

*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

**November 9, 2005**

Please keep our annual meeting in prayer.  
And come to the meeting—this Friday and Saturday.

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### *Upcoming Events*

**November 17**—ABCMC Ghana Task Force meeting, 11 a.m., St. John Church-Baptist, 4821 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

**November 18**—ABCMC Women in Ministry gathering at the home of Connie Stone. RSVP to [constance.stone@worldnet.att.net](mailto:constance.stone@worldnet.att.net).

**November 18-20**—"Befriending the Bible" retreat for GLBT Christians, Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, MI. Phone Grace Baptist Church, 773-334-9003, for more information.

**November 20**—Oak Park Concert Chorale holiday concert, 4 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest. Tickets will be available at the door. The charge will be \$15, or \$10 for seniors and students.

**November 20**—"I'm Gonna Treat Everybody Right" service of prayer and call to action for the ending of povert, 6 p.m. Mandell United Methodist Church, 5000 W. Congress Parkway.

**November 20-27**—Common Ground road trip to help in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans. Please see article below.

**December 1**—World AIDS Day Service, 7:30 p.m., Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. Phone church at 773-334-9003 for more information.

**December 4**—Service of Remembrance, Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 6 p.m. Phone church at 773-334-9003 for more information.

**December 4**—Grief and the Holidays Seminar, 7:30 p.m., Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. Phone church at 773-334-9003 for more information.

**December 30, 31**—Youth Encounter, First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago. Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday.

**January 6**—Registration deadline for online class "Connecting Faith and Health in the Congregation" (February 6-May 19) from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201.

**January 6**—Registration deadline for online class "Experiences of the Body in Pastoral Ministry" (February 6-May 19) from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201.

**January 11**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m., "What Religious Organizations Need to Know about the Law," North Park University, 3225 West Foster Avenue, Chicago. For more information, go to [http://www.northpark.edu/axelson/religiousorg\\_law.cfm](http://www.northpark.edu/axelson/religiousorg_law.cfm).

**January 18-25**—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Resources for the 2006 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are available electronically at the World Council of Churches web site, <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/faith/wop2006contents.html>.

**January 22**—6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service, sponsored by the Ecumenical Millenium Committee (of which ABCMC is a part), Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, 1500 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago; 4 p.m.

**February 6-May 19**—Online class "Connecting Faith and Health in the Congregation" from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201. Register by January 6.

**February 6-May 19**—Online class "Experiences of the Body in Pastoral Ministry" from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201. Register by January 6.

**February 14-23**—World Council of Churches 9th Assembly, "God, In Your Grace, Transform the World," Porto Alegre, Brazil. Visitors can register through the Mutirao Program. Information on the 9th Assembly is available at [www.wcc-assembly.info](http://www.wcc-assembly.info).

**March 21-24**—SCUPE's biennial congress on urban ministry, Chicago. For more information and registration, visit [www.scupe.com/Programs/Congress/cngrs\\_homepage.htm](http://www.scupe.com/Programs/Congress/cngrs_homepage.htm).

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

May 10-24—ABC MC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana

## **THIS FRIDAY!!** *Women in Ministry: Self Care*

All ABCMC women in ministry are cordially invited to meet at the home of Connie Stone, 656 Lakewood Farms Drive, Bolingbrook, on Friday, November 18. Anytime between 3 p.m. and 6:30 will be fine. Connie will have a couple of different soups and salads. Those who wish to bring something are welcome to bring a dessert. RSVP to [constance.stone@worldnet.at.net](mailto:constance.stone@worldnet.at.net).

## *2005 ABCMC Annual Meeting*

This year's annual meeting/family reunion of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago was all that was promised. It brought fellowship, drama, great food, happy decision-making and rich worship.

North Shore Baptist Church, which hosted the event, has been celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The walls didn't speak out loud, but the congregation's history was written on posters on the walls. Folks at the meeting enjoyed reading and learning more about their sister congregation. Nearly 20 American Baptist organizations provided exhibits.

