

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM TEXAS WMA

A list of newly elected TX WMA officers is included in this newsletter. Also included:
Information about several of our new officers along with the introduction of our new theme for the year.
Announcement about a spring retreat in Lubbock, so **SAVE THE DATE**, March 11-12 2022.
Information about our Projects, old and new and project raising ideals from our Project Promoter.

Treasurer's Report

By Jo Strong

Last year our project was Daniel Springs Camp, Swimming Pool Repair. Our final total for that project was \$15,109. Of that amount I sent \$13,853 to Daniel Springs and put \$628 in our General Fund and \$628 in our youth fund.

Now let's get busy on our new Project of supporting our missionary in South Asia. Our new theme goes so well with our project. Many people of South Asia have never heard the gospel and it is our goal to help reach them by supporting this missionary.

Our current General Fund balance is \$794 so don't forget to support the general fund when you send in your reports. As usual I have included report forms for you to use when you send in either Project or General Fund Money. Please report to me every quarter even if you don't have money to send so that we can keep a current list of our active Women's Ministries. At our state meeting we adopted a new Manual and Guidebook, so that we can keep our state work in line with our national work. One of the changes from the past is that you don't have to be called WMA to be a part of our Texas WMA or our National WMA. Please go to our Web page www.texaswma.com to see a copy of the new Manual and Guidebook for Texas. Any local women's ministry can be part of our work and are entitled to send messengers to our state and national meetings.

GOOD READS

Suggested by Barbie Reynolds, Third Vice President



Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say it, and When to Say Nothing at All
By Karen Ehman

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy *with God in the* Busyness of Life
By Joanne Weaver

Made to Shine: 90 Devotions to Enjoy and Reflect God's Light
By April Rogers

100 Days of Less Hustle, More Jesus: A Devotional Journal
By Shanna Noel

All People Everywhere Need Jesus



We are the key

to making sure that while the door to South Asia is open, we plant the seed of God's love and saving grace among its people. Our goal is \$15,000 so let's get busy. Use the Key as the basis for your fund raising, here are a couple of ideas: I am sure that all of us have old keys that we don't use any longer so make display and have your church members add keys of their own as they make their donations or make large wooden key holders and sell them.

Jeannie Walker, Project Promoter
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Message from our New President

Dear Ladies of the great State of Texas!

My name is Kristi Key and I am the newly elected Texas WMA President! I am honored and humbled to serve in this position. I live in Eustace, we attend Old Bethel Baptist Church, Canton where my husband is the pastor. We have 5 beautiful girls, one son in law and one soon to be son in law. I am also an Oncology Nurse of 24 years! I'm excited about what I believe the Lord will do through ladies across the BMA of Texas this year! My prayer is to encourage ladies within our churches and to stimulate more excitement and a desire for fellowship and growth in Christ! If you have ladies within in your church (and I know we all do), then I want to see you at some of the events we will be planning throughout the year! I pray you will join in our efforts to support missions, mentor young ladies and children and serve our churches, all the while grow in your relationship with the Lord!

Last year the Tx WMA supported our Girls Missionary Auxiliary, Sunbeams and we raised monies to help repair the pool at Daniel Springs Camp. We ministered to women of all ages in September with a Retreat at Daniel Springs. In 2022 we will join our efforts in supporting Missions in South Asia. We will continue supporting our Sunbeams and GMA as well. March 11-12, 2022 we will be hosting a Ladies retreat in Lubbock, Texas and in September in the East Texas area. Watch for upcoming newsletters, emails, Facebook and the Texas WMA website for more information! You may also contact me or any of the other officers if you have questions or need any information. Myself, along with the other officers are available as well to speak at ladies' events or help in any way we can to minister to you and your ladies! Praying you have a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Kristi Key- Tx. WMA President
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Everyone everywhere needs Jesus!

¹⁹**Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰**teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you** always, to the end of age." Matthew 28:19-20

This will be our theme and verse for this year. These two verses clearly state that we need to do our part in spreading the gospel. But you say I cannot teach or preach, or I am not a missionary called to a foreign land? This year we will be looking at ways to be intentional as we reach out and touch people both across the street and across the world to share the gospel with them. Yes you may have to step out of your way a tad but look what Jesus did for you. Remember the woman at the well story in John.

In this story her receiving was an action!

She had to do some on her part to accept that free gift then she ran to share it. She was intentional to sharing.

Jesus went to this place with intention.

She needed him; others everywhere need him.

Can you help do you part in sharing.

We are open to invitations from churches to host our Fall Retreat. If you are interested, please contact Diana Morris at 903-288-7575 or grammydi1013@msn.com. We will be meeting in January to make plans, so please invite us ASAP to receive a blessing.

