

*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

**April 6, 2006**

### *In this Issue*

**Nalini Sagar**

**Darfur**

**ABCMC Co-Sponsoring Save Darfur Rally On May 1**

**Ministers Council**

**Ministers Council of ABCMC Meetings**

**Ministers Council Dues**

**Wait on the Lord**

**Executive Committee Meetings**

**Legal Check-Up Seminar**

**Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago on Immigration**

**Immigration**

**Call to Action**

**Call to Action for Chicago Seniors**

**Cantata**

**Culto unido sábado de Gloria**

**Joint Hispanic Saturday Praise Service**

**ABCUSA General Board**

**National Ministries Communications Win National Recognition**

**Fifth Sunday in April**

**Children Living in Poverty**

**Church and State**

**2006 Religious Liberty Essay Contest**

**Worship Alive!**

**Welcome and Commission Service**

**Chicagoland Gatherings of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists**

**Prayer Requests**

**Upcoming Events**

***Nalini Sagar***

Nalini Sagar, wife of David Sagar, who is pastor of Antioch Telugu Baptist Church in Northlake, is still in the ICU at Gottlieb Hospital in Melrose Park. David reports that she is showing no signs of

improvement. He also expresses heartfelt thanks for all our prayers. Please continue to hold Nalini and David in prayer.

## *Darfur*

These days the news from Darfur, the western region of Sudan in Africa, is very disturbing. Sudan was torn apart by civil war for decades. Since early 2003, there have been reports of genocide in the Darfur region, where there is tension between Arab and black ethnic groups. According to [www.darfurgenocide.com](http://www.darfurgenocide.com), "The Sudanese Government, using Arab 'Janjaweed' militias, its air force, and organized starvation, is systematically killing the black Sudanese of Darfur." Over a million people have been forced from their homes, and are in danger of death from violence, starvation or exposure to the elements. The government and militia are resisting the efforts of humanitarian aid groups to help these people.

According to Wikipedia, "The UN, prior to the [2004 Indian Ocean earthquake](#), called the Darfur conflict the world's worst current humanitarian crisis. However, intervention by the UN is unlikely as the governments of key members of the [Security Council](#) are pragmatically and ideologically constrained in their ability to respond to the conflict. The Russian government, with its weakened economy, struggles to meet its internal security dilemmas regarding its persistent border conflicts. United States force deployments in [Iraq](#) and elsewhere make intervention a difficult proposition. The United States also faces difficulty stemming from its commitment to the peace process ending the [Second Sudanese Civil War](#), which it fears may be derailed. Finally, setting up [No-Fly Zones](#) is logistically difficult considering the remoteness of Darfur, the lack of infrastructure in potential airbase neighbors, and the issue of [airspace rights](#) for flyovers to Darfur from other neighbors.

Moreover, in both of these nations, along with Britain and France, a strong lobby exists opposed to intervention in countries whose internal strife is not clearly related to the nation's own interest (America and France having suffered demoralizing losses in Vietnam, as well as in Somalia and Algeria, respectively). The lack of capable foreign peacekeepers during the Rwanda and Liberia crises is a more recent example."

American Baptists have a long-standing concern for the nation of Sudan. ABCUSA adopted a Resolution on Sudan a number of years ago. The resolution is both informative and action-oriented. It appears below.

### **822:9/00 American Baptist Resolution on Sudan**

As American Baptists, we believe in the rights to human dignity and respect, as well as the right of ethnic or racial groups to maintain their cultural identities. We recognize the mandate for the church to work for the rights of all people, relieving human suffering wherever found.

#### INTRODUCTION TO SUDAN

Sudan is Africa's largest country, embracing a million square miles. It is a country rich with human diversity with its nearly 32.6 million people. In southern Sudan, there are nearly 600 ethnic groups with over 100 languages. An Arab and Islamic identity prevails in the north; an African and Christian or animist in the south. Roughly 40 percent of the population is "Arab" and 60 percent "African", 73 percent is estimated to be Muslim, 17 percent animists, and 8 percent Christian. Although formally a republic Sudan is, for all intents and purposes, a military regime. From 1969 until the end of the 1980s there have been a series of coups in the country. Its constitution was abrogated, its press silenced, its political parties and trade unions outlawed. Presently with two consecutive years of drought, more than two-and-a-half million people are threatened with starvation if they do not receive help immediately. Already the effects of the severe famine

have been staggering with thousands of deaths especially in the south. Major epidemics of meningitis and malaria are ravaging the country. The country is swamped further with refugees fleeing from conflicts in neighboring countries with reportedly four million displaced people in Sudan.

