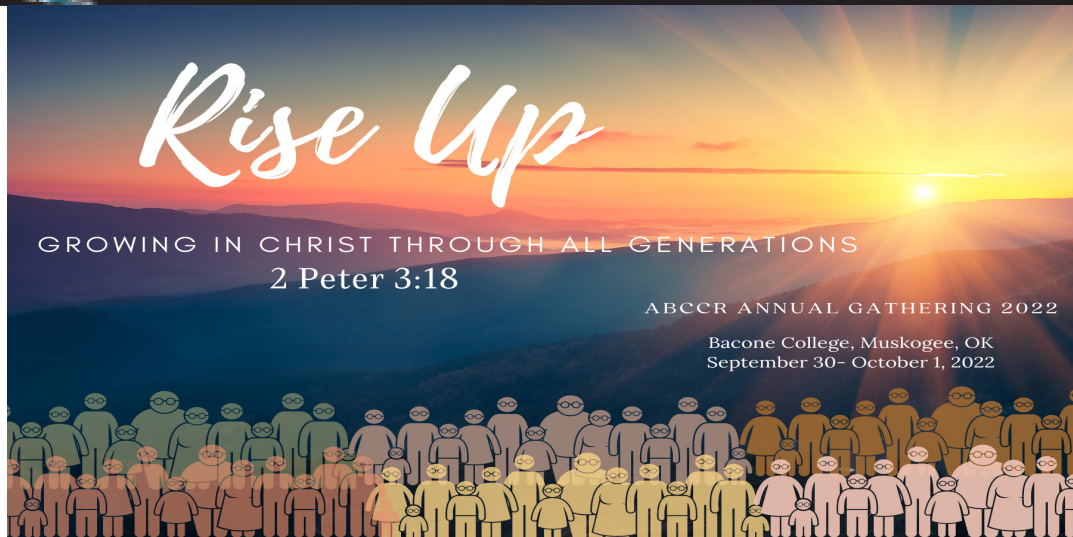


American Baptist Churches
Central Region Life

November 2022

Vol. 120 No. 11



What a joy it was to gather together as the Central Region family September 29-October 1 in Muskogee, Oklahoma! The weekend started with the Minister's Council meeting and dinner of BBQ and the celebration of the ministry of Rev. Richard Copeland and Mary Etta Copeland for their 55 years of ministry at De Soto Baptist Church. Richard was presented the Legacy Award by the Minister's Council.

The joy of gathering together continued all day Friday and Saturday morning. We had presentations from our keynote speaker, Dr. Jolene Erlacher from Leading Tomorrow who brought us some powerful information on differences of ages and how it impacts our ministry today and a story filled message from Rev. Richard Copeland. There was also a Focus on Ottawa University from Chancellor Dr. Bill Tsutsui and Bacone College from Dr. LeRoy Thompson, Dr. Stephen Wiley, Dr. Archie Mason, Mr. Tom Maxwell, and Mr. Geoffrey Cote. Throughout our time together, Ben Sullivan from Redstone Baptist Church led the music. One of the highlights was the Saturday worship. That service touched hearts with the singing and signing of the Lord's Prayer right before the communion service. Overall, it was a great Gathering!

I always say that I can tell you about the experience and how great it was but until you are actually present to feel the joy, fellowship, and learning, it just can't be the same. It was a wonderful time for our Annual Gathering and the theme Scriptures the planning team put together were in the forefront all weekend.

"Arise shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Isaiah 60:1 and "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

I want to thank the 2022 Annual Gathering Planning Committee and the Region staff for all they did to make the event a wonderful time together. Blessings to each of you!

Lois Chiles, Immediate Past President & Co-Chair Annual Gathering Committee

In this Issue...