Deana Morris, Texas WMA 2nd V President
Grammydi1013@msn.com
903-288-7575

Greetings from the windy plains of West Texas, Lubbock to be exact. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Barbie Reynolds and I'm your new 3rd VP. My husband is the new Pastor of LakeRidge Baptist Church in Lubbock. We've been here since May and are so blessed to be back "home". I'm originally from Upstate New York and grew up in a military family, which meant we moved A LOT. My senior year of high school, this cute airmen from Lubbock, TX visited our church in Rome, NY on a Sunday night...11 months later (6 months after graduation), Dan and I got married and in January we'll celebrate our 32nd Anniversary. We've been in ministry for over 20 years, but are new to BMA. I'm excited to learn all about BMA and glean new friendships along the way.

Our State Theme this year is "Everyone Everywhere Needs Jesus", but today I'd like to talk about the National Theme "Be Intentional". They really do go hand-in-hand!

Our SHINE Women's Ministry at LakeRidge is in the process of reading and going through the Bible Study, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World - Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life" by Joanna Weaver. I'll be the first to admit that busyness can get in the way of so many things in our daily walk with God. We must be intentional about spending time with Him, sitting at His feet and just listening to His voice. Did you know that this is no easy task for a Martha, and how many of us ladies are wired much more like Martha than Mary? Martha was a worrier and it got in her way.

Have you realized that we've become a nation of worriers? So many people live in constant fear. Did you also know this is not just a modern problem? Jesus addressed this in Luke..."Martha, Martha", the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things." (Luke 10:41) Worry keeps up from being intentional in the simple fact that it can take up so much time and mental space. In her book, Joanna Weaver talks about the *Curse of Anxiety*. The ongoing burden of worry or fear.

Worry is worthless! "An anxious heart weighs

a man down..." (Proverbs 12:25). And that worry has no benefit. "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Matthew 6:27) The following are some statistics about what we worry about:

- 40% are things that will never happen
- 30% are about the past—which can't be changed
- 12% are about criticism by others, mostly untrue
- 10% are about health, which gets worse by stress
- 8% are about real problems that can be solved. (Bible Study Foundation Illustration Database, bible.org)

We are commanded not to worry. The Bible mentions worry and/or anxiety 25 times in the New Testament as something we are not to do. You may be thinking, "she can't be talking to me. I don't worry, I'm just concerned." Ladies, let's be completely honest with ourselves. Are we really dealing with healthy concern, or are we sugarcoating our worry under the guise of "concern"? In Chapter 3 of "Having a Mary Heart..." Joanna charts the difference between the two.

Concern

- Involves a legitimate threat
- Is specific (one thing)
- Addresses the problem
- Solves problems
- Looks to God for answers

Worry

- Is often unfounded
- Is generalized (spreads to many things)
- Obsesses about the problem
- Creates more problems
- Looks to self or other people for answers

Concern draws us to God. Worry pulls us from Him. I think this distinction is especially helpful for those of us who tend to spiritualize worry, convincing ourselves that it's our duty to fret about such things as the state of the world, our finances, our futures. (p. 38)

We need to realize that there are absolutely legitimate concerns throughout our lives, but we must rely on our Heavenly Father instead of fretting about it.

Let me share a little more of my story and why worry is such a deep topic for me and how I know it doesn't change outcomes.

Early in our marriage, I became pregnant with our first child. Everything was going along as planned and we were thrilled. Between 16-20 weeks, I went in for "routine blood tests" and one of those tests was an alpha-fetoprotein test. A few days later I was called by the doctor to let me know my levels were high. They assured me that this could mean many things...I was further along than we thought, I was carrying twins, a few other possibilities that I don't remember, and the last was that our baby could have a neural tube defect. They scheduled me for an ultrasound to verify the results. In the pit of my stomach and depth of my heart, I knew that the worst possible outcome was going to be mine. What seemed like an eternity later, we went in for our ultrasound and our fears were confirmed. Our baby had anencephaly. There was no skull formed. Our baby may or may not have more than their brain stem and there was no viable life outside the womb. I was 18-years old. Newly married. And scared to death. I began to worry. And worry. And worry about worrying.

We were blessed with a Christian doctor at that Air Force Base and he told us our "options" as he was required to do, but when we immediately said that our ONLY option was to carry this baby to term, because our baby's life belonged to God, he smiled and asked if he could pray with us. I'd love to say that I immediately realized that worry wouldn't help the situation, but it was a long time before I really allowed the Holy Spirit to rid me of it. You see, I grew up in a Christian home. I knew all the right "things" to say and do, but in my heart I was a worrier. As a child, I learned Philippians 4:6-7 and was reminded of these verses from a dear friend who had lost her first child. *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

I clung to those verses for the rest of my pregnancy. I was told that because of the baby's birth defect, I would not go into labor on my own and an induction

date was scheduled. I tried not worry about that date, but it was hard. I felt like they had planned my baby's death date, not birth date. I prayed for a miracle. That our baby would be born whole. But I also knew God's will would be done. I kept reading Philippians 4:6-7 and surrounded myself with Christian friends and family. God did allow a miracle, but not the one I asked for. God allowed my body to go into labor 2 days before our induction date. He allowed Jessica Lynne to be born alive! He allowed Dan and I, and countless friends and family the privilege of loving that baby girl for 37 hours. He allowed Jessica's story to travel the world and how her family was praising God for her short life instead of cursing Him for taking her so soon. He 's allowed me to love on other mom's who have been given the same devastating news about their unborn child. In the end, what did any of my worrying do? Nothing, except keep me from trusting in the One Who created Jessica from the very beginning of her life. I wasted several weeks of my life while carrying her by worrying instead of cherishing my time with her.

