

Metro Chicago
eWind

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

A weekly electronic newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
A patchwork of varied news and announcements
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

September 7, 2005

May we all reach out with sacrificial giving to those in need,
especially victims of the recent hurricane and flooding
on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

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Upcoming Events

September 6-8--"Bring them Home Now" events at various times and locations: see article.

September 10--Peace Fair, Noon to 5 p.m., Scoville Park, corner of Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street, Oak Park.

September 11--4th Anniversary of Terrorist Attacks on the USA. We encourage you to make this an occasion of prayer and loving remembrance.

September 19-20--"Tested and Transformed: Healing Congregations after Conflict or Trauma," 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, and 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, at The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin. To register, phone 800-442-4617. Cost is \$225.

September 20--15th Annual Charity Golf Outing for Kids Hope United, Bonnie Brook Golf Course, Wakegan, 11:30 a.m.

September 21--International Day of Prayer for Peace.

September 22--Founders Day Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard. Information available at www.seminary.edu.

September 24--ABCUSA National Ministries Executive Committee forum, Third Baptist Church, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, Third Baptist Church, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Lunch served at noon. RSVP to ABCMC, abcmchi@aol.com or 773-695-9791.

September 24--MMBB's "Managing for Ministry: An Employer Workshop," Third Baptist Church, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, 1-3 p.m. RSVP to ABCMC, abcmchi@aol.com or 773-695-9791.

September 24-25--Workshop on African American Music with Horace Boyer, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. Tel: 847.823.4126. <http://www.stmarysparkridge.org>. Begins at 9:30 a.m.

September 25--Mission Fair, Community Baptist Church, 28W 144 Main Street (corner of Main Street and Warren Avenue), Warrenville, 9 a.m. to noon. Phone 630-393-9609 for more information.

October 8-10--World Council of Churches conference for Young Adults, "Shift Your Space - Transform the World," Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Information available at www.wcc-usa.org.

October 10-12--World Council of Churches U.S. Conference, O'Hare Crown Plaza Hotel, Chicago. Information available at www.wcc-usa.org.

October 12-13--The National Conference on Black Religious Life: Members Voice Project presents "Economic Empowerment Through Partnership-Building" for pastors and lay leaders, Atlanta, GA. See www.itc.edu/conference.

October 14-16, 28-30--Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course, Jefferson City, MO. Visit www.msr.crm.org.

October 17-21--Pastors Conference in Prague

October 30--"Reviving Congregational Singing Using African-American Song" with Dr. James Abbingon.

November 11-12--Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

April 17-20--Ministers Council's "Wait on the Lord" conference

September 11 Worship Resources

This year September 11 falls on a Sunday, marking with heightened spiritual emphasis the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Washington, D.C. and New York city that shook those cities, the nation and the world. This week people of faith also have victims of the Hurricane Katrina to remember in our prayers. Below are web links to resources that you can use, to help

commemorate the September attacks as well as remember the hurricane victims and those working to assist them.

A [22-page worship guide](#), prepared by Acacia Resources, is available at no charge in printable PDF format, to help congregations mark this day with thoughtful reflection. Acacia is a ministry of the Baptist Center for Ethics, located in Nashville, Tenn. BCE also produces [EthicsDaily.com](#), a website offering background on current events through the eyes of faith.

The National Council of churches has compiled a listing of member churches with resources that you may find helpful in planning your services. These links can be found at <http://www.nccusa.org/resources/sept-11-2005.html>.

Relief Assistance for Hurricane Victims

American Baptists are helping Katrina's victims. Much is needed in terms of cash, food, lodging, clothing and transportation.

1. So that aid may go as efficiently as possible to the places where it is needed, we encourage you to work directly with appropriate persons and groups at ABCUSA.
 - a. Please send **gifts of cash** to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) either through the ABCUSA web site (www.abc-usa.org), or through your church's customary process of mission giving.
 - b. If you have any **space that can be offered to refugees**, please contact Melissa Farber at melissa.farber@abc-usa.org or 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2493.
 - c. Please direct information about **other available resources, or any questions** you may have, to Tia McCoun at tia.mccoun@abc-usa.org or 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2148.
2. Please send ABCMC (abcmchi@aol.com or 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60631) a copy of any correspondence you may have with ABCUSA, so that our regional office can maintain a record of what our congregations are doing to help with hurricane relief. This will help us to coordinate efforts among our churches.
3. ABCMC staff members will have specific responsibilities in coordinating our aid efforts. James Jackson will maintain the records. Lynne Kelley will handle communication. Lynne is also ABCMC's liaison with the American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTS).
4. When you need the cooperation of our office, or of another ABCMC congregation in actualizing what you are able to do, please contact us at abcmchi@aol.com or 773-695-9791. For example, if your church is able to provide housing, and needs other congregations to provide food and/or transportation, we want to be able to assist you in making those connections within our region.