### THE ROOTS OF CIVIL WAR

The impetus of Sudan's present ongoing civil war is rooted in ancient times and the centuries' old rivalries among the various ethnic groups. These groups today find themselves rubbing shoulders in a nation which is the fruit of an arbitrary design. The Christian presence in Sudan dates back many centuries.

As the Islam population moved southwards towards the "country of the black man" (bilad as-sudan) in the fourteenth century, it encountered tenacious resistance from these Christian kingdoms and the neighboring animists. This complex and turbulent history underlies the present conflict but today's specific political problem stems from more recent colonial times.

Between 1899 and 1955, the country was ruled jointly by the United Kingdom and Egypt; northern and southern Sudan were administered separately. The Anglo-Egyptian colonialists made substantial investments in developing the north, while leaving the south - about one-third of Sudanese territory - economically and politically impoverished. With independence in 1956, the north and south became united under a government ruled from Khartoum in the north. This northern government of Sudan sought to impose its own national vision throughout the country including the south. The Islamic government attempted to assimilate the south culturally and linguistically into a complete Islamic state. In 1983 the introduction of the Islamic law, the Sharia, triggered a rebellion in the animist and Christian south. Eleven years later, in 1994, the Khartoum regime passed the Missionary Act which in practice prohibited any form of proselytism other than by Islam.

### THE PRESENT SITUATION

A variety of motives fuel the present situation. The Sudanese government in the north seeks political hegemony over a unified Sudan, while most southern Sudanese want self-determination either in the form of autonomy or independence from the north. Southerners rebelled on the conviction that the government in Khartoum sought to impose on them the Arabic language and the religion of Islam. Both sides seek control of southern resources, including oil fields, the Nile River waters, fishing sites and grazing land. Political ambitions also play a role. Finally, those engaged in arms sales and the diversion of relief aid are making profits from the war itself. The war is being fought largely in the south, with devastating consequences for the southern Sudanese. Because the various factions use guerilla war tactics and target civilians, and because the factions are split along ethnic lines, rivalry and discord among southern Sudanese non-combatants flourish in the south.

Factional fighting in the south is responsible for a great number of deaths. Villages have become pitted against one another, competing for scarce resources, made scarcer through the many years of war.

### HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND SLAVERY

Widespread human rights abuses and humanitarian law violations have characterized the war. In the official Sudanese version of the Charter of Human Rights the word "person" is translated as "Muslim". The Khartoum government has engaged in aerial bombings of civilian villages, hospitals and relief sites. In January 1995, Amnesty International accused the Sudanese government and the rebels of the south of flagrant violations of human rights. The principal

victims of these human rights violations are members of the racial and religious minorities. The whole range of human rights that are universally recognized have been violated. There have been summary executions, arbitrary arrests, detentions without trial, systematic torture, slavery and slave trade, violation of the rights of children and of women, religious persecution and forced conversions to Islam. As recently as mid-February 2000, a Sudanese government plane bombed a primary school, killing 13 pupils. This attack came three weeks after the Sudanese government promised a cease-fire on all war fronts. All told, there have been more than 2 million people killed in the fighting and the war-induced famines since 1983.

Slavery's resurgence in Sudan is rooted in the civil war. Hard evidence of this resurgence dates from the mid-1980s, yet the government of Sudan continues to deny its existence. A number of international groups, church members, and US school children have addressed the outrage of slavery in Sudan by buying back those who have been enslaved. Slave redemption in Sudan is not new, yet the presence of international actors in slave redemption is relatively new. Concern exists, however, that slave redemption by international groups creates a more substantial market for slave purchases and could increase the destructive raids and the number of people taken as slaves.

## SUMMARY

What started in 1983 as a small mutiny at a remote army garrison in southern Sudan has now become Africa's longest-running civil war. The grievances that started the conflict remain the same. Seventeen years of sporadic fighting between the Islamist Khartoum government and the mainly Christian and animist south have resulted in a stalemate.

## ROLE OF AMERICAN BAPTISTS

In the face of unimaginable suffering and limited resources, Sudanese Christians are struggling to reach out with physical and spiritual hope to their beleaguered country. American Baptists, through our partnering with the Church World Service and Witness unit of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, have contributed One Great Hour of Sharing funds for Sudan relief.

Given the magnitude of this ongoing tragedy, we urge American Baptists to...