22 ABCMC congregations had representatives at the meeting. Brenda and Freddy Noguera, pastors of *Iglesia de Dios Bajo la Gracia*, which is a new church seeking affiliation with ABCMC, were also present. The attendance on Friday evening was 66. Attendance on Saturday included many folks who had come on Friday, and totaled 69. The total number of individuals attending all or part of the gathering was 89.

We give special thanks to North Shore Baptist Church and its staff for their hospitality. We thank the Program and Structure Committee, chaired by Stephen Anderson, for planning. Trish Austin, Tripp Hudgins and James Jackson shared their dramatic talents with a script by Larry Greenfield. We appreciate all of their contributions.

## *ABCMC Leaders for 2006*

We thank Gloria Mayberry, who has chaired the ABCMC nominating committee for a number of years. She and the committee presented a slate of lay and clergy leaders for 2006. The slate was adopted unanimously. Leaders for the coming year are listed below.

<b><u>Family Cabinet</u></b>		<b>Term Ending at End of</b>
<b>Officers</b>		
President	Jesse Brown	2006
Vice President	Denise Janssen	2007
Secretary	Catherine Burris-Schnur	2008
Treasurer	T.J. Litwiler	2008
<b>Standing Committee Chairs</b>		
Finance & Property	Bill Wallin	2007
Ministry	Andre Allen	2006
Nominating	Drucilla Hargrett	2008
Program & Structure	Mary Steffen	2008
<b>At-Large Members</b>		
	Gloria Mayberry	2008

Tony Rake	2008
Rich Landers	2007
David Sagar	2006

**Ordination Commission**

Keith Cerk	2006
Kathleen Busby	2006
Drucilla Hargrett	2006
Carol McVetty (chair)	2007
David Scoble	2007
John Sundquist	2007
Millie Myren	2008
Diane Merrill Pomeroy	2008
Bruce Stark	2008
Larry Greenfield	<i>ex officio</i>
Susan Johnson	<i>ex officio</i>
Kathy Taylor	<i>ex officio</i>

**ABCMC Representatives on the Camp Grow Board**

Doug Harris	2008
David Gregg	2007
Carol Jamieson Brown	2007
Sarah Hanson	2006
Debbie Sayles	2006
Larry Greenfield	<i>ex officio</i>

**ABCUSA General Board Representative**

Francine Stark	2007
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***Scenes from the Annual Meeting***

Attached is Larry Greenfield's script *OF...FOR...BY*, the play staged throughout the 2005 annual meeting. It is based on Acts 10, the story of Peter and Cornelius. Please note that the script is copyrighted. Permission is granted to reproduce and use it for non-commercial purposes with proper attribution.

***Extended Call Extended***

On the recommendation of the Family Cabinet, the Family Council voted unanimously on November 12 to extend a call to Larry Greenfield to extend his time of service as Executive Minister into April of 2008. Larry, who became our Interim Executive Minister April 2, 2005, has won the appreciation and respect of many for his service in our region over the last 7 ½ months. This is the recommendation that the Council adopted:

***"It is the recommendation of the Family Cabinet that a search committee be appointed in January of 2007, and that Larry Greenfield be called as the transitional Executive Minister for a period of approximately three years, which began in April of 2005. His title will be Executive Minister."***

This recommendation had been unanimously and enthusiastically adopted by the Cabinet upon hearing the results of the Personnel Committee's six-month review of Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield. The Council acted on the recommendation with enthusiasm as well. Thank you, Larry, for your ministry with us.

## *Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering 2005*



The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is promoted and received in American Baptist congregations during November and December each year. Prayerfully decide how you can support the vital ministries supported by this offering. Please give when your congregation receives the offering. Since 1935, American Baptists have contributed to special offerings received in their churches for retired ABC ministers and missionaries, or their widowed spouses. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977.

Through this annual offering, American Baptist congregations say **thank you** in a tangible way to the denomination's retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses.

The offering provides them with:

- Emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need.
- Thank You checks, based on 15 or more years of ABC service.