AB Women's Ministries, the national office coordinating the relief efforts, offers the following suggestions for specific ways of responding to the hurricane crisis:

1. Donate wallets and gift cards—gift cards from pharmacies, grocery stores, gas stations, clothing stores, phone cards. Get your whole church involved in this project. Stores and business may even donate gift cards or wallets if you ask. For now, just start gathering gift cards and wallets. Insert the gift cards into the wallets, and organize them so you know how many wallets you've gathered with \$20 worth of gift cards; how many with \$50 worth of gift cards; and how many with \$100, etc. Enclose a note from your group, so the recipient will know who cares. Details about what to do with the filled wallets will follow in the next few days. This immediate project need is endorsed by National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA and American Baptist Churches of the South region.
2. Form a "think tank" with other people in your church. What can your church do? What resources can you share? What services can you provide? Email your ideas and offers of help to National Ministries' Hurricane Katrina relief coordinator Tia McCoun at Tia.McCoun@abc-usa.org.
3. While National Ministries is collecting information through Tia McCoun about who is willing to help and how, the ABC of New Jersey region office is set up to receive information about specific needs. If you know of specific needs of specific individuals, or the needs of persons who have been evacuated to your area, email LeeSpitzer@abcnj.org.
4. One Great Hour of Sharing contributions can be made anytime online and may be directed to Hurricane Katrina relief. Go to www.abc-usa.org to find out how to give.

To learn how our ecumenical partners are responding to the hurricane disaster as well as meeting other needs around the world go to the Baptist World Alliance web site www.bwanet.org and www.churchworldservice.org.

ABC Congregations in Devastated Areas

ABC congregations in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina are a part of the American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTS). According to that region's web site, www.abcots.org, those churches include:

Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA
Greater New Guide Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA
New Sunlight Baptist Church, Lake Charles, LA
Christian Unity Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
Aimwell Baptist Church, Mobile, AL

The buildings of Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans and Aimwell Baptist Church in Mobile were damaged by the storm. Others may have suffered damage as well.

An Evacuee Service Center has been set up in New Sunlight Baptist Church in Lake Charles.

ABCOTS will make more information and updates available at www.abcots.org. The region requests that cash donations be made through OGHS, and clearly marked for Hurricane Katrina. If you want to help, please contact wparrish@abcots.org, or call 800-466-9571.

International Partners Respond to Katrina

International Ministries has begun to receive word from partner churches around the world who are praying for the U.S. and for the victims of Katrina. Here is a sampling.

(For a complete listing go to IM's website, <http://www.internationalministries.org/> and click on "International Partners Respond to Katrina" under News.)

We are saddened by the suffering of the victims [of Katrina]. All of this makes us realize how vulnerable we are as human beings. For this reason we need to unite in prayer to put an end to the disasters. Here we are continuing in prayer for the survivors of the tragedy, that they may soon receive the aid they are awaiting.

Olivia Juárez and Lázaro González

Council of Indigenous Evangelical Peasants of Mexico

Missionary **Bill Clemmer**, writing from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, shares that Brother Reinhart, a member of the German Brothers (CT) serving at Vanga Evangelical Hospital has been in prayer for the victims of Katrina, President Bush and the nation as a whole.

Please accept, on behalf of the Lebanese Baptist Society with its three main institutions - namely the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, the Baptist Publications / Dar Manhal Al Hayat, and the Beirut Baptist School - our deepest sympathies and our continued prayers for His intervention. We pray also for our dear brothers and sisters who seek in His grace and wisdom to alleviate the pain of those who are in mourning, and those who are stranded homeless, the hungry and the injured ...