1. Keep the people of Sudan in our prayers;
2. Educate ourselves on the tragic situation in the Sudan;
3. Donate funds to groups working on meeting the needs of the people of Sudan for peace and reconciliation;
4. Engage our political leaders in using their influence to do everything in their power to hasten the peace process in the Sudan. In the light of the relative silence and lack of will within the world community to resolve this humanitarian disaster, we call on...
  1. Congregations to raise awareness of this issue and work with other religious groups, both ecumenical and interfaith, to address the needs created by this situation;
  2. The Board of International Ministries to investigate and create ways--American Baptist, ecumenical, and/or interfaith--by which American Baptists can be more involved in ministry and mission to the people of Sudan;
  3. The Government of the United States to...
    - a. Impose an immediate arms embargo on the sale and supply of arms and ammunitions, as well as military material and services, against all sides in light of the human rights abuses by all parties to the conflict;
    - b. Promote and strengthen grassroots efforts at peace and reconciliation; and
    - c. Insist on continued access of UN human rights monitors to all areas of Sudan.

## POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Africa,  
#7020:9/87  
American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights,  
#7021:12/76  
American Baptist Policy Statement on Peace,  
#7037:12/85

Many Christians around the world are concerned about the ongoing genocide in Darfur. We may feel helpless to stop the killing and pain, but there are things we can do. We can attend the rally that ABCMC is co-sponsoring in Chicago on May 1. (See article below.) [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org) offers a way to send a post card—at no cost to you—to President Bush, and respectfully request that he lead to U.S. in supporting a stronger multi-national force to protect the civilians of Darfur. The Human Rights Watch web site recommends that we study and inform ourselves about what is happening in Darfur. Human Rights Watch suggests the following actions:

**“Contact Your Elected Representatives:** Write and call your representatives in Congress and the State Department, asking them to support U.S. and international efforts to reverse ethnic cleansing and stop attacks against civilians in Darfur. Ask President Bush, members of Congress, and the State Department to do the following:

- Visit and speak out on Darfur;
- Support a Chapter VII resolution in the U.N. Security Council that will reverse ethnic cleansing, protect civilians, permit the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes in safety and dignity, and ensure full humanitarian access;
- Substantially fund the humanitarian, peacekeeping and other costs of Darfur, including the African Union Mission in Sudan; and
- Demand that the government of Sudan cooperate with the International Criminal Court and effectively address accountability for human rights abuses and crimes against humanity in Sudan.”

### *ABCMC Co-Sponsoring Save Darfur Rally On May 1*

With the approval of the Family Cabinet, the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago is co-sponsoring a major rally to "Save Darfur" at the Federal Plaza (Dearborn and Adams), beginning at 4:30 p.m. on May 1.

Please mark your calendars now and commit yourself to participate as a faithful witness against what is happening in Darfur, Sudan and for international action that will stop the violence and killing. You are welcome—and encouraged—to bring appropriate banners and signs. A poster about the rally is attached to this edition of *eWind*. Please print out and use the flyer to encourage others to attend.

Let this be one important way we can give witness to our Easter faith.

Larry Greenfield  
Executive Minister

**Ministers Council News**

## *Ministers Council of ABCMC Meetings*

The Ministers Council in our region has scheduled some meetings for 2006. Please mark your calendar now, and join colleagues for these important gatherings:

**Thursday, May 4, noon to 2:30 p.m.**, Irving Park Baptist Church 4100 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Emma Justes will discuss her new book, *How to Be a Listening Pastor*. Lunch will be served. RSVP to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

**Thursday, June 15, noon to 2:30 p.m.**, Irving Park Baptist Church 4100 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Francine Stark will discuss the summit meeting on the future of the ABC. RSVP to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

## *Ministers Council Dues*

Ministers Council dues may be paid by sending a check to the treasurer, Rev. Dr. Sara Day, 3013 Wolf Road, #324, Westchester, IL 60154.

Dues are:

- \$45 for individuals
- \$60 for clergy couples
- \$22.50 for seminarians

Retired clergy membership is free for retirees who were dues-paying members of the Ministers Council for 3 out of the last 5 years prior to retirement.

## *Wait on the Lord*

It's not too late to register for Wait on the Lord, the Ministers Council's program for clergy spiritual renewal. The conference will take place **April 17-20** in Orlando, Florida. For a foretaste of the conference, turn up your sound, and visit [video clip](#) for a video clip of John Kinney, who will be one of the speakers at Wait on the Lord.

For information about "Wait on the Lord," go to [Wait on the Lord information](#). For registration, visit [Wait on the Lord registration](#).

## *Executive Committee Meetings*

The Executive Committee (officers) of ABCMC's Ministers Council will meet at noon on **Thursday, April 26** at the ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago. This will be an important meeting to continue planning for 2006 Ministers Council events.