Receipts from the 2004 RMMO totaled \$1,764,749, a 1.1% increase over the 2003 receipts of \$1,744,801. Of this amount, \$774,564 was made available to meet immediate emergency and special financial needs. The balance of the receipts was distributed by The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) on behalf of American Baptists in the form of Thank You checks: 3,252 checks were distributed in 2004, ranging from \$53.50 to \$428. The average check was \$304.49.

The RMMO will be taken by most ABC congregations on Sunday, December 4, 2005.

### *I'm Gonna Treat Everybody Right*

At 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 20, The Let Justice Roll Coalition will sponsor a prayer service at Mandell United Methodist Church, 5000 W. Congress Parkway, Chicago. This will be both a service of prayer and a call to action for the ending of poverty. Come join churches, faith-based activists, labor leaders, choirs and dancers who are coming from throughout the Chicago area to worship together, hear reports of local work and learn what we can begin to do to end poverty. Please use the attached brochure to publicize the event to your congregation.

### *Baptist Statement on Iraq*

Out of concern for our nation's continuing involvement in Iraq, a group of American Baptist ministers from several different regions gathered to develop a statement. Noting the widening chasm between the gospel and U. S. policies on war, they wrote "A Baptist Declaration in Opposition to Present U.S. Policies in Iraq". Our own Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, was among the writers. The document is attached.

The authors wish to give every ABC clergyperson the opportunity to review the statement and to determine whether or not to sign it. As indicated at the end of the document, those wishing to endorse the statement may do so on the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) web site ([www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org)), or convey their endorsement to the BPFNA office by mail (4800 Wedgewood Drive, Charlotte NC 28210 USA), fax (704.521.6053), or e-mail ([bpfna@bpfna.org](mailto:bpfna@bpfna.org)).

### *Antiwar Sermon Brings IRS Warning*

The following is an article from the *Los Angeles Times*, by Patricia Ward Biederman and Jason Felch, *Los Angeles Times* staff writers. Copyright © 2005 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All Rights Reserved.

The Internal Revenue Service has warned one of Southern California's largest and most liberal churches that it is at risk of losing its tax-exempt status because of an antiwar sermon two days before the 2004 presidential election. Rector J. Edwin Bacon of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena told many congregants during morning services Sunday [November 6] that a guest sermon by the church's former rector, the Rev. George F. Regas, on Oct. 31, 2004, had prompted a letter from the IRS.

In his sermon, Regas, who from the pulpit opposed both the Vietnam War and 1991's Gulf War, imagined Jesus participating in a political debate with then-candidates George W. Bush and John Kerry. Regas said that "good people of profound faith" could vote for either man, and did not tell parishioners whom to support. But he criticized the war in Iraq, saying that Jesus would have told Bush, "Mr. President, your doctrine of preemptive war is a failed doctrine. Forcibly changing the regime of an enemy that posed no imminent threat has led to disaster."

On June 9, the church received a letter from the IRS stating that "a reasonable belief exists that you may not be tax-exempt as a church ... " The federal tax code prohibits tax-exempt organizations, including churches, from intervening in political campaigns and elections. The letter went on to say that "our concerns are based on a Nov. 1, 2004, newspaper article in the *Los Angeles Times* and a sermon presented at the All Saints Church discussed in the article." The IRS cited the *Times* story's description of the sermon as a "searing indictment of the Bush administration's policies in Iraq" and noted that the sermon described "tax cuts as inimical to the values of Jesus."

As Bacon spoke, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a co-celebrant of Sunday's Requiem Eucharist, looked on. "We are so careful at our church never to endorse a candidate," Bacon said in a later interview. "One of the strongest sermons I've ever given was against President Clinton's fraying of the social safety net."

Telephone calls to IRS officials in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles were not returned.

On a day when churches throughout California took stands on both sides of Proposition 73, which would bar abortions for minors unless parents are notified, some at All Saints feared the politically active church had been singled out. "I think obviously we were a bit shocked and dismayed," said Bob Long, senior warden for the church's oversight board. "We felt somewhat targeted."