Page 1 Annual Gathering 2022	Page 5
Page 2 Planned Giving ABHMS AFC Interim Ministry KBCF	Page 6
Page 3 ABW Prayer Emphasis	Page 7
Page 4	Page 8

Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation

Planned Giving

A Ministry of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Thank you. These two words are very simple, but sometimes in life people forget to say them at a time when it is important to do so. Being thankful or having gratitude is an important part of our character and of our Christian lives!

Did you know there is a unique and wonderful way that you could say thank you to someone in your life, especially a family member? You could take out a charitable gift annuity for your spouse, your son, your daughter, your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren or another family member. While the most common way of funding a charitable gift annuity is usually to name yourself or yourself and your spouse as a beneficiary, you can name other family members as a beneficiary as well.

Still, maybe you are thankful for a person in your life, who has already gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, to be with the Lord. That person could have been a former professor at Bacone College, Central Baptist Seminary or Ottawa University, and you can choose one of those charities to receive the remainder sum from your gift annuity. Maybe you are thankful for a pastor, a youth pastor, a camp leader or a nurse or caregiver, who took care of your loved one at Prairie Homestead or Sunset home. Again, you can choose your home church, another church, Camp Christy, Prairie Homestead or Sunset home as the charity that will receive the remainder sum from your gift annuity. You can also choose a number of these charities with certain percentages going to each one. There are many ways you can say "thank you" by funding a charitable gift annuity.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Annual Gathering in Muskogee, Oklahoma, in September. If I can be of help to you in any way related to supporting the foundation through a charitable gift annuity or investing in another way, please do not hesitate to reach out by email or phone to me. I am delighted to serve you in any way that I can!

Finally, let me say thank you to our executive minister, Gregg Hemmen, for asking me to take on this new responsibility and also to Rev. Wilma Engle, for teaching and training me to do this new work of ministry!! I am ever grateful for them and for the opportunity to serve with all of you!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Helping you to give generously,
Rev. Tim Schwartz
KBCF Director of Planned Giving
913-424-9939 / 785-272-7622
timmans39@gmail.com
tim.schwartz@abccr.org

Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, Inc.

- ❖ Investment arm of the ABCCR
- ❖ Service organization designed to assist those wanting to support the ministries of the church, ABCCR or its related institutions
- ❖ Churches can invest with us plus we offer individuals Charitable Gift Annuities
- ❖ Director of Planned Giving is Rev. Timothy Schwartz

Contact: abhms.org or 888.79ABHMS



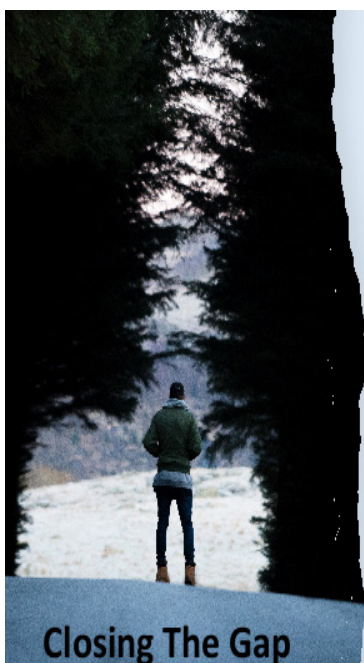
For more than 150 years, American Baptist Home Mission Societies has answered God's call to meet the needs of those living on the margins. The ministries we support across the United States and Puerto Rico transform and heal communities dealing with poverty, disaster and crisis. Our network of volunteers, donors, churches and Christian leaders bring hope to children and families struggling with addiction, incarceration, mental illness and societal injustice. We continue to develop programs, publications and resources that encourage, educate, develop and strengthen Christian leaders to make an impact in people's lives.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2022

"I will praise you and testify about what you have done." PSALM 22:22

Your gifts to the America for Christ Offering impact thousands – through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more. Two-thirds of received offerings are directed to the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and one-third are directed to the ABC regional office of the giving church. This offering is promoted in February and March.

Let us not become weary in doing good!



