

# SOUTHERN DISTRICT AWM

## JULY, 2011



As I write, it is the Fourth of July weekend and the USA is celebrating the 235<sup>th</sup> year of its declaration of independence and freedom from tyranny! Throughout our land there will be parades, picnics in the park, backyard barbeques, and lots of fireworks! (I really enjoy those!!) We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy in this land, and for those who were – and are - willing to make the supreme sacrifice so those freedoms might continue.

Amid this celebration, though, I am reminded of the greatest freedom possible, also gained through great sacrifice – our salvation! As His children, we are not only free from the penalty of sin, but also from its power! Though Satan would still try to ensnare us through his lies, discouragements, disappointments, and severe

difficulties, we can be victorious as we recall who we are in Christ, and that we are free!!

At the same time we must remember though, American's freedom began with its Declaration of Independence, we must not seek for independence. We are free, but certainly not independent! We can do nothing without His enabling; when we are weak, He is strong. And He has told us the very power that raised Him from the dead is available to us. When we seek to be independent, however, and live with an "I'll do it my way" attitude, we are sure to fail.

True freedom is ours – let us rejoice and live in it! Independence must be surrendered, and in so doing, true joy and blessing in service will be found. *Thank you Lord, for saving my soul! Thank you, Lord, for making me whole. Thank you, Lord, for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free!* Now that is a cause for celebration.

### **"Thank You!" is also in order for the following:**

☺ **Our District's AWM Leadership Team.** I am grateful for each member and the unity of heart and purpose as we work together; that is such a blessing.

☺ **Suzanne Anderson**, who served as our Secretary since her election at the 2010 District Conference. Because she is moving to Indiana this month, at our recent District Team meeting, we appointed Marilyn Martin as Secretary until elections are held at the 2012 District Conference Luncheon. **(Any changes in local leadership and/or addresses, snail or e-mail should be sent to Marilyn as soon as possible. In case you don't have it, her address is 3532 Clayton Place Birmingham, AL 35216.)**

☺ **OUTFIT GIVING!** How thankful we are for each individual and local AWM's faithful giving at the times of "Outfit Call." Because you were generous, we were able to supply our District's international workers returning to service this summer with outfit funds totaling \$7,400! We, and they, are so very grateful for your open hearts and wallets! Let me share with you a couple thank you notes we have received:

*Dear Southern District Women, On behalf of the entire Anderson family, thank you so much for your love and support. The outfit gift was not only needed but the timing was PERFECT! We are so very grateful for all you do not only for our family but for all the international workers.*  
**Blessings, René**

*Dear Southern District AWM, Thank you so very much for the generous outfit gift you sent to our family. We did not know it was coming and found ourselves overwhelmed with gratitude for such an unexpected gift! I continue to be blown away by the love you ladies of our District show us. ... We are blessed by your faithfulness and commitment to our lives.*

**Love, Rachel**

As well, the Eckmans, Terry Newman, and Mary Crowgey have sent Marilyn an e-mail, expressing their appreciation. God has used you to bless His servants in a special, practical way. That is the good news! The bad news is our Outfit Fund is now depleted!! Can we count on you to help build it up again so that by the time of their next home assignments, we can continue to bless our District's international servants in this practical way? Thank you, in advance!

## OUR DISTRICT AWM TEAM

Director

Mrs. Patty Peters

Assistant Director

Mrs. Debby Howen

Secretary/Treasurer

Mrs. Marilyn Martin

Member-at-Large

Mrs. Carol Hall

Member-at-Large

Dr. Ellen McLaughlin

Central Area Director

Mrs. Jan Serena

Central Area Assistant  
Director

Mrs. Karen Smith

Gulf Coast Contact

Mrs. Ruth Martin

Member Ex Officio

Mrs. Carol King

Web Master

Mrs. Julie Hall

[julie@sdaw.org](mailto:julie@sdaw.org)

National AWM Website

[www.alliancewomen.org](http://www.alliancewomen.org)

Southern District AWM

Website

[www.sdaw.org](http://www.sdaw.org)

## Our New Theme

Those of you who attended Council know that our theme for the 2011 – 2012 year is “*Simply Fragrant*,” based on verses 14b and 15 of II Corinthians 2 - *God uses us to spread His knowledge everywhere like a sweet-smelling perfume. Our offering to God is this: we are the sweet smell of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are being lost.*

Our National Project for 2011 – 2012 is to raise funds to equip national leaders to reach the nations by partnering with the Alliance World Fellowship in the training of international workers, training women in leadership, and, by providing further educational training and skills for existing national pastors.

Once again you will find our Bible study, this year entitled “*The Fragrance of Christ*,” both in the *Leadership Link* magazine, and, on the National AWM website. The study has been designed to help assist you in creating an environment for women to grow closer to Christ and become more effective in reaching out to others.

Our National web master, Fran Doty, has made accessing the various areas on our website so much easier this year!