Bacon said the church had retained the services of a Washington law firm with expertise in tax-exempt organizations. And he told the congregation: "It's important for everyone to understand

that the IRS concerns are not supported by the facts."

After the initial inquiry, the church provided the IRS with a copy of all literature given out before the election and copies of its policies, Bacon said. But the IRS recently informed the church that it was not satisfied by those materials, and would proceed with a formal examination. Soon after that, church officials decided to inform the congregation about the dispute.

In an October letter to the IRS, Marcus Owens, the church's tax attorney and a former head of the IRS tax-exempt section, said, "It seems ludicrous to suggest that a pastor cannot preach about the value of promoting peace simply because the nation happens to be at war during an election season."

Owens said that an IRS audit team had recently offered the church a settlement during a face-to-face meeting. "They said if there was a confession of wrongdoing, they would not proceed to the exam stage. They would be willing not to revoke tax-exempt status if the church admitted intervening in an election." The church declined the offer.

Long said Bacon "is fond of saying it's a sin not to vote, but has never told anyone how to vote. We don't do that. We preach to people how to vote their values, the biblical principles."

Regas, who was rector of All Saints from 1967 to 1995, said in an interview that he was surprised by the IRS action "and then I became suspicious, suspicious that they were going after a progressive church person." Regas helped the current church leadership collect information for the IRS on his sermon and the church's policies on involvement in political campaigns.

Some congregants were upset that a sermon citing Jesus Christ's championing of peace and the poor was the occasion for an IRS probe.

"I'm appalled," said 70-year-old Anne Thompson of Altadena, a professional singer who also makes vestments for the church. "In a government that leans so heavily on religious values, that they would pull a stunt like this, it makes me heartsick."

Joe Mirando, an engineer from Burbank, questioned whether the 3,500-member church would be under scrutiny if it were not known for its activism and its liberal stands on social issues. "The question is, is it politically motivated?" he said. "That's the underlying feeling of everyone here. I don't have enough information to make a decision, but there's a suspicion."

Bacon revealed the IRS investigation at both morning services. Until his announcement, the mood of the congregation had been solemn because the services remembered, by name, those associated with the church who had died since last All Saints Day.

Regas' 2004 sermon imagined how Jesus would admonish Bush and Kerry if he debated them. Regas never urged parishioners to vote for one candidate over the other, but he did say that he believes Jesus would oppose the war in Iraq, and that Jesus would be saddened by Bush's positions on the use and testing of nuclear weapons.

In the sermon, Regas said, "President Bush has led us into war with Iraq as a response to terrorism. Yet I believe Jesus would say to Bush and Kerry: 'War is itself the most extreme form of terrorism. President Bush, you have not made dramatically clear what have been the human consequences of the war in Iraq.' "

Later, he had Jesus confront both Kerry and Bush: "I will tell you what I think of your war: The sin at the heart of this war against Iraq is your belief that an American life is of more value than an Iraqi life. That an American child is more precious than an Iraqi baby. God loathes war."

If Jesus debated Bush and Kerry, Regas said, he would say to them, "Why is so little mentioned

about the poor?" In his own voice, Regas said: "The religious right has drowned out everyone else. Now the faith of Jesus has come to be known as pro-rich, pro-war and pro-American.... I'm not pro-abortion, but pro-choice. There is something vicious and violent about coercing a woman to carry to term an unwanted child."

When you go into the voting booth, Regas told the congregation, "Take with you all that you know about Jesus, the peacemaker. Take all that Jesus means to you. Then vote your deepest values."

Owens, the tax attorney, said he was surprised that the IRS is pursuing the case despite explicit statements by Regas that he was not trying to influence the congregation's vote. "I doubt it's politically motivated," Owens said. "I think it is more a case of senior management at IRS not paying attention to what the rules are."

According to Owens, six years ago the IRS used to send about 20 such letters to churches a year. That number has increased sharply because of the agency's recent delegation of audit authority to agents on the front lines, he said. He knew of two other churches, both critical of government policies, that had received similar letters, Owens said.