American Baptist Churches Central Region Interim Ministries Program

- Leadership during Transition.
- Stability in Change.
- Hope for Tomorrow.
- Christ in all things.

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 41:1b

Hello Dear Sisters in Christ,

This is my first article as your President! I have thought a hundred times what I would say and how I would say it. Today, however, I can barely start! After praying and asking for guidance from above, I've decided to introduce myself. I am the wife of Bob (he's the BEST), a mother to two adult daughters, Ashley and Elizabeth, a mother-in-law to Josh and Ian, and a grandmomma to Alex, Cooper, Gillian, and Margaret; all under the age of five! I have been an American Baptist church member since I was four at FBC Olathe. As an adult, I've been a toddler Sunday School teacher, choir member, soloist, American Sign Language interpreter, Board member, building committee member, and ABWM officer. Most recently, I was Luther Rice President and Conference Associate. My professional background included forty-one years at the Kansas School for the Deaf as a dorm teacher, secondary and middle school teacher, and as the campus librarian. Except for 5-8 years of depression, fear, anxiety, panic attacks and Agoraphobia, I've led a blessed life. It's possible that I led a blessed life even through those “gray” years! But that's for another article.

After retirement from the Deaf School, I enjoyed the fellowship of my church friends, becoming a grandma for the first time (to twins!), and becoming more involved with ABWMinistries. I started attending conferences and becoming more involved at the association and region levels. I began to take more time to pray, listen and engage with the Holy Spirit. I joined the Vantage Point 3 program offered through the Region. It is an in-depth program “to discover more deeply who God is and who I am so I can begin living out what God desires me to be and do.” That study was life-changing for me! It was during the fall of 2021 that I realized the Holy Spirit was preparing me to become the new president of ABW Ministries of the Central Region. I prayed often for discernment and guidance as to whether this was a “pipe dream” or a calling. When in March, I received the email I had been anticipating asking if I would consider accepting the office of President, there was no hesitation. I accepted my calling that night!

As I begin this journey with you, I want you to know that the history of ABWMCR is well documented and enlightening. I have spent numerous hours reading, learning and remembering the events of our region! Wilma Engle has created a phenomenal book and electronic copy of the past. I have attended the ABWM National Conference in Philadelphia, participated in Board meetings and fund-raising webinars. I have prayed with our region executive minister, Dr. Gregg Hemmen and our National President, Dr. Chris Smith for clarity and guidance as I begin my term of office. In the next three years, I wish for us to work together to expand on the past and move to the future; attaining all that American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region can achieve when we give our BEST GIFTS to the mission and vision of women's work across our region and nation. I covet your prayers.

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Central Region Life 117 Years

of Continuous Publication

CENTRAL REGION LIFE

News of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Executive Minister: Gregg Hemmen

Associate Executive Minister: Jennifer Schneider

Editor: Morgan Bandy

Prayer Emphasis: Tim Schwartz

Planned Giving: Tim Schwartz

Women's News: Mona Huggins

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As we enter the month of November and look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, what prayers of thanks do you offer to God this year? Whether you are thankful for a person in your life or someone who has gone before you marked with the sign of faith, give thanks to God for that child of God!

Or are you thankful for a sacred place such as a church, camp, school, college seminary, home, museum, historic site, ballpark, national park, forest, river, meadow, stream, field, building or any other created space? Give thanks to Jesus for that!

Maybe you are thankful for your education or an experience or an event in your life. Take a moment and ponder on that and give thanks to the Holy Spirit for using that time in your life!

