There is no better time than today to ponder God’s gift of the Christ Child.

Merry Christmas from the American Baptist Women of the Central Pacific Coast!

All who heard the shepherd’s story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. Luke 2: 18-19

What a great time to be an American Baptist Woman! If you made it to the Annual Gathering in Alameda, you still remember the excitement of a new family coming together in Christ’s love. If you didn’t, don’t feel too badly...there will be many more opportunities! As a matter of fact, you can put the first ABW Retreat of the CPC on your calendar now. Feed the Need, happening September 14–16, 2013 in Medford, OR, will feature guest speaker Lisa Harris from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. We’ll focus on meeting spiritual and physical needs of needy folks in our own neighborhoods. Accommodations will be comfortable and affordable, so plan NOW to attend and bring a girlfriend!

Plan to attend the ABCPC Annual Spring Missions Conference hosted by Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, CA. Friday and Saturday, April 19—20, 2013 will be packed with workshops focusing on local, national and international mission opportunities. Keynote speaker is Reid Trulson, Executive Director of International Ministries. If you feel ready to participate in a short-term mission trip, be sure to sign up for the workshop designed to plan exactly that!

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we go about preparing for eternity by looking at the life of Christ, we realize that relationships are important. It is through relationships that we can present the face of Christ. If we believe that, then we are to go to all of the world reaching others with our message. We do not have to travel to other countries; we can influence the world in our own communities and nation. That means we need to reach out to all people, Christian or non. This decision must be intentional. It means we need to get out of our rut of the church being our only social outlet, and relating with the secular section of our society as well. Some of the ways we can accomplish this is to target groups of people around us that we want to influence for the Lord. Next we put some effort into prayer to make sure that the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Then action is needed to push ahead by deliberately finding ways to communicate with people. Some ideas might include taking someone out to a meal, sending encouragement cards, or initiating conversation. When learning about people’s interests, do some research to have an even greater reason to communicate with them. Join groups that include non-Christians such as bowling, quilting, volunteering, or gardening clubs.

It is true that often we do not have the time to participate in a ministry, but our outreach can be whatever it is we do on a regular basis with an intention to share Christ wherever and whenever. And so our sisters we wish you a productive holiday season. Celebrate with joy the day by day interactions with a new fervor.

Much Love, Sally Brown and Diane Weidkamp

For more information about American Baptist Women of the Central Pacific Coast, contact Pat Waggener at (503) 666-6606 or email her at pattywaggon1@frontier.com. Wish to contact President Diane Weidkamp? Email her at dianew67@comcast.net. Want to be added to our email list? Contact Trudi at StTrudi316@aol.com.