The Executive Committee of ABCMC's Ministers Council will meet on **Wednesday, May 10** with Kate Harvey, Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the ABCUSA. The meeting will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago. Lunch will be provided. Executive Committee members, please phone James Jackson at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791, to confirm your plans to attend.

## *Legal Check-Up Seminar*

The fourth annual Legal Check-Up Seminar for churches will take place at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. The program will be on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please hold the date!

Brochures have been mailed this week to all of ABCMC's professional church leaders. Feel free to copy and distribute these brochures as you deem appropriate. The brochures contain all the information about the seminar, as well as a registration form.

Attorneys from the Chicago firm Mauck and Baker will bring the latest information about such legal matters as clergy liability and church audits. It will be an excellent opportunity to ensure that every church's leadership knows what legal responsibility the congregation and pastor have.

The cost of the event will be \$75 per church for up to 5 persons, and \$15 for each additional person. Packets of helpful materials will be distributed to participants.

## *Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago on Immigration*

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, of which ABCMC is a part, sent us a statement about the federal immigration legislation that is pending. Their statement is attached to this issue of *eWind*. We urge you to print it out, post it, include it in your bulletin or newsletter, and take its message to heart as you feel led.

## *Immigration*

This week, both *Time* and *Newsweek* had cover stories about immigration, and the debate going on in Congress. Both magazines had very informative articles, <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1179361,00.html> and <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12115520/site/newsweek/>. Clearly this is an important issue in our country. Christians are making their concerns known.

The bill currently under consideration in the U. S. House of Representatives would criminalize all assistance given to illegal immigrants. Many Christians, who are in the habit of providing aid to all in need without requiring legal papers, are concerned about what this bill could mean for them. This week a group of Roman Catholic clergy and laity demonstrated at the Batavia office of Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert to express their opposition to the bill. Use this link to read the *Daily Herald* article about this prayerful gathering: <http://www.dailyherald.com/search/searchstory.asp?id=174855>.

Omar Almonte provided us with documents about immigration. They are from Esperanza USA. They are attached to this issue of *eWind*. Omar also recommends that we read the editorial in this week's *Christianity Today*, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/114/12.0.html>.

## *Lenten Ecumenical Worship Service Tuesday, April 11, 2006*

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago and Reverend Clay Evans, Bishop Larry Trotter and Reverend Albert D. Tyson, III of Clergy Speaks Interdenominational invite you to an ecumenical worship service during this Lenten season.

The worship service will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Name Cathedral,

State and Superior Streets, Chicago. Parking is available in the Cathedral lot (Entrance from Superior Street). For more details, please call 773-575-1801 or e-mail [revjwilson@att.net](mailto:revjwilson@att.net).

A flyer about this service is attached to this edition of *eWind*.

## *Call to Action*

The request below is from Protestants for the Common Good. It is *directly* related to ABCMC's focus this year on ministry with children living in poverty. Please phone your congressional representative, and ask them to oppose 2007 federal budget proposals that will hurt these children.

## **Crucial Budget Vote Friday -- Call Now!**

The House of Representatives is expected to vote this week on a budget that cuts human needs programs and enacts more tax breaks that favor the wealthy. But passage won't be easy...

Your voice last year helped moderate House members realize that these budget priorities do not represent your values. Many moderate Republicans are raising tough questions of the House leadership. It just takes a few more "no" votes than last year to protect "the least of these" by defeating the House Budget Committee's bill.

Call the Capitol switchboard toll-free this week to be connected to your Representative's office:

**(800) 459-1887**

Tell your Representative's staff:

**"As a person of faith, I am calling to urge Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to vote against the Budget Committee's budget resolution. It forces cuts in nutrition aid, health care, education, training, housing, and other essential services. Its funding is so low that vulnerable people - infants, struggling workers, the elderly - will lose needed services. In short, it is out of touch with my values. Please support efforts to restore funding for domestic programs."**

For more details about what the House budget bill, [click here](#).

To find your representative, [click here](#).

Peace,

The Rev. Jennifer Kottler  
Deputy Director  
Protestants for the Common Good

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The toll-free number is provided courtesy of the American Friends Service Committee which has launched a budget campaign, <http://www.afsc.org/economic-justice/sos>. AFSC welcomes groups to circulate and use the toll-free number in support of non-partisan budget goals and without linking the alert to a website soliciting donations or actions which may be used to support partisan lobbying or work.

## *Call to Action for Chicago Seniors*

The following request is from Jason Platt, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church in Chicago.