I hope and pray that you can find something or many things to be thankful for in your life, in your family life and in your church family life. As the scripture says, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever.”
 Psalm 107: 1 (NIV)

Central Region Life

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

5833 S. W. 29th St. Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505

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AB Women's Ministries



National Theme:
Let the Walls Fall Down



Summer Conference Date – June 2-3, 2023

Summer Conference Location – TBA

Summer Conference Theme – TBA



Tips for a Senior Friendly Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time for family and friends to gather together, to enjoy good food, and spend quality time with one another. Although Thanksgiving is a favorite of many, planning can also bring upon stress, especially for seniors. Here at Prairie Homestead Senior Living, we want all families to have the best holiday season and offer the following tips:

1. Find the balance of including but not overwhelming: Not being included in planning, cooking, and conversations may lead seniors to feel lonely or less useful. The feeling that they cannot fully participate in holiday functions can lead to depression and isolation, but days full of cooking and preparation plus a full day of family can be exhausting for a senior as well. Determine what traditions may be most important to your loved one and then figure out how to either continue that tradition or modify them in a new way. Be thoughtful of how seniors in your family are feeling and work to find the balance between including but not overwhelming.

2. Food for thought: As a traditional harvest celebration, Thanksgiving is a time for feasting with friends and family. However, our elderly loved ones often have to watch their diet a bit more than the younger generation; keeping in mind medication conditions and food restrictions. Seniors often have more trouble eating due to dental health, diminished taste buds, and even reduced chewing strength. Consider food options that more senior friendly and be mindful of dietary restrictions. For example, many Thanksgiving dishes contain high amounts of sodium which can lead to a spike in blood pressure, shortness of breath, palpitations, and even fainting. Spending a little time being thoughtful about food choices can make the day more enjoyable (and palatable) for everyone!

3. The Best Medicine: During the holidays, morning and evening routines are often very different than normal. Reminder seniors to pack all their medications if they will be travelling during the holidays. Bring more dosages in the event they need to stay over a day or two. According to MedicineNet, there is a 20% rise in elderly patients going to the emergency room during the holidays. Although laughter is considered the best medicine, taking prescription medication can help reduce the risk of a health episode.

4. Be Mindful of Health Risks: The holidays can be a vulnerable time for all of us when it comes to our health, but especially for seniors. If you or other family members are ill, be mindful not to include yourself among your elderly loved ones. Although it is tempting to pull out ample decorations and add seating throughout the house, be mindful that cluttered furniture, area rugs, and electrical cords can create fall hazards for all ages. Keeping the pathway clear helps reduce the risk of falling.

5. Be Thankful for the memories: Holidays are a time to give thanks for the many blessings that have been given, but there are often feelings of grief as seniors think of those they have lost. Make a special point to talk about the memories of your loved ones. Consider going through old scrapbooks or photos. Focus on being thankful for having those memories by keeping them light and positive.

Regardless of what you decide to do together, any time you share is a precious gift. Here at Prairie Homestead Senior Living, we will be celebrating together as an extended family and welcome all of you to join us! We are so thankful for the seniors we are privileged to serve and hope you are able to celebrate Thanksgiving with your loved ones, remember to be thankful, and enjoy this special time together!



ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
Matthew 6:10

Our Mission

International Ministries, also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation.

3 Focused Impact Areas of our Work

1. Inviting people to be disciples of Jesus Christ
2. Proclaiming God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life
3. Equipping the body of Christ to engage in God's mission

For more information contact: internationalministries.org or [610-768-2168](tel:610-768-2168)



A Financial Services Ministry™

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Contact: Service@mmbb.org or 1-800-986-6222

Transformed
by Generosity

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is a long-standing tradition established in 1977 which supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to service in ABCUSA. This offering is promoted in November and December.

Central Region Life Goes Digital Beginning January 2023

The ABCCR Board of Directors agreed at our September 2022 meeting with a proposal to move the Central Region Life into the digital age. Beginning with the January 2023 issue, the publication will no longer come in a printed form, but will be available as a PDF download which can be printed by local churches for those who prefer the printed version. The rising printing and mailing costs, along with timing issues for the publication were significant factors in making this decision. We will have the current issue available each week as a link in the weekly email, and the issues will be archived on the Region's website for reference and access.

