your church who are hungering for a deeper relationship with the Lord. Others need support during a difficult time in their lives. Others want to do mission service projects together. Let's work together to empower all women to grow in Christ and live out their Christian witness in the church and the world—starting with where they are now. What a wonderful mission!

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Tell your congregation about all the women's ministries happening in your church.
- Through a survey tool or focus groups, find out what women's top needs are in your congregation. Provide opportunities for women to grow in Christ together.
- Find out what the ABW Ministries group in your church is doing to support ABC mission. (Ask about their special interest missionaries, Love Gift, White Cross, and region projects.)



**Serve one
another
with
whatever
gift each
of you has
received.
1 Peter 4:
10b**

The Amazing, Miraculous Moringa

Which tree grows quickly, provides tasty and nutritious food, is both resilient and common in tropical areas, and can even purify water—but has been overlooked by modern medicine?

The Moringa or “drumstick” tree (*moringa oleifera*) “is an all-natural, inexpensive and accessible multi-vitamin,” said Lowell Fuglie, West Africa representative of Church World Service. The tree’s leaves contain high amounts of Vitamin A (four times more than carrots), Vitamin C (seven times more than oranges), protein (twice that of milk), calcium (four times more than milk) and potassium (triple the amount in bananas).

Moringa leaf powder is commonly used to make a sauce in Senegal, but the young seedpods and seeds (which taste like asparagus), and flowers (which taste like mushrooms) can also be eaten.

“We were all trained in the classic solutions for treating malnutrition,” says Amadou Ba, director of a Senegalese village health post, “and those involve whole milk powder, sugar, vegetable oil, sometimes peanut butter. But these ingredients are expensive and the recovery of malnourished infants can take months. Now we have replaced this with Moringa. We start seeing improvements within 10 days.”

Moringa’s other miraculous quality—its ability to purify water—has been used by households for centuries. Powdered Moringa seeds, when added to murky, bacteria-laden water, act as a coagulant, binding to the bacteria and silt and falling to the bottom of the vessel. The clean water can then be poured out.



Malnutrition in its various forms is a major factor in the high rate of infant mortality in West Africa. New foods are often very difficult to introduce in West Africa, and many seemingly exotic imported foods and other non-local nutrition supplements were not accepted by families and incorporated into their diets.

In a region of southern Senegal nearly one in ten infants dies before the age of five from parasites, diarrhea, or malaria. The Moringa tree is providing a sustainable solution to the problem of malnutrition and associated diseases.

The Moringa tree likes sunshine and can withstand drought conditions. It grows quickly from seed or cuttings, can reach a height of 12 feet within the first year, and regenerates itself even after the most severe pruning. Two harvests of seedpods can be produced in one year (a mature tree can produce 1,000 pods annually. As a source of nutrients and vitamins, Moringa leaves rank among the best of perennial tropical vegetables. The flowers may also be used to make a tea that is useful for treating colds.

When the pods turn brown, the seeds can be crushed to obtain a high-grade oil for cooking, making soap,

Church World Service-West Africa rep Lowell Fuglie, next to a Moringa tree. Fuglie, a leading explorer and proponent of the nutritional benefits of Moringa, works in partnership with the Senegalese organization AGADA.

for burning in lamps, and for treating skin infections. A little coating of Moringa oil on the top of a water tank will also help kill mosquito larvae and thus reduce the threat of malaria and other deadly insect-borne diseases. The press cake left over from crushing seeds to obtain oil can be used as fertilizer, fuel for cooking, and to clear dirty water.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support Moringa Tree research and projects coordinated by Church World Service. A gift of \$25 buys 20 seedlings, providing amazing, miraculous hope.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