***For close to 30 years Montrose Baptist Church has hosted a Chicago Department on Aging Golden Diners Club for senior citizens and the disabled.*** Every weekday hot meals are served at noon, an exercise class is conducted twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, and classic movies complete with ice cream and pop corn are enjoyed on the big screen after meal time on Wednesdays. At periodic times workshops and presentations are offered on such topics as Medicare, at-home nursing care, assisted living and various other issues related to the well being of Chicago seniors. Future plans include providing seniors with exercise equipment and computers with internet access.

Many of the seniors that attend the Montrose Golden Diners live in the immediate neighborhood. They look forward to seeing familiar faces and enjoying good food and activities in a friendly environment. Some seniors walk a short distance each weekday because they are no longer able to drive. Many others prefer our peaceful, stress-free atmosphere to the larger sites which are often noisy and overcrowded. At these larger sites meals often run short and seniors go home without being served. At the Montrose Golden Diners site, seniors are generally guaranteed of being served. Due to overcrowding at many other sites, they are often turned away.

When the Golden Flame Restaurant (Foster/Nagle) closed its doors several years ago, Montrose Baptist Church continued to provide consistent service, even when flooded by close to 90 seniors every day. Currently the site averages 20-25 seniors every weekday. ***As site host for over 30 years, Montrose Baptist Church is pleased to cover all overhead expenses.*** The Department on Aging currently provides the meals (which seniors contribute \$1.50 toward) and one part-time worker.

Sadly, it has come to our attention in recent days that a move is underway to close the site. Though officially this is a “temporary” closure, ***all indications point to a permanent discontinuation of service to seniors in our neighborhood.*** Decision makers in the Department on Aging view this as an opportunity to solve staffing problems and save a few dollars (i.e., the cost of one part-time worker) by consolidating sites and warehousing the seniors in larger sites like the one at Biaggio’s (near Central and Montrose). Many neighborhood seniors are not able to drive to these sites, nor are they willing to take two or more buses to reach them, nor do they wish to fight the overcrowding associated with them.

When Mitchell Mellman, site supervisor, announced the proposed closure on Wednesday, March 29, the seniors were crestfallen. Many of them are widows and widowers who live alone. The friendships they have established and the food they enjoy at the Montrose Golden Diners give them a reason to get out of the house everyday to meet vital social and nutritional needs. ***Closing the site only hurts Chicago seniors.***

***I’m not writing to save a program, I’m writing on behalf of people – real people with real needs that will go unmet should the Department on Aging’s plan go unchallenged.***

### **Here’s how you can help:**

- 1) If you believe in the value of meeting the needs of neighborhood seniors, won’t you join us in convincing city leaders to keep the Montrose Golden Diners open? ***Call, write or e-mail the city leaders listed below. Tell them you believe in the importance of meeting the social and nutritional needs of neighborhood seniors.***
- 2) In light of the Department on Aging’s staffing problems and budget concerns, Montrose Baptist Church has decided to step up to the plate for our seniors by staffing the site with volunteers. The Department on Aging will provide all training and certification requirements. Now comes your part: ***Will you consider joining our team by becoming a part-time volunteer?*** I am volunteering to take the certification class myself in order to provide oversight and assistance. If we could have 2-3 volunteers step forward, the time commitment of each would be 2 days or so each week, depending on individual schedules. The attached job description should answer any question you may have.

If you would like more information, please contact me directly at (773) 283-3451 or via e-mail at [pastorjasonplatt@juno.com](mailto:pastorjasonplatt@juno.com).

***Together, we can make a difference in the lives of neighborhood seniors!***

On Behalf of Our Neighborhood's Senior Citizens,

Jason Platt, Pastor  
Montrose Baptist Church  
(773) 283-3451  
[pastorjasonplatt@juno.com](mailto:pastorjasonplatt@juno.com)  
[www.montrosebaptistchurch.org](http://www.montrosebaptistchurch.org)

## Contact the Following City Leaders:

### 1. Nikki Garbis Proutsos

**Assistant Commissioner, Chicago Department on Aging**

**Phone:** 312.744.0043  
**Fax:** 312.744.0680  
**E-Mail:** [aging@cityofchicago.org](mailto:aging@cityofchicago.org)  
**Address:** 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2320  
Chicago, IL 60602-2586  
**Web:** [www.cityofchicago.org/aging](http://www.cityofchicago.org/aging)

### 2. Joyce Gallagher

Commissioner, Chicago Department on Aging

**Phone:** 312.744.4016  
**Fax:** 312.744.0680  
**E-Mail:** [aging@cityofchicago.org](mailto:aging@cityofchicago.org)  
**Address:** 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2320  
Chicago, IL 60602-2586  
**Web:** [www.cityofchicago.org/aging](http://www.cityofchicago.org/aging)