It's unclear how often the IRS raises questions about the tax-exempt status of churches. While such action is rare, the IRS has at least once revoked the charitable designation of a church. Shortly before the 1992 presidential election, a church in Binghamton, N.Y., ran advertisements against Bill Clinton's candidacy, and the tax agency ruled that the congregation could not retain its tax-exempt status because it had intervened in an election.

Bacon said he thought the IRS would eventually drop its case against All Saints. "It is a social action church, but not a politically partisan church," he said.

### *What Religious Organizations Need to Know about the Law*

On January 11, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., North Park University, 3225 West Foster Avenue, Chicago, will offer a course that will be beneficial to lay and professional church leaders, "What Religious Organizations Need to Know about the Law." This course will review the constitutional protections of churches and religious organizations, as well as the corporate structures under which churches operate. Participants will leave the class understanding how the law relates to special issues churches face including minister compensation and housing allowances, property transfers, church-based private schools, child care programs. Class time will also be spent discussing risk management topics.

The fee for the class will be \$150. This includes lunch and course materials.



**The instructor will be Kathryn Vanden Berk, who** has been providing advice to nonprofit organizations since 1979. Her legal career began in Madison, Wisconsin, where she was legal counsel to a number of health care providers and trade associations. She became President of a residential treatment center for children in 1988, and worked in that field as an executive for the next 10 years.

Kathryn returned to the practice of law in 1999 and now focuses her legal work on not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations. Since 1999, she has successfully taken a wide variety of organizations through the start-up process, and she has advised both large and small organizations on issues of governance, leadership, management, corporate re-structure, taxation, and employment administration. Her clients are nationwide.

For more information about the course and registration, please go to this web site:  
[http://www.northpark.edu/axelson/religiousorg\\_law.cfm](http://www.northpark.edu/axelson/religiousorg_law.cfm).

## *Roger Williams Fellowship*

The Roger Williams Fellowship of American Baptists (RWF) invites you to become a member. The Roger Williams Fellowship was founded in 1935 out of a need for a forum within the American Baptist Convention (at that time) where a variety of social and faith issues could be discussed with respect for diverse theological perspectives. The Fellowship welcomes laity and clergy of diverse backgrounds and perspectives who seek to discuss, study, and struggle with questions of conscience.

The RWF meets annually for a theological conference and at Biennial meetings of the ABCUSA. RWF maintains strong relational ties with the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty, the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, and the Alliance of Baptists.

For more information about joining RWF, visit the web site, [www.rogerwilliamsfellowship.org](http://www.rogerwilliamsfellowship.org).

## *Web Ministry Stories*

The Ministers Council is working to accumulate exciting ministry stories from ABC congregations and other ministry contexts to share the good news of how God is at work in our common life. Please visit [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com) for story and photos about the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica, NY. "This represents an example of how we might put forth such stories," says Ministers Council Executive Director Kate Harvey. "We welcome stories that you and any of the colleagues may wish to share." Please contact Kate at [Kate.Harvey@abc-usa.org](mailto:Kate.Harvey@abc-usa.org).

## *Befriending the Bible*

The third annual "Befriending the Bible" retreat for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Christians will be held November 18-20 at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan. This retreat will include study, fellowship and worship for GLBT people. It will create a unique space transcending the defensive approach to "clobber passages" common in debates about the Bible and sexual diversity. Jacki Belile, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Chicago, will be the facilitator. For more information, please phone Jacki at 773-334-9003 or see [www.gracebaptistchicago.com/befriending%20the%20Bible.htm](http://www.gracebaptistchicago.com/befriending%20the%20Bible.htm).

## *Thanksgiving Trip to Volunteer in New Orleans*

Join the road trip for relief!! Clean up, repair, and rebuild in the 9th ward of New Orleans with Common Ground Collective November 20-27. Common Ground Collective has called a National Caravan to arrive in New Orleans on November 20 and work over the week of Thanksgiving until November 27.