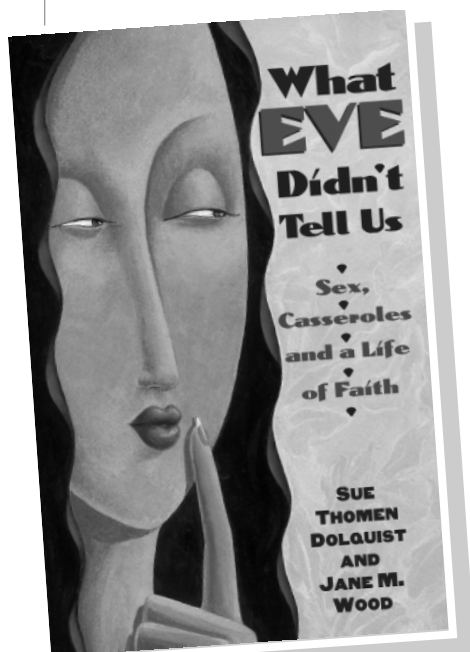
- Read Exodus 15:23-27 for the earliest known reference to what is most likely Moringa being used to purify water. Moringa peregrina, another tree species in the same family, can be found today in Egypt and in Israel’s Rift Valley as far as the southern shore of the Dead Sea.
- View the new video, “The Call to Share,” which includes a segment about the Moringa tree. Schedule showings for Sunday school classes or small groups. Use the guide enclosed with the video to generate discussion.
- Order Moringa seeds from **www.seedman.com** and try growing your own trees.
- Encourage your congregation to give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Give through your regular process or online, **www.abc-oghs.org**.



New from Judson Press! Women's Resources

... in all
Judea
and
Samaria...

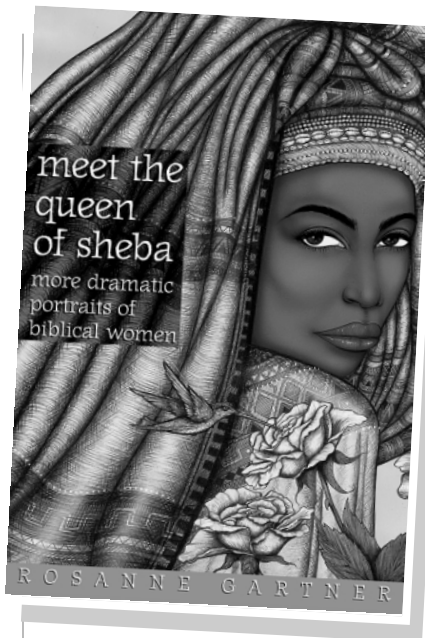
From Judson Press publications to Discipleship Ministry resources, Educational Ministries offers a variety of materials to address issues of deep concern to American Baptist women, and to enrich their spiritual lives and pursuits. To order Judson Press publications, call 800-4-JUDSON, or order online at www.judsonpress.com.



What Eve Didn't Tell Us: Sex, Casseroles, and a Life of Faith

Sue Thomen Dolquist and
Jane M. Wood

This humorous yet compelling first-person look into the lives of two women explores the complexities of continually balancing marriage, work, parenting, and self in ways that our mothers and grandmothers could not have imagined. The authors' perspectives on faith, family, and careers are surprisingly similar in some ways, yet quite different in others. Shockingly



candid and transparently real, unexpectedly irreverent but always faithful, Dolquist and Wood will open your eyes as they take you on a familiar ride through the challenges faced by today's Christian women. WHEVDI, \$14.00

Meet the Queen of Sheba: More Dramatic Portraits of Biblical Women

Rosanne Gartner

A follow-up to the popular *Meet Bathsheba*, "Gartner's dramatic storytelling successfully whets one's appetite to know more about these biblical women. These monologues will fascinate audiences as diverse as the women portrayed."

Publishers Weekly
MEQUSH, \$14.00

Watch for THE PEBBLE

The first issue of *The Pebble*, a new 8-page quarterly children's ministry newsletter, focuses on children in crisis and has articles by Ed Buchs, Senior Vice President of Central Baptist Children's Home, and Bruce Main, Director of Urban Promise in Camden, NJ.