Nabil K. Costa, Executive Director,

Lebanese Society for Educational & Social Development (LSESD)

Missionary **Kristy Engel**, writing from La Romana, Dominican Republic, shares that *“the general reaction from neighbors, staff at the hospital and generally anyone I meet is ‘how can I help?’ ‘I have a visa and can go to the US if they need my help.’ It’s amazing.”*

Makoto Tanno, pastor of the Tokyo Peace Church, head of the Japan Baptist Union’s mission department and a member of the JBU board, contacted IM to express Japanese Baptists’ desire to contribute to the relief effort and also to assure us that the members of the “Japan Baptist Union are praying for the victims.”

JOHN AND TOMOKO ARMAGOST, JAPAN

As I write this note, I am watching the “News Hour” and the reports about Hurricane Katrina. For the people of Kobe, it reminds us of the devastation of the earthquake in 1995. Our hearts are moved with compassion. We join you in prayer for these who have lost so much.

- Today our prayers are with the people devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
- Today, we give thanks for your prayer for our family.
- We give thanks for our partnership with you.
- We ask for prayers for the children and youth of Nishi Okamoto Christ Church.
- We ask for prayers for the seminary students of the Japan Baptist Union.

“Bring Them Home Now” Tour to Stop in Chicago

Gold Star Families and other groups who were demonstrating in Crawford, Texas for an end to the war in Iraq have left Texas in three different contingents taking different routes to Washington, D. C. for a massive anti-war rally there on September 24. One of the three groups will visit the Chicago area next week.

They invite their supporters to join them for peace vigils and other activities while they are here. Scheduled public events in the Chicago area are listed below:

Wednesday, Sept. 7

5:30 PM Meet and Greet Potluck (bring a dish to share), Danada Equestrian Center (estate house next to mansion) 3 S 503 Naperville Road, Wheaton (1/2 mile south of Butterfield on east side of road; enter Danada and look for sign).

7 PM Peace Vigil Wheaton, IL (same location as above event).

Thursday, Sept. 8

10 AM Visit Congressman Mark Kirk's office, 102 Wilmot Rd., Suite 200, Deerfield, IL

11:30 AM Memorial Event at Eyes Wide Open -- The Human Cost of War, St. John's and Central Aves., Highland Park, IL

Leave Chicago at Noon

For updates to this schedule go to www.chicago.afsc.org or call the American Friends Service Committee at 312-427-2533

Hosts for the Chicago Events: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Evanston Neighbors for Peace, North Suburban Peace Initiative and Military Families Speak Out -- Illinois

Co-sponsors (list in formation): Chicagoans Against War and Injustice (CAWI), Fox Valley Peace and Justice, Save Senn Coalition, West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Initiative

Peace Fair

You are invited to attend a peace fair on Saturday, September 10, noon to 5 p.m., at ScovillePark, the corner of Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street, Oak Park. The fair will include information about dozens of Chicago area peace groups, as well as entertainment. Children's activities will be part of the fair. For more information, visit www.opctj.org.

Northern Baptist Theological Seminary Founders Day

Author Bob Danzig, a former Vice President of the Hearst Corporation, will be the keynote speaker at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary's Founders Day Dinner on September 22 at 6:30 a.m. at the Lindner Conference Center on the campus. Danzig will also give an afternoon address that day at 3:30 p.m. in DC Hall at the Lindner Conference Center.

The Founders Day Dinner is an annual event at the seminary. It is for the purpose of raising awareness and support for student scholarships. The dinner is free to guests, but reservations are required. Reservations for both the Founders Day Dinner and the afternoon session with Danzig can be made by contacting Melissa Pearson at 630-705-8250 or mpearson@seminary.edu. Additional information is available at www.seminary.edu.

International Day of Prayer for Peace

Join churches around the world in observing September 21 as the International Day of Prayer for Peace. September 21 coincides with the UN International Day of Peace. A brochure on this year's International Day of Prayer for Peace (in PDF form), liturgical resources from Asia and other resources are available on the website of the Decade to Overcome Violence: www.overcomingviolence.org/

World Council of Churches in Chicago

Rev. Rothang Chhangte, Director of Ecumenical Formation for ABCUSA, has informed ABCMC of upcoming events scheduled to take place in Chicago.