Common Ground wants 300 volunteers from all around the country to converge in New Orleans with donated funds and building & cleaning supplies. Volunteers will work on a particular section of the 9th Ward, where they will pick up yard debris, clean the streets, tarp rooftops, etc. For nearly a month, Common Ground has been organizing and meeting folks in the neighborhood as they return. A community center was just established which will soon be the site of another Common Ground distribution center of needed goods.

The poor neighborhoods of the city don't have electricity and are not being cleaned up or

repaired, while the French Quarter and other predominantly white areas are relatively clean and quite functional. This seems to be a purposeful effort to keep poor and black residents from feeling any hope of being able to recreate their lives in New Orleans. While residents are returning, many poor folks are now living in a vast diaspora around the country, away from their homes, communities, jobs, families and friends. The concentrated efforts of this caravan will bring hope to people in that diaspora as they see that it is possible to clean up their neighborhoods and rebuild their lives. The work of the caravan will be a demonstration of what is possible.

You and other folks from your church can help. Common Ground needs volunteers with specific skills: electricians, mechanics, plumbers, mold abaters, roofers, construction workers, carpenters, tree workers, lawyers, cooks –and people who can train other volunteers and residents in these skills.

They are asking folks to arrive in New Orleans on November 20 and work through the Thanksgiving week until November 27. Of course, volunteers are needed continuously and can arrive anytime.

To get plugged-in, please email: [commongroundcaravan@gmail.com](mailto:commongroundcaravan@gmail.com) or call 505-339-5885. Please visit [www.commongroundrelief.org](http://www.commongroundrelief.org) to find the tools to self organize, and to learn what you need to bring with you if you come. Please write and send tax-deductible checks to Common Ground's fiscal sponsor: Community Futures/ Common Ground Relief, 221 Idora Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591, 707- 644-6575. Supplies can be sent to Common Ground Relief Center, 331 Atlantic Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70114.

To support Common Ground's Free Medical Clinics, please refer to: [http://www.commongroundrelief.org/2005/09/info\\_for\\_volunteers\\_at\\_common.html#more](http://www.commongroundrelief.org/2005/09/info_for_volunteers_at_common.html#more) AND [http://www.commongroundrelief.org/wish\\_list/](http://www.commongroundrelief.org/wish_list/)

For more information about Common Ground Collective, please visit their web site, [www.commongroundrelief.org](http://www.commongroundrelief.org).

### *New Resource on Baptist Principles*

*An Introduction to Baptist Principles* is a new 24-page booklet that the Baptist History and Heritage Society will release on December 1, 2005. Written by Bill Leonard, dean and professor of church history at the Wake Forest University Divinity School, this booklet provides fresh thought on a key Baptist topic. (Judson Press published Leonard's important book *Baptist Ways: A History* in 2003.)

Place your order by November 30, 2005, for 10 or more copies, and you will get a pre-publication discount. You can secure copies at the following rates: 1-9 copies (\$2.50 each, regular price); 10-99 copies (\$2.00 each); 100-299 copies (\$1.85 each); 300-499 copies (\$1.75 each); 500+ copies (\$1.65 each).

To order, contact Charles W. Deweese, Executive Director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, at [cdeweese@tnbaptist.org](mailto:cdeweese@tnbaptist.org). Indicate how many copies you would like, and provide your name, shipping address, and telephone number. Copies will be shipped in early December. An invoice (including shipping costs) will be included.

### *From Our Missionaries*

Jeff Sharp, Global Consultant for Leadership Development, reporting on some churches in the former Soviet Union writes: "The Georgian Baptists are facing challenges. In recent years there have been a

number of separatist pastors who have sought to lead congregations out of the Baptist Union. Some have been successful and others have not. During my time there I went to a village to meet with a house church. This house church originally was part of the Baptist church in the village, but because they wouldn't support the pastor in his plans to separate from the larger Baptist Union, they were asked to leave the church. In addition, the pastor has told members of the church that they are not to speak to them or have any fellowship with them. It is clear to many, including outsiders that the real problem in the church is a grab for power and unquestioned control of the church on the part of the pastor. The reputation and witness of the Baptists has been tarnished by this action.