FBC Turner Receives FOX4 KC "Pay It Forward" Gift

Pastor Steve Neal and the members of FBC Turner were very excited and honored to receive a gift of \$400 from FOX 4 New station in Kansas City as part of their "Pay It Forward" initiative.

FBC Turner runs the Caring Connections Collaborative which is a ministry that strives to give back to the community. They have a food and clothing pantry. They also work with Friends of Isaiah to go out and serve the unhoused community.



Topeka FBC Named Top 3 Places to Worship in Topeka

First Baptist Church, Topeka was nominated as one of Topeka's Top 3 places of worship. Pastor Bri Law, Pastor Janet Crowl, and Office Administrator Jamie Tast-Pasely are pictured below when they represented the church at the Best



Baptisms in the Central Region

We love welcoming new members into the family of God. Recently, 5 young people have given their life to Christ and have displayed that through Baptism. Pictured below is Kirsten Flageolle; FBC Gardner, Alyssa Golden; Victory Village Chapel, Appanoose Baptist Church



Prayer for Puerto Rico, One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts Invited

Please pray for the people of Puerto Rico who are experiencing the most dramatic flooding on the island since Hurricane Maria. The 2022 Hurricane Fiona has dumped over 25 inches of rain and caused massive flooding.

Executive Minister Rev. Edgardo Caraballo lamented, "Currently most of the Island is without electricity service. Since Sunday we activated our Disaster Response Committee. We are taking an inventory of losses and needs among our pastoral families and congregations. We do not have much information yet because communications have been affected and the waters have not yet receded in many communities. But so far we have identified six families in three different churches who lost everything because of the floods."

Persons who wish to give to relief efforts may do so through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Checks and contributions should be labelled "OGHS PR 2022 Hurricane."

Relief efforts will be coordinated through the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. "We are so grateful for ABHMS that serves as the principle channel for distribution of relief funds in the U.S.," said General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods. "ABHMS has organized a constant flow of volunteers to Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria struck in 2017. Please pray, give, and volunteer as you are able to help our Puerto Rico residents recover from this disaster."

Dr. C. Jeff Woods
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA



Founded in 1865, by a (Kansas) Baptist missionary couple, who built a trusting partnership with the Ottawa Indian Tribe, the University continues to be strongly affiliated with the tribe and the ABCCR.



In 2009, the Fredrikson Center for Faith and Church Vitality was launched, with encouragement from the American Baptist Churches, USA, the Home Missions Society, OU alumni and those supportive of University's Mission.

Fredrikson programming strengthens and enriches the faith experiences of students, and the Ottawa University community. It also affords bolster for the hearts and minds of American Baptist Church families and active and retired clergy— well beyond our campus and host-community borders.

We are grateful to receive both financial support and student referrals from our American Baptist partners! OU continues to produce committed graduates who are called to serve as pastors, youth pastors and as active lay leaders.



2021 Generational impacts

By participant's age group(s)

AGE	# Involved
3-7	27
7-9	28
10-14	42
15-18	172
19-26	227
27-45	98
46-54	57
55+	198



Doctor of Ministry in Creative Leadership
 Master of Arts in Counseling
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 Certificate in Chaplaincy
 Lifelong learning opportunities
 Alumni events and networking
 and much more...

Senior Adult Retreat 2023



Rev. Dr. Jerry Cain
 Keynote Speaker

April 26-27, 2023

West Side Baptist Church

**304 S. Seneca
 Wichita, KS**

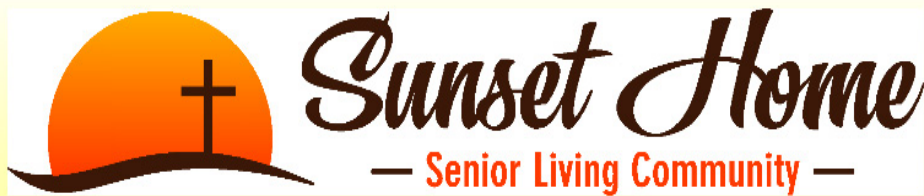
Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.