Worry does nothing but rob us of the Joy we have in Christ. It robs us of our testimony of how He has saved us and made us whole. It robs us of friends who just don't want to be around a worry-wart. It keeps us busy and robs us of our intentionality to be doing the work of the Lord.

My dear friend, do not let worry rob you of sitting at the feet of your Savior, like Martha did. Be intentional to be a Mary and allow yourself to just Breathe. Listen. Pray. Be Thankful. Feel His love. Guard your heart and mind with His peace that passes all understanding.

The rest of our story (as of now) is...we had 2 more children, both healthy. Britney is now 28, married to Joe, and has given us 2 wonderful grandchildren who live about 10 minutes from us. Tommy is 26, married to Jaslynn, and we're proud to say Jaslynn graduates with her BSN this month! God is faithful!

Because He Lives,
Barbie



Dear churches,

We are looking forward to seeing you and your girls at the 2022 Texas GMA Houseparty!

DETAILS

Saturday, February 19th, 2022

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sign-in starts at 8:30 AM

\$25 per person

Includes t-shirt and lunch

First Baptist Church of Jacksonville

210 Philip St, Jacksonville, TX 75766

SLEEPOVER

This year, we are hosting a sleepover on Friday night, February 18th for any groups that want or need to come early. We will be showing a movie! Bring your sleeping bags, pajamas, air mattresses, and anything else you would need for a sleepover. We will be sleeping in the Family Life Center at the church.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

We will have a formal Queen coronation during the afternoon program, so Queens can bring their white dresses and accessories. All girls who have passed a step or gotten saved in the last year will also be recognized. Miss and Jr. Miss GMA participants are encouraged to wear formal attire (along with their sashes) for when they are recognized during the afternoon program. Dresses or skirts cannot be shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Attire is casual for all sessions, except for those participating in the afternoon program. **All girls are invited to dress up as princesses for the afternoon program!**

THEME

Standing Firm in Faith

Our theme is based on Ephesians 6:13. Like the Armor of God described in Ephesians, the suits of armor worn by medieval knights were made to withstand fierce battles. houseparty will be a trip back to medieval days; expect to see lots of knights, horses, princesses, and castles!

Officer surveys, Miss and Jr. Miss GMA surveys, registration/t-shirt forms, WMA Scholarship applications, project money, and all other paperwork are due by February 1st, so don't wait! These forms and all other information pertaining to Houseparty can be found on our website www.texasgma.org. Click on the Houseparty link at the top right. Also, be sure to download and print the project coloring sheet for your girls to help encourage them to raise money for the project! The officers will have a variety of items, including homemade ones, to sell at Houseparty to raise money for the project.

Even if you do not have the GMA program currently at your church, if you have girls between 4th and 12th grade, give them the opportunity to come and have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, worship the Lord with girls their own ages.

If you have any questions, you can reach us by using the Contact Us form on our website (click the Contact link at the top right). Please join us in praying that this houseparty will bring glory to God!

In His Service,

Texas GMA Officers

TEXAS GMA HOUSEPARTY 2022

STANDING FIRM IN FAITH

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:13



**JOIN US SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
FIRST BAPTIST JACKSONVILLE**

Registration opens January 1st.
Visit www.texasgma.org for details.

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Church Name _____

Church Address _____ City, Zip _____

District _____

Report year: _____ Quarter: (please check one) One(Jan-Mar) _____

Two (Apr-June) _____ Three (July-Sept) _____ Four (Oct-Dec) _____

Contact Person for reports: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address _____ **City, Zip** _____

E-mail address _____ I prefer getting WMA news via: mail E-mail
(Please circle one)

Local Officers: **President** _____

Address _____

Secretary _____

Address _____

Treasurer _____

Address _____

How often does your WMA meet? _____

Average attendance at meetings: _____

Total amount enclosed for State Project: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed for State General Fund: \$ _____

Other TX WMA offerings: \$ _____

Please list amount and purpose

Mail report to:
Texas WMA
149 NW Suzanne Terrace
Burleson, TX 76028

Attention: Secretary and/or Treasurer: Please use this form to send with your offerings you send to TX WMA. You do not have to use the reports that you order from the Baptist Publishing House. Please feel free to duplicate this form. Thanks, Jo Strong, TX Corresponding Secretary.

Please note e-mail address change: wmaoftexas@gmail.com Phone- (817)480-0888