Each issue of *The Pebble* provides news, information, and ideas regarding ministry with children (birth through age 12) and their families. Readers learn about exciting ministries in American Baptist congregations, and get advice to make their own ministry and outreach with children more effective. In addition, *The Pebble* includes questions, making it a useful resource for training sessions with children's workers. Upcoming issues will focus on the church supporting families, children and worship, recruitment and nurture of children's workers, and summer programs for children.

Editor of the newsletter is Wendy Morris who served for eleven years on the faculty of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wendy is also the author of **Stop the Violence! Educating Ourselves to Protect Our Youth** (published by Judson Press). Managing Editor is Mayra Castañeda of Discipleship Ministries.

Each congregation will receive one complimentary copy of *The Pebble* each quarter.





Joanna P. Moore



Ioleta Hunt McElhane



The Rev. Elizabeth Miller



The Rev. Carrie Bell Brown

A Spotlight on Women's Support of AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION

From its founding in 1832, The American Baptist Home Mission Society (TABHMS) received strong support from women in local churches. The Society, however, refused to appoint single women as missionaries.

In 1977 aware of needs in this country that could be met by women missionaries, American Baptist women founded two women's home mission societies, in Chicago and Boston. While they continued to support TABHMS through the women's societies, American Baptist women promoted mission work among women and children in the home; established schools, settlement houses, Christian centers and hospitals; and supported female missionaries.

The rich home mission legacy of American Baptist women is personified in these missionaries:

Joanna P. Moore, 1877, served freed people. Produced "Hope" magazine, used in 3,000 Fireside Schools.

Ioleta Hunt McElhane, 1948, first Native American woman appointed missionary. Served churches in Oklahoma.

Rev. Elizabeth Miller served with National Ministries, 1962-1989, and

personified passion for justice and concern for the whole gospel.

Rev. Carrie Bell Brown served with Christian centers, 1968-1999, 17 years at Dayton (Ohio) Christian Center.

"In Our Time: Faithful to the Call," a 16-page booklet with timeline, highlights American Baptist home mission response to spiritual hunger and human suffering through the changing times of U.S. history. Available in quantity at no charge, call 800-ABC-3USA x2464 to order.

An Invitation:

Can You See It?

Isaiah 43:19

August 11-14, 2002
Colorado Springs, CO

Sensing the movement of God's Spirit in their churches and throughout the denomination, many American Baptists are making summer plans that include the "Can You See It?" conference in Colorado Springs on Aug. 11-14.

Among them is Carole Moore of Redwood City, Calif., national coordinator of Church and Community Ministries for American Baptist Women's Ministries, who says,

"I want to be a part of what's happening in American Baptist churches. This conference offers a wealth of information for ministry in the 21st century."

At the conference, mission advocates will find tools to help transform the vision of God's "new thing" into reality in your churches and communities.

Come prepared to be challenged by noted church change experts who have experienced what's needed to reach the unchurched.

Expect to find personal renewal in worship experiences with a variety of music styles. Look forward to opportunities for networking with other American Baptists.

Find innovative, practical suggestions for local church life in more than two dozen workshops.

A Youth Track (ages 12-17) at Black Forest Camp and Conference Center features team building, the "Climbing Wall" and challenging Bible study.

Childcare for younger children during general sessions and workshops, and scholarships are available. For information, call 800-ABC-3USA x2475.

Please tell your church about this NEW LIFE 2010 conference—and plan to attend! For conference details and registration information, visit www.can-u-see-it.org or call 800-ABC-3USA x2420.