"But this small group of 25 people, while hurting and grieving over the incident, continue to meet in a member's home and God is adding to their fellowship. Pray for these brothers and sisters and for the pastor and those who have remained in the church that God's will be done and that there will be genuine healing in the Body of Christ. As we met with the members of this house church and shared with them they asked us to remember them in our prayers. While they are hurting and angry and saddened by what has happened, their real concern is that God will be glorified in their village and throughout the Republic of Georgia."

Kit Ripley, ABC missionary in Thailand reports: "There have been 2 more major floods in Chiang Mai, each as high as the last. The cement floor in our New Life Center Emergency Home has buckled up in chunks. Again, there have been huge losses for many. Also, I had a car accident two weeks ago, when a motorcycle ignored a stop sign and came barreling into my car on the passenger's side. No major injuries, but the motorcycle passengers took one look at what they had done to my car, and fled the scene. Fortunately, Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship has a good insurance policy on the car. So it's in the shop for two weeks getting fixed.

"Also, IM missionary, Dan Buttry and his wife, Sharon, were here doing four Conflict Transformation Trainings. I helped to organize the trainings, and was glad to be able to attend them. Sharon did a fantastic job, ministering to hundreds of women while she was here. And I continued to learn from Dan who is a brilliant trainer. He is mentoring me so that I can learn how to do similar trainings in Thailand. In fact, this time, Dan and I co-facilitated one of the trainings for Akha tribal leaders in Chiang Rai. We got lots of positive feedback, and participants from all four trainings said that what they learned will be invaluable to their ministry. It's so exciting to be able to develop and empower Christian leaders to be more effective in their service."

### *World AIDS Day Service*

"Hearts for Healing, Hearts for Justice" will be the theme of this year's World AIDS Day service held by Grace Baptist Church on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30pm. Join others in a worship experience of meditation, story-telling and communion. Together, we'll lift hearts by honoring the lives of those impacted by HIV/AIDS, and worship through truth-telling about the world's suffering and hope. Grace Baptist Church is at 5253 N. Kenmore in Chicago (773.334.9003). Parking 1/2 block north.

### *Service of Remembrance Seminar of Hope*

Grace Baptist Church invites you to a Service of Remembrance at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 4 for all those grieving or supporting the grieving in seasons of loss. This candle lighting service will provide the opportunity to honor the memory of loved ones through music, scripture, and reflections that will offer comfort and hope.

Following the service, from 7:30 - 8:45, you are invited to remain at the church for the Grief and the Holidays Seminar, co-led by Grace's pastor, Jacki Belile, and Judy Healy, L.C.S.W. The holidays can be an especially difficult time when grieving a loss or the death of a loved one. This seminar will offer a time of sharing as well as suggestions for coping with grief and loss with an emphasis on self care.

Grace Baptist Church is located in the building of Epworth United Methodist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. Free parking is available in a lot ½ block north of the church, on the

opposite side of Kenmore Avenue. For more information about the service and/or seminar, call the church office at 773-334-9003.

### *Youth Encounter*

The First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, will have a Youth Encounter for high school age youth on December 30 from noon to 5 p.m. and December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The event will include youth-oriented workshops, Praise Dance Teams dancing, food and fun.

The cost will be \$6.00 per young person. For registration or more information, please contact Rev. Jesse M. Brown at 773-536-3430/3431 or [fbcpreacher@earthlink.net](mailto:fbcpreacher@earthlink.net).

### *Clergy Spiritual Growth*

Check out the Ministers Council web site, and learn about the upcoming "Wait on the Lord" event, to take place in April 2006 in Orlando, Florida. For information, go to <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WaitontheLordInformation.aspx>. For registration, see <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Wait%20on%20the%20Lord/WOTLRegistrationInfo.aspx>

### *CCCU Helps in Pakistan*

Christian Community Credit Union (CCCU) responded to the devastating Pakistan earthquake by donating \$25,000 to Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), an organization of aviation and communication specialists who work with Christian and humanitarian organizations worldwide. The donation was generated from CCCU members using their credit and debit cards – "The Cards that Give to Missions & Ministries." Along with contributions toward the Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina disasters, CCCU has now given over \$110,000 to disaster relief efforts in 2005.