1. The first is an ecumenical conference for Young Adults titled, "Shift Your Space - Transform the World. Young Adults connecting ecumenically for peace and justice." The conference is going to be held at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in Hyde Park. The conference will be held from October 8-10, 2005 and is being sponsored

- by the World Council of Churches US Office and the Decade to Overcome Violence Committee. Information for the conference is available at the website www.wcc-usa.org and a flyer for the event can also be downloaded from the website. I am offering to help pay the registration fee for any ABC young adult that is interested in attending the conference. Seminarians and college students are encouraged to apply. They can contact me by email Rothang.Chhangte@abc-usa.org or at the number below.
2. The young adult meeting is going to be followed by the Annual Meeting of the World Council of Churches US Conference in Chicago, IL, from October 10-12, 2005. The Annual meeting is going to be a preparation meeting for delegates going to the WCC 9th Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 2006. The meeting is open to non-delegates and churches/pastors/lay persons who are interested in learning more about the 9th Assembly. Church leaders and ecumenists from around the country will spend two days engaged in theological reflection and Bible study on the theme of the Ninth Assembly, *God, in your grace, transform the world*, and also worship together in the spirit of the Assembly. So I would like to encourage churches in the Metro Chicago area to come and attend the meeting. Registration information can be found on the website www.wcc-usa.org.
 3. Lastly, during the conference we will have a banquet where we honor local churches/members who have contributed to peace and justice in their local communities, or maybe even nationally and internationally. Therefore, I would like for churches in Chicago to help us identify those persons in their congregations and send in their nominations with the names and addresses of nominees to my office. The persons will receive a certificate in appreciation of their work at the banquet. This is one way US churches are recognizing the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence (2000-2010).

Bethell is BWA Human Rights Award Recipient

American Baptist News Service (Birmingham, United Kingdom 7/30/05)--Lauran Bethell, who serves with American Baptist International Ministries as a global consultant for ministries with at-risk women, and whose work with women trapped in prostitution has received worldwide attention, was presented the Human Rights Award of the Baptist World Alliance here at the Baptist World Centenary Congress. Given every five years at the BWA's congresses, the award was presented to Bethell today by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a previous recipient.

Citing the encouragement and support of both staff and the exploited women she has worked with, Bethell acknowledged the "resilience of the human spirit [and] the importance of hope in Jesus Christ" in accepting the award. She praised "my wonderful mission board—the Board of International Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA and especially [former executive director] John Sundquist, who gave me the freedom to pursue the call from God I felt in my heart, despite the fact that 'we've never done it that way before.' Praise be to God, Who is with us now and Who will continue to guide and lead and give us wild, wonderful, surprising visions for the redemption of 'the least of these.'"

During her first term as an International Ministries missionary, Bethell helped to found the New Life Center in Thailand, a ministry to Hill Tribe girls tricked or sold into prostitution, or at risk of suffering that fate. In 2001 Bethell was given the opportunity to expand her work beyond Thailand by serving as a consultant to similar ministries around the world.

She relocated to Prague, and advises a wide variety of Christ-based ministries to prostitutes and other exploited women and children. As she launched this phase of

her work, Bethell began a prayer walk through the streets of Prague, literally looking for a way to connect to others walking the streets for a different reason. She talked with some of the young women on Prague's streets and found that many of them were from Bulgaria, and were working to support children or elderly parents back home. Bethell shared experiences and observations about her work with 1,600 persons at a women's celebration at the BWA conference.

Many women sacrifice themselves in prostitution because they have no other way to support themselves or their families, she said. And many of women she works with in Prague have been trafficked to the West from an Eastern European country; most are married, have children, and come from Christian backgrounds.

"We don't ask the question, 'Do you want to leave prostitution?' That's God's work to do," she said. "Seeing with new eyes means trusting that, in fact, God is at work in this world. We don't have to do it all for Him."

"What everyone can do," Bethell said, "is to see those in prostitution--see anyone we'd rather not see--with new eyes, whether they be the homeless, the outcast, the terrorist, those who irritate us, our enemies. And each time we see them, repeat to ourselves that we are seeing a precious child of God, beloved by God, for whom Jesus died out of great compassion and love."

Martha Skelton, a BWA Communication Committee member, and Marlon Millner and Stan Slade of International Ministries' communications team, contributed to this article.

BJC on John Roberts

WASHINGTON — The Washington, D.C.-based Baptist church-state organization says Supreme Court Chief Justice nominee John G. Roberts Jr.'s record on church-state law is "troubling."