### 3. Thomas R. Allen

*38<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, City of Chicago*

**Phone:** 773.545.3838 (local office)  
312.744.6811 (city hall office)  
**Fax:** 773.283.3343  
**E-mail:** [tallen@cityofchicago.org](mailto:tallen@cityofchicago.org)  
**Address:** 5817 W. Irving Park Rd.  
**Chicago, IL 60634**

### 4. Richard M. Daley

*Mayor, City of Chicago*

**Phone:** 312.744.3300  
**Fax:** 312.744.8045  
**Address:** 121 N. La Salle St., Room 507  
Chicago, IL 60602

## *Cantata* **THIS SUNDAY**

The First Baptist Church of Chicago choir will present an Easter Cantata, "Were You There," by Don Grant, Sunday, April 9, in the 11 a.m. service. The church is at 935 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago. Jesse Brown is pastor, and Virginia Prince is minister of music.

## *Culto unido sábado de Gloria*

Las iglesias bautistas hispanas de Chicago te invitan a su gran culto de sábado de gloria el 15 de abril en el templo de la Primera Iglesia Bautista de Waukegan, 401 Genesee Street, Waukegan, 6:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Omar Almonte, Coordinador Hispano de IBHMC sera el predicador.

## *Joint Hispanic Saturday Praise Service*

ABCMC's Hispanic congregations invite you to a Saturday praise service at 6 p.m. on April 15 at the First Baptist Church of Waukegan, 401 Genesee Street, Waukegan. Omar Almonte, ABCMC's Hispanic Coordinator, will be the preacher. Flyer attached.

## *National Ministries Communications Win National Recognition*

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)-National Ministries' communications staff will receive awards for excellence in communications during 2005 at the annual convention of the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) March 30 - April 1 in Dallas, Texas. Creative Director Danny Ellison will accept two graphic design awards: an award of excellence for the cover of The Christian Citizen (Vol. 3) and a certificate of merit for a National Ministries banner.

Diane Vescovi, staff writer, will receive a certificate of merit in writing for a story, "Taking Care of America's Sons and Daughters," about Col. Eric C. Holmstrom, an American Baptist Army Reserves chaplain who completed a tour of duty directing the pastoral services department at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany last year. The article was published in the Nov./Dec. 2005 issue of Mission in America.

In the photography category, Susan Gottshall, associate executive director of communications, will accept an award of excellence for a color photograph snapped in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's destruction in Pass Christian, Miss.

RCC is an interfaith association of more than 600 religion communicators working in print and electronic communication, marketing and public relations. The organization offers opportunities for religion communicators to learn from each other. Together, RCC members promote excellence in the communication of religious faith and values in the public arena and encourage understanding among religious and faith groups.

Andrew C. Jayne

American Baptist Churches, USA

Mission Resource Development

<http://www.abc-usa.org/>

## *Fifth Sunday in April*

This invitation is from Rev. Alice Davis and Irving Park Baptist Church.

On April 30, 2006 Irving Park Baptist Church will host the next 5th Sunday Unity Service, "Celebrating Diversity." The Reverend David Sagar and the India Telugu Baptist Church will be

our guests. All are invited to join in worship with us in Asian Indian style, and to join in cultural reception with food and friendship afterward, at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, 6:30 p.m. Questions? Call 773-286-6800.

## *Children Living in Poverty*

ABCMC and ABCUSA are focusing this year on ministry to children living in poverty. You can use this link to go to a *Washington Post* article about the British government's efforts.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/02/AR2006040201091.html>

The British government is committed to eliminating child poverty by 2020. They are making progress.

ABCMC's task force on children in poverty has read the article. They will explore what we might do as Baptists to adopt the kind of commitment the British government has made, and to follow through with local, state and national government.

## *Church and State*

Thank you to Wendy Morris, who provided the following information she received by email.

Georgia is close to becoming the first state in the nation to pass a bill mandating the development of curriculum to teach bible studies in public schools.

**[Demand that Governor Perdue defend the Constitution and Georgia's citizens from the attack on the doctrine of separation of church and state.](#)**

To the delight of the radical religious right, the Georgia State Senate passed two pieces of legislation that pose a serious threat to the separation of church and state. One would create state-funded Bible classes in Georgia public schools. The second would allow the Ten Commandments to be displayed by county governments.

By singling out the Bible and the Ten Commandments as symbols to be promoted in the public sphere -- one in classrooms and the other in government buildings -- the government of Georgia is showing preferential treatment to a specific religion and violating the rights of its citizens. Both bills are on Governor Sonny Perdue's desk, and he is contemplating whether to signing them. That's why we need you to take action today.