"We are saddened by the tragedy and massive loss of lives in the Pakistan earthquake," says John Walling, CCCU President/CEO. "Our prayer is that this expression of compassion from CCCU members will go a long way in the recovery, rebuilding and restoration of people's lives."

CCCU's donation will go towards covering the cost of emergency satellite communication and relief and development flights. The earthquake hit the mountainous terrain in Pakistan's Kashmir region. The death toll has reached over 73,000 with more than 3.2 million people left homeless.

"Mission Aviation Fellowship counts it a privilege to be at the center of the relief efforts on behalf of those whose lives have been devastated by the recent earthquake in Pakistan," says MAF President Kevin Swanson. "The generous \$25,000 donation from CCCU is enabling us to provide remote communication facilities for dozens of relief agencies that are at work in the earthquake area providing vital response to this humanitarian mega-crisis."

### *Prayer Requests*

Please pray that Camp Grow's director, Paul Ethington, may make a speedy recovery from poison ivy and other maladies that resulted from his trip to help hurricane survivors on the Gulf Coast.

Please hold in prayer the newly-elected leaders of the Family Council and Family Cabinet, that God may guide them in the ministries of this region.

Please pray for both Francine Stark and Larry Greenfield as they travel and represent ABCMC at the General Board meeting starting tomorrow, November 17.

Please pray for the entire General Board, Regional Executive Ministers Council and General Executive Council as they meet at Green Lake tomorrow through Monday.

Please pray for Joanne Lindstrom's cousin Brenda, who is quite ill and in the hospital. Pray also for Joanne as she travels to be with Brenda.

Please continue in prayer for ABCUSA missionary Kim Brown. She returned to Thailand on November 8 following her father's funeral in Ohio. We are asking God to refresh her physically and emotionally.

Please pray for Dan Buttry, Global Consultant for Peace and Justice as he enters into extremely sensitive situations and assists believers to deal creatively with conflict. Dan works with IM missionaries and national church partners around the world to deal constructively with conflict situations. These conflicts may be social and political conflicts within a country, or they may be conflicts within the national church bodies that negatively impact Christian witness. Dan trains church and community leaders in conflict transformation skills, utilizing experiential education methodologies and Bible study. He consults with church leaders about conflicts plaguing them, and in some situations he may participate in mediation teams between conflicted parties.

Please continue to pray for all those recovering from devastating hurricanes and tornadoes. Bianca Ortiz and Jose Corte are both International Ministries Xtreme Team alumni. They have married, and currently live in Orange, Texas. They lost their roof and sustained a great deal of water damage to all their possessions during Hurricane Rita. Please keep them in your prayers as they recover. One praise is that everybody, including their baby, were unharmed during the hurricane.

Please pray for Larry and Rebecca Waltz. Larry, who is former Executive Minister of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, will undergo heart surgery on November 17.

## *Book Nook*

### ***Celebrate Good Times! 26 Complete Parties for Church and Home*** **By Elizabeth Crisci**

Christians meet regularly for worship, Bible study, service projects, and other activities. Sometimes, however, they forget the importance of getting together simply to have a good time! Parties based on Christian values can help believers get to know one another across the boundaries of generation and occupation. They can form bonds among members in meaningful and memorable ways. They can provide a warm outreach to neighbors as well.

This creative resource provides everything one needs to plan for celebrating good times in the church or home. Each of its twenty-six complete party plans is based on some special theme, holiday, or season of the year. The activities and suggestions for each party can also be adapted to more general parties without themes. This resource includes parties for both small and large groups as well as parties designed primarily with youth or children in mind. Step-by-step instructions are provided to make planning and execution a snap. In addition to party activities, each plan includes ideas for publicity, supplies, and refreshments.

This book is available from [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).

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If you spot a typographical error in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com).