*... in all
Judea
and
Samaria...*

New Life in Christ

**... and
to the
ends
of the
earth.
Acts 1:8**

At Rahab, a ministry to young women in Bangkok's sex industry, some exciting things are happening, as always. It is one place where God is continuously surprising me and reminding me of his power and grace. As draining as it can be, it is also the encouragement I sometimes need. Last week, a 22-year-old girl came to us at Rahab after having found out that she is HIV positive. She was scared, depressed and out of hope. She didn't know where to go or what to do. She said if Pu (my co-worker) had not reached out to her one night a few weeks ago, she did not know what she would have done. When I arrived at Rahab on Tuesday night, she was watching the Jesus movie. When it ended, my two co-workers announced that they were going to the bars to meet with some women, leaving me to keep her company.



Women at a bar in Bangkok wait for potential customers.

What do you say to someone who has just found out at 22 years-of-age that she has AIDS? We talked some and I held her in my arms while she sobbed out her grief. Then we talked about the Jesus movie. She said it must be true—there must be a God! As our conversation continued,



Your partner in Bangkok, Thailand,
Annie Dieselberg
International Ministries missionary

I realized that she already believed and was probably ready to accept Christ. I have never led anyone to Christ in Thai. None of the Thai staff were around to help me—but she seemed so ready. So I ventured:

“Do you feel you are ready to accept Christ in your heart as your Lord or would you like to wait and think about it some more?” (If she wanted to wait then I knew my Thai colleagues could talk to her some more.) She said she was ready! I apologized for my poor religious vocabulary in Thai and I lead her to Christ through prayer.

When we started praying her head was down, ashamed. When we finished praying I looked up and though her eyes were still closed, her face was lifted upward and she had an incredible look of peace and joy on her face. I let her soak in the glory for a while. The next night she went to a revival service at a Thai church and made her decision public.

On Thursday, during the worship time at Rahab when the leader asked who would like to share a testimony she eagerly jumped in. She said “I want to thank God that I now have a new life in Christ. Thank you to everyone here for the encouragement and love that you have shown me.” I wanted to cry to see this new Christian who just two days earlier saw darkness caving in on her. Now she has hope for her future!

Sometimes, the world seems overwhelmingly sorrowful. I hear and see needs and discouragement daily. Sometimes it wears me down. When God works like this however, it lifts my spirit and I am reminded that God is alive and at work in the hearts of his children. In the past month, four women have left the bars and have come to know the saving love of Christ!

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Learn more about the plight of women who are tricked and sold into the sex industry worldwide.
- Support ministries and missionaries who minister to these women.
- Pray for the millions of women who are trapped in the sex industry, that they too will find a way out and come to know God's unconditional love.



Looking Again at UNITED MISSION

by Don Scott, ABC of Indiana & Kentucky and Indianapolis

I am writing to you several days before the monthly mission receipts books close. Therefore I don't know the status of this month's **United Mission** or year-to-date totals. I do know some things, however...

I know that under our present system of giving financial support to the whole of American Baptist mission, there is no more important category than **United Mission**. Everywhere one looks in terms of American Baptist mission, there are **United Mission** dollars at work.

I know that our region, meaning ministry generally made possible by the

gifts and skills of committed staff persons, is without question dependent upon **United Mission**. We really do live financially month-to-month on United Mission.

I know that many of our churches give a set percentage of their income to **United Mission**—often at least a tithe. They do this not because they have to, but because they know that by giving generously to **United Mission**, they are directly involved in the work of Jesus Christ in the region and around the world.

I know that American Baptist mission operates regionally, nationally, and internationally on the strength of American Baptist prayer for mission and consistent and generous financial support. The foundation of that financial support is **United Mission**. To be sure, every other mission category is very important, but

none more so than **United Mission**.