The religious right will stop at nothing to push their theology in the public square or our public schools. And now, they want to use public dollars to do it!

**[Urge Georgia's Governor to veto these bills and protect the sanctity of our nation's Constitution and the doctrine separating church and state>> http://go.care2.com/e/JM0/JO/cYVw](http://go.care2.com/e/JM0/JO/cYVw)**

Sincerely,

Michael Lawley,

Care2 and ThePetitionSite team

## *2006 Religious Liberty Essay Contest*

### **June 1 entry deadline for Religious Liberty essay contest**

WASHINGTON—To engage high school students in church-state issues and to generate interest from a wide range of Baptists, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has launched the 2006 Religious Liberty Essay Contest.

Open to all Baptist high school students in the classes of 2006 and 2007, the contest offers a grand prize of \$1,000 and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is \$500, and third prize is \$100.

Winners will be announced in the summer of 2006 and will be featured in the BJC's flagship publication, *Report from the Capital*. The grand prize winner will also be recognized at the BJC board meeting in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 2.

The theme of the contest is "Why the separation of church and state is necessary to ensure religious liberty for all."

Essays should be between 700-1,000 words. They will be judged on the depth of their content and the skill with which they are written. Students should demonstrate a sound knowledge of the subject matter and support their assertions.

For more information or to download a registration form and a promotional flier, visit [www.bjconline.org/contest](http://www.bjconline.org/contest).

## *Worship Alive!*

### **Worshipping and Singing Globally: Excerpts from the WCC General Assembly**

**Sunday, April 30, 2006**  
2:30 – 5:00 pm

The explosion of interest in worship and music representing Christian faith in diverse cultures has been sparked by the General Assemblies of the World Council of Churches (WCC) held every seven years. These gatherings bring together pre-eminent musicians

and worship practitioners from around the globe to shape the daily worship experience of the Assembly. This workshop will re-create some of the images, music, rituals and insights gleaned from the February 2006 WCC General Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Come prepared to sing and worship!

**Mark Bowman** is minister of music at the United Church of Rogers Park in Chicago and contemporary music leader at First U.M. Church of Park Ridge. He also coordinates the *Worship Alive!* workshop series. He received an M.Div. degree from Boston University School of Theology. He leads workshops on enlivening congregational singing and global song and has led worship and singing in a variety of congregations and events. He served on the support team for worship & music at the WCC General Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Mark will lead the last workshop of this year's series on April 30th. The session will be full of music and liturgy that he brought back from the World Council of Churches General Assembly in Brazil. *Worship Alive!* workshops are at the United Church of Rogers Park, 1545 W. Morse Avenue, Chicago. For registration info, go to:

<http://www.ucrogerspark.org/WorshipAlive/Register.htm>

## *Welcome and Commission Service*

The announcement below is attached to this issue of *eWind* as a bulletin insert. Please print out and photocopy it, and insert it in your church's bulletin.

A GATHERING OF THE ABCMC FAMILY  
FOR  
WELCOMING AND COMMISSIONING

6:00 PM  
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006  
IRVING PARK BAPTIST CHURCH  
4401 W. Irving Park Road  
Chicago

**WELCOME:** The Rev. Joseph Atta Fynn as our  
New church planter/pastor of  
ABCMC's Sub-Saharan Baptist  
Congregation

and

Founding members of the Sub-  
Saharan Baptist Congregation

**COMMISSION:** The twelve members of ABCMC from five ABCMC  
congregations who will be traveling to Ghana to  
meet with our sisters and brothers in the Ghana Baptist  
Convention on May 10-24.

Following the service of welcoming and commissioning that includes praise  
and singing, thanksgiving, and prayer, we will join together for fellowship  
and light refreshments.

*Chicagoland Gatherings of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists*

The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists ([www.wabaptists.org](http://www.wabaptists.org)) will sponsor a series  
of gatherings at ABCMC churches on the weekend of June 2-4. The association is a group of 61  
congregations and ministries, as well as hundreds of individuals, working for the full inclusion of  
lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the life and ministries of the Church.  
Everyone is welcome to attend these events.

**June 2**

**6 p.m.:** Wine and Cheese Reception, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston (\$5  
suggested donation)

**7:30 p.m.:** Inspirational Music/Message (Ken Pennings, Executive Director of AWAB,  
preaching)

### **June 3**

**9 a.m.-2 p.m.:** Community Building Event, Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston (\$8 for lunch). If you will need child care, please contact Ann-Louise Haak, 847-864-2181 or [alhaak@lakestreet.org](mailto:alhaak@lakestreet.org), to make arrangements.