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty released its evaluation of Roberts Thursday, critiquing positions Roberts took as a government attorney. These are positions that would weaken church-state separation and provide less protection for religious freedom. Although the BJC does not endorse or oppose candidates for elected or appointed office, it does examine and critique the candidates' church-state records. While acknowledging that it can be risky to equate positions that a lawyer advocates on behalf of a client with the lawyer's personal opinion, the BJC's evaluation examines amicus briefs written by Roberts, responses to draft administration speeches and comments to the media.

According to the analysis, "Evidence from Roberts' career ... show[s] sympathy for more relaxed standards for religious activity in the public schools, such as religious displays or prayer at school events." The BJC evaluation highlights an amicus brief that Roberts wrote as deputy solicitor general under George H.W. Bush. In that brief, Roberts urged the Court to abandon the Lemon test, a long-standing Establishment Clause standard.

To determine an Establishment Clause violation, the Lemon test asks whether the government act is taken with a secular purpose; if it has the effect of advancing or inhibiting religion; and if it causes excessive government entanglement with religion. Records suggest that Roberts favors a more permissive standard that would prohibit government only from establishing an official church or coercing religious practice.

"That change would most certainly allow for more government funding of religious activities, government-sponsored religious displays and religious activities in public schools," the BJC evaluation states. "The confirmation hearings provide a critical opportunity for the Senate Judiciary Committee to question Judge Roberts about his judicial philosophy and commitment to specific constitutional values," the report concludes. "If the work Roberts did on behalf of the government reflects his own views — and it is troubling that no evidence points in the other direction — his confirmation could lead to the end of Lemon and the beginning an era of church-state law with a much weakened Establishment Clause."

The full analysis is available at www.BJConline.org.

National Ministries

Mark your calendar now for an important event at the Heritage Plaza Third Baptist Church of Chicago, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago. From 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, there will be an opportunity for pastors and lay leaders in ABCMC to be a part of a forum with the ABCUSA National Ministries Executive Committee. Learn more about ABC's missions for God in the USA. RSVP to the church, 773-779-1800, or ABCMC, 773-695-9791.

Managing for Ministry

Plan to attend an important learning event on the afternoon of Saturday, September 24, at the Heritage Plaza Third Baptist Church of Chicago, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago. The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) invites pastors and other key leaders from ABCMC congregations to attend their seminar, "Managing for Ministry: An Employer Workshop." The seminar will present an approach to church staff budgeting that benefits both the staff and the church. It will also educate people responsible for church finances about compliance with IRS regulations. Additionally, it will promote the three ways churches and church employees can save for retirement through MMBB. This workshop is designed for church treasurers and finance committees, and for those who are responsible for overseeing the salaries and compensation of church staff. RSVP to abcmchi@aol.com.

Missions Fair

Community Baptist Church of Warrenville invites you to a Mission Fair! There will be interactive mission displays and activities for children, youth and adults. The fair begins at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 25 and will include a 10:30 a.m. worship service. Activities will resume for a while after worship. Judy DeRolf, recently retired as missionary to Japan, will be with us. Proceeds of our sale of organic fair trade coffee will go toward financing a new curriculum being written by Costa Rican Baptists working with missionary Ruth Mooney. Everyone is welcome! Suggested admission price: used glasses (to be donated to the Cap Haitian Eye Center in Haiti), school supplies for Kids Hope United, travel-size hygiene items for the Night Ministry, or non-perishable food for the church food pantry.

Wait on the Lord

April 17-20, 2006 the Ministers Council will host "Wait on the Lord," a national conference on spiritual formation for pastoral leaders. Full conference details are available at www.ministerscouncil.com. Online registration for the conference has commenced at the following link:
<https://gmhost1.gomembers.com/clients/t-abcc/etrakWebApp/meetings.aspx?DirectLink=WOL406>

Prayer Requests

Please pray for all who are suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, and the aftermath.

Please hold in prayer all who are working to help people in and from the hurricane-ravaged parts of our nation.

Please remember in prayer the congregations and pastors of the areas devastated by the hurricane. American Baptist congregations in that area include:

Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA
Greater New Guide Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA
New Sunlight Baptist Church, Lake Charles, LA
Christian Unity Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
Aimwell Baptist Church, Mobile, AL

Please pray for Annie Dieselburg, ABCUSA missionary in Thailand, and other members of NightLight as they minister to prostitutes in Bangkok.

The Metro Chicago *eWind* is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessarily express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to abcmchi@aol.com. We will email the newsletter each Wednesday.
If you spot a typographical error in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or abcmchi@aol.com.