During the World Mission Offering, promoted in September and October, your church has the opportunity to join the transformational work God is doing around the world through International Ministries' 120+ global servants and 250+ global partners. God can use your participation not only to change lives internationally, but also to deepen your own discipleship in Christ. You can take part in what the Holy Spirit is doing to bring God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."



One Great Hour of Sharing supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. The fund is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. **This offering is promoted in May and June.**

Throughout the year, there may be special appeals for particular disasters. To designate your OGHS gift, make sure to indicate to which appeal you are responding, for example "OGHS – Ukraine Relief." The World Relief Committee will disburse the undesignated gifts to domestic and global projects.



Vantagepoint 3 is a discipleship & leadership development experience where groups get together on zoom or in person to grow and develop as a person and leader. If you're ready for a deeper look into your life and God's work in our world, contact the Region office for more details.



REGISTER NOW

MIDWINTER MISSION & EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Equipping the Saints
Eph. 4:12

Mission Evangelism

**IM Global Servants
DR. RICK & DR. ANITA
GUTIERREZ
SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

JANUARY 20-21, 2023
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
600 E Marlin St
McPherson KS 67460

REGISTER ONLINE
www.abccr.org

American Baptist Churches
Central Region

MAIL REGISTRATION
BEFORE JANUARY 5

5 EASY WAYS TO BE A MISSION ADVOCATE

1. DECIDE TO JOIN GOD'S WORK
Say "YES" to God's work in the world! Being informed and engaged in God's work is one of the hallmarks of our Baptist faith. Decide now to come to the Midwinter Mission & Evangelism Conference.

REGISTER NOW

2. LEARN
Learn about God's global mission work at the MWMC by registering online or completing a paper registration and mailing it TODAY

3. Welcome
Be friends with God's global servants! Invite them into your home, hearts, and churches. Get to know the servants God is using to spread the Good News.

4. Give
Prayerfully and financially support God's global servants by partnering with them each month. A free-will offering will be received.

5. Pray
Ask God to release His supernatural blessing, so persons receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and churches are strengthened and grow.

TRAVEL SAFELY TO THE MidWinter Mission & Evangelism Conference

FBC MCPHERSON
600 E Marlin St,
McPherson KS 67460
620-241-6400
www.fbcmcpherson.com



HOTELS

- Hampton Inn 620-480-2990
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- Holiday Manor 620-241-5343
- Fairfield Inn 620-504-5353
- McPherson Inn 620-241-3690
- Executive/Knights Inn 620-241-8881

Lodging options - All located within 5-10 minutes of the church. * Each attendee will need to make a reservation and pay for their hotel or lodging.

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Mid Winter Mission Conference
January 20 and 21, 2023



to be held at
First Baptist Church, 600 E Marlin, McPherson, KS

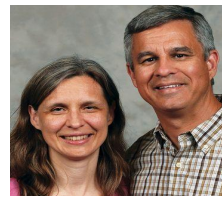
Registration

Name _____

Address _____

e-mail: _____ phone _____

Registration is \$25 per person to pay travel expenses and honorarium for our missionary speakers Dr. Rick and Dr. Anita Gutierrez, who serve in South Africa.



Dinner and lunch will be provided by the McPherson church for a free will offering but we need to know by **January 7th**. #_____ Dinner #_____ Lunch

Please make checks payable to "Mid Winter Missions" and mail to: Wilma Engle, 6745 Interurban, Wichita, KS 67204-1323 or register and pay online. One person per registration.

Schedule

- Jan. 20 – 4:00 pm Registration begins
- 5:15 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Program begins ---- Should end by 9:00 pm
- Jan 21 -- 9:00 am Gathering with music
- 12:00 noon Lunch & homeward to share your experience

Housing is on your own at local motels or with friends!

Offering for missions will be received!