

**Important information you need for ministries with women and girls.**

## Mother's Day

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with women and girls!

### Helpful Links

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Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official US holiday in 1914. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation and visiting one's mother or attending church service. The white carnation is thought to typify some of the virtues of motherhood, whiteness stands for purity; its lasting qualities, faithfulness; its fragrance, love; it's a wide field of growth, charity; and its form, beauty.



### Happy Mother's Day!

*By Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, executive director*

I wish each of you abundant peace and joy on Mother's Day. Today we remember those that have sharpened us, made us laugh, encouraged us to live our wildest dreams, and loved us! It is also a day that we remember our moms, grandmothers, aunties, cousins, sisters, and any significant women whose presence continues to impact us. Please celebrate yourselves! Find joy in your memories and encourage those just beginning the journey of motherhood. We have one day, and it only lasts 24 hours, may your joy be complete!

Sending hugs and much love your way. Happy Mother's Day!

*Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all.  
—Proverbs 31:30*

# You Are Not Alone

By Dr. Ruth Jones, Founder of The HEM Network and former National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS member and Coordinator of AB GIRLS

## Disclaimer: Sensitive Topic In Material Below

Reference Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Matthew 9:18-22

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble..."

— 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NKJV)

A good friend often said, "I carried eight children but raised 7." Her third pregnancy resulted in a stillborn baby. When I miscarried my first child, she was supportive and encouraging that there was hope after my loss. She understood what it meant to carry a baby and the void of not being able to mother my child outside the womb. She reminded me that I was not alone and that God would meet me and comfort me in the midst of my pain. Beyond my physical recovery, one of the social/emotional challenges was facing Mother's Day each year that I had not yet conceived. While I believed I was alone in this struggle, unbeknownst to me, others were fighting to stay positive despite our invisible loss(es). Today I want us to unite hearts and minds to inspire hope in mothers who have experienced various forms of pregnancy loss.

We are reminded of the Biblical woman with a long-standing issue of hemorrhaging and who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and experienced immediate physical healing. The story progresses, and through her dialogue with Jesus, she receives further support as he offers her peace. Like many mothers who experience pregnancy loss, this woman undergoes physical healing initially but must navigate past lingering emotional trauma. Can we offer support to the mother who feels alone in her pregnancy loss struggle?

## Let us pray the following prayer together.

Father God, you who are the creator of all, we honor you this day.

We lift up our sister, aunt, cousin, niece, co-worker, friend, neighbor...

Lord, you know her name and where she lives. You know the desires of her heart.

Give her what she needs at this time to comfort her body, mind, and soul.

Touch the woman who has experienced a miscarriage.

Give hope to the mother who has experienced multiple pregnancy losses.

Another is facing infertility and yearns to conceive, bless her womb.

We lift up the woman who faces strained relationships as a result of pregnancy loss.

A mother feels alone after giving birth to a stillborn baby.

Another is pregnant after a loss and is afraid, grant her what she needs.

For the mothers who are still parenting other children after a loss, we stand with you.

If you are praying this as a personal prayer, know that you are not alone!

God, there is no mountain too high, nor is there any wall that is too strong for you to tear down!

God help us to stand as we offer these words to comfort our sister, aunt, cousin, niece, co-worker, friend, and neighbor.

In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray for comfort and blessings. AMEN!

Dr. Ruth Alerte Jones is the founder of the [HEM \(Healing Extension Maternal\) Network](#), a Christian ministry centered on spiritual wellness for mothers, fathers, and families who have experienced various forms of pregnancy loss. Having survived a miscarriage and served many years of leadership through American Baptist Women's Ministries and in her local congregation, Dr. Jones is well equipped to help others on their grief journey. Her personal story of overcoming the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual challenges of child loss fuels her to inspire others to connect and seek faith-based healing.



In loving memory of

*Ina May Fakhoury*

who passed away on November 28, 2021

Ina May served ABWM at the church, region, and national level for several years. She had a heart for mission and encouraged women to serve and get involved. She was involved in ministry outside the church walls, serving on the hospital auxiliary board, Clay County Clothes Closet, and Church Women United. She will be missed every day, but her legacy will live on forever. We are so blessed that we had the opportunity to learn from her example.

— women of Grace Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri



# Women and Girls Conference

July 22-24, 2022  
Virtually or King of Prussia, PA

[www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events)



**Friday, July 22, 2022**  
**Connecting Sister-to-Sister**  
*Bible Study, Real Acceptance Panel, Human Trafficking Workshop, Sectional Meetings, and more!*



**Saturday, July 23, 2022**  
**Digging Deeper Roots for Ministry**  
*Devotionals, Worship, Bible Study, Workshops, Annual Meeting, President's Tea, Community Service Project, Ice Cream Social, and more!*



**Sunday, July 24, 2022**  
**Trusting God**  
*Devotionals and Worship*

Join us for our **Women and Girls Conference** held virtually and in-person at American Baptist Women's Ministries' headquarters in King of Prussia, PA. Women and girls throughout the country, including Puerto Rico, will gather for a Real Acceptance Panel Conversation, a chat back session with Friday's plenary preacher, evening activities, Bible Studies, devotionals, workshop, worship, and more! We hope you'll join us as we seek to remove barriers that keep the body of Christ divided.

### Programming Just for Girls!

Girls, who have completed sixth grade and up, will fellowship together, participate in Bible study for girls, meet girls from all over the US, learn about self-care, and participate in an outdoor activity.

- Bible Studies led by young adult women
- hands-on skincare workshop—girls will make a skincare product!
- fun soccer workshop for all levels, beginner to intermediate
- intergenerational events for women and girls

### Learn more!

Visit [www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events) to learn more and to register!



## 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/abwomensministries)
- [www.instagram.com/abwomen/](http://www.instagram.com/abwomen/)
- [www.twitter.com/abwomen](http://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](mailto:info@abwomensministries.org).

## Subscribe Here

*Leader's Reader*, is your source for current events in American Baptist Women's Ministries, leadership helps, and news. It is distributed by the ABWM national office. You can **subscribe** at <http://www.abwomensministries.org/subscribe>.