I know that I need to say clearly and often “thank you” for all that you do in the name of Jesus and on behalf of American Baptist mission. Each year, the lives of countless persons are changed forever because of the ministry that is made possible by **United Mission**. You do make mission possible as you give. Thank you so much. The Kingdom of God is richer and fuller because of your prayer and your gifts to **United Mission**.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

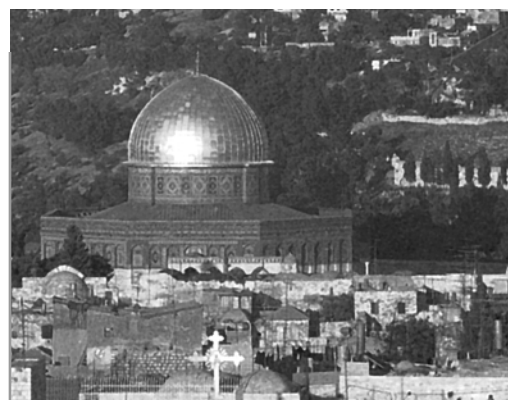
SITUATIONS ACTIONS Mission Advocates “ON THE SPOT”

by Ed Guerard, ABC of Massachusetts

Situations and recommended actions for Mission Advocates to consider:

Church receives an unrestricted gift or bequest.	Recommend 10% be given to missions.
Church conducts a capital campaign.	Encourage adding a mission component.
Church decides to cut mission budget to balance church budget.	Arrange for stewardship consultation with minister of mission support.
Pastor not interested in missions.	Encourage pastor to participate on a mission work tour.
People want to give more to local missions rather than ABC missions.	Acknowledge their excitement and encourage giving more to both.
Mission interest has flat-lined.	Invite a missionary speaker and/or plan a mission tour. Appoint or recharge a Mission Advocate.
People complain that United Mission is “faceless,” “bureaucratic,” and too general.	Invite your minister of mission support to address their concerns.

SITUATIONS ACTIONS



Praying for Peace in the Middle East

There are no easy or simple solutions to the crisis facing Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab nations of the Middle East. But as Christians, we can daily remember the people caught in this terrible conflict in our prayers. Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, has created a two-week intercessory prayer journey, “Praying for Peace in the Middle East.” It is an excellent, thoughtful and informative resource, www.fbclincn.org.

7

STEPS FOR VIDEO VIEWING

Tell the mission story with sight and sound.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

An important way that you, as a Mission Advocate, can tell mission stories is through videos, especially in small group settings. Here are some tips.

1. EQUIPMENT

Before you show a video, you will need...

- Power Sources & Extension Cords
- Light Switches
- Video Player or Screen & Video Projector
- Amplifier & Speakers
- Table or Cart
- Chairs
- Curtains

2. IMAGE

Consider these factors...

- A single 19" TV monitor is fine for about 30 people or less.
- Newer, larger screen TVs are sufficient for groups up to 100.
- Video projection or multiple monitors are necessary for large groups (several hundred).
- The bigger and brighter the image, the greater the impact.

3. SET UP

Prepare the room before the audience arrives...

- Place chairs so everyone can see.
- Check all connections so they don't disconnect.
- For safety, tie wires to table leg and tape them to floor.
- Be sure image is clearly visible when room is darkened.
- Check acoustics for best sound reproduction.

4. PREVIEW

Watch the video to find out what it says (or doesn't say)...

- Content: Is it suitable for your audience?
- Consider: Age—Interests—Motivation

- Find other materials to use after the video: Books—Photos—Maps—Magazines—Charts—Art
- Know what your church does to support that particular ministry.

5. PRACTICE

Become familiar with your equipment...

- What do all the buttons do?
- Which TV channel is for video viewing? Know how to fast forward, to rewind, to pause, and to adjust volume.
- Cue the video to the clip you want to show.

6. INTRODUCE

Tell why you are showing the video...

- Tell who made it. Tell when or where it was made.
- Tell what you expect them to do when it's over.
- Indicate what the video contains but don't spoil the ending.

7. DISCUSS

Find out what was learned...

- Ask questions. Answer questions. Stimulate a discussion.
- Review leader's guide ahead of time to determine questions according to your audience and amount of time scheduled.
- A small group of 6-8 people usually works best for video/discussion.

Remember: A video is a good helper... but it needs *you* to be effective.