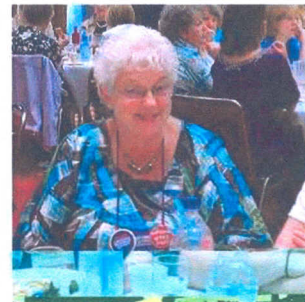
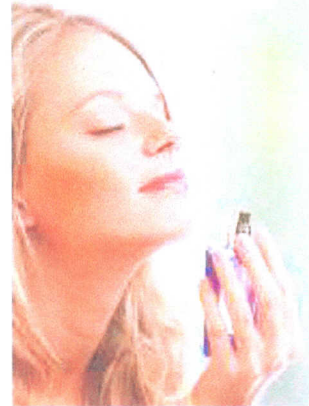
## Our New Director

As you are aware, Susan Bernard's tenure as National Director concluded with our May National AWM Team Meeting. (We, as a District, are grateful for Susan's leadership, and pray His richest blessings upon her as she continues to serve Him. As one of her ministries, she will be the Director of the Women's Leadership Studies.)

During that meeting, Mrs. Edna Mapstone was appointed as interim Director for this 2011 – 2012 year. Edna is a Nyack College graduate, married to Jerry Mapstone, Executive Director of Life Impact Ministries/CMA, and is his Event Planner/Administrative Assistant. (LIM is the C&MA event-planning office for LIFE, Council, Alliance World Fellowship, Celebrate 2012, International Bible Quizzing Finals, etc.) Edna has been a WMPF/AWM “cheerleader” forever, has served on three District AWM teams, and has visited several of the C&MA's overseas ministries. She is a very gifted leader, and we believe God will use her this year. Pray for her, won't you?



Instill in others, through discipleship, a deep and abiding passion for Christ so that they become more like Him.



\* Your Annual Report (form available on the AWM website) should reach me no later than August 15 – so I can compile them for the District and in turn, get them to Edna on schedule!! Those of you in the Central Area are to send yours to Jan Serena ASAP, but no later than July 30 – or you will be hearing from her!! Gulf Coast ladies should send your reports to Ruth Martin by that date as well; East Tennessee ladies please send your report directly to me, preferably by July 30th. Even if your report is very “thin” – or you have nothing to report, please send that info to me as well. I want to hear from each of you. Again, thank you in advance for your help.

\* **FALL RETREAT, October 21 - 23**

Yes, in just three-and-a-half months we will, the Lord willing, be meeting at the Springville Camp and Conference Center in Odenville, AL. Our speaker this year will be Mrs. Charlotte Stemple, former missionary to Vietnam, dorm parent at Dalat School in Penang, Malaysia, District Superintendent’s wife, National AWM Director, member of the C&MA Board of Directors – and a gifted communicator! You will not want to miss the opportunity to hear Charlotte speak – and, to buy an autographed copy of her book, My Vietnam.

We will also be blessed to have with us, Judy Gaskin who will be in the States for six weeks of Fall Mission Tour! Some special things are planned, and we know it is a weekend you do not want to miss!

**Cost:** \$100 (\$105 for a single room) for the two nights and five (5) delicious meals  
 \$ 75 for teens (through 17 years of age)

**Registration: Due August 21**  
 \$ 50 for adults \$40 for teens

Remember, registration funds are **non-refundable**, but they are **transferable**.

With this information comes the request for **A BIG FAVOR**. Because we no longer have a healthy balance from which to draw our second advance payment to Springville, we are asking that as many as possible pay your registration **in full** by August 21. Without your help, we cannot make that payment as scheduled. Those who do pay in full by August 21 will have a couple nice surprises awaiting them when they arrive at Retreat! Thank you, in advance, for helping with this, too!

More on Retreat will be forthcoming – do watch for it!

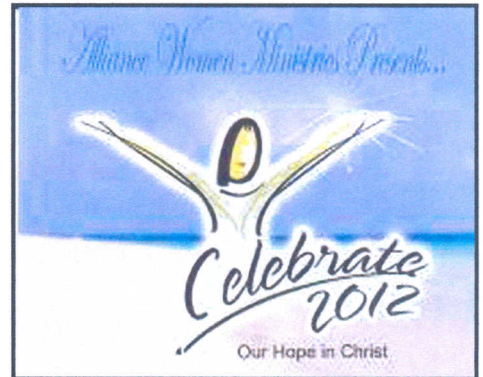
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Rejoicing with you in the freedom that is ours in Christ, and, the privilege of being His fragrance to the world,

Pat Peters, Director  
 Southern District AWM

\* It is time for you to send to our District AWM Treasurer, Marilyn Martin, the remainder of the money your ladies have given for the 2010 – 2011 *On the Move* National Project. Marilyn has a deadline for sending it on to our National Treasurer, and we want to be sure your funds are included. I know some of you participated in the Walk-a-thon; it would be great to note how much you raised through that event – or something you did instead of walking!

\* Have you marked September 27 – 30, 2012 on your calendar for **Celebrate 2012**? It will be held at the beautiful Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, FL. The days will be filled with great messages and music, times for prayer and fellowship. More details will follow, but you have over a year to put a little away each month so that you will be able to attend.



In conclusion, I want to thank you for your faithfulness in praying for our international workers. Many of you keep in touch with them, and that is great, for it keeps you current with their needs. For those of you unaware, the Andersons have just recently returned to Mongolia – but their son, Jonathan, remains in the USA for college. The Newmans, and Eckmans will be returning overseas by the end of this month. -- Continue to remember Mary Crowgey in Burkina Faso, Judy Gaskin in Indonesia, and, Sarah Mabee in Taiwan, who has struggled with health issues recently. -- The Millers are back in South Korea, but their older son, Luke, remains in the States as well.