### **June 4**

**10:30 a.m.:** Worship Service, Ken Pennings preaching, The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mt. Prospect, 847-253-0501.

**6 p.m.:** Worship Service, Ken Pennings preaching, Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 773-334-9003.

For more information about any and all of these events, or about the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, please contact Ken Pennings, 608-255-2155 or [ken@wabaptists.org](mailto:ken@wabaptists.org). Please see—and post—the attached flyer.

## ***Prayer Requests***

***See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:15-18, NRSV).***

Please hold in prayer David and Nalini Sagar, as well as their family and loved ones, as Nalini remains in intensive care. Please support Antioch Telugu Baptist Church in prayer as well.

Please pray for the ministerial staff of the Third Baptist Church of Chicago. You may have read or heard that the church held a funeral for four children killed in a house fire. During the funeral, the children's grandmother had a heart attack and died. The church's ministers have their hands full caring for the families involved.

Please pray for ABCUSA's General Executive Council currently meeting in Valley Forge.

Please hold in prayer Susan Linderman, the first missionary whom ABCUSA's Board of International Ministries has appointed since 2004. She will serve in Prague, Czech Republic, along with Lauren Bethell, in ministry to persons caught up in the global sex trade, especially the victims of human trafficking.

Please pray for Bob Santilli, special assistant to the executive director of International Ministries for prayer and pastoral care. He will begin traveling to Thailand several times a year to provide pastoral care for missionaries there.

## ***Upcoming Events***

**April 6—** Dual Degree Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work/Master of Arts in Social Services Administration Gathering, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Chestnut, Chicago. 6:30 p.m. drinks and socialize; 7:30 p.m. dinner. Sponsored by AIDS Pastoral Care Network, a program of Access Community Health Network. RSVP to Betsy Ritzman at 773-257-6425 or [stib@sinai.org](mailto:stib@sinai.org) by Tuesday, April 4.

**April 6-9—**"Doing Our Own Work: A Seminar for Anti-Racist White People," April 6-9 and May 11-14, 2006 at The Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan. You may register online with a credit card or download a registration form at The Leaven Center web site: [www.leaven.org](http://www.leaven.org). For more information about The Leaven Center or to inquire about scholarships, call 989-855-2606 or email [leavencenter@leaven.org](mailto:leavencenter@leaven.org).

**April 9**—Easter Cantata, “Were You There” by Don Grant presented by the choir of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, 11 a.m.

**April 11**—Ecumenical Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 p.m., Holy Name Cathedral, State and Superior Streets, Chicago. Parking is available in the Cathedral lot (Entrance from Superior Street). For more details, please call 773-575-1801 or e-mail [revjwilson@att.net](mailto:revjwilson@att.net).

**April 15**—6 p.m., Culto unido sábado de Gloria, FBC Waukegan, 401 Genesee Street, Waukegan.

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

**April 22**—Banquet with special guest Charles Jones, FBC Gary, 626 W 21st Ave. Phone: 219-883-3216. Registration will begin at 4:30 PM; Dinner at 5 PM; Program at 6 PM.

**April 23**—Kids Hope United Fashion Show and Raffle, 2-5 p.m., Lehmann Mansion, 485 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Villa Lake. Event tickets \$75; raffle tickets \$2, or 3 for \$5. Proceeds benefit WINGS program for families. Phone 847-245-6503 for more information.

**April 23**—ABC MC Welcoming and Commissioning Service, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 6 p.m.

**April 25-26**—Ministerial Institute, Chicago Theological Seminary. Please go to the CTS website at <http://www.ctschicago.edu/general/ministerial.php> for more information

**April 26**—Brady Lectures, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard. For more information and registration, visit [www.seminary.edu](http://www.seminary.edu).

**April 26**—Ministers Council Executive Committee meeting, noon, ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago

**April 26**—Lecture on “Children and Violence,” 7:30-9 p.m., Thousand Waves Martial Arts and Self-Defense Center, 1220 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago. For more information, phone 773-472-7663. Free and open to the public.

**April 28**—Children in Poverty Initiative meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., First Baptist Church, 401 S. Fifth Avenue, Maywood.

**April 18**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

**April 29**—Church Legal Check-Up Seminar, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

**April 30**—Fifth Sunday intercultural service, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 6:30 p.m. Special guests will be Rev. David Sagar (preacher) and Antioch Telugu Baptist Church. For more information, phone 773-286-6800.

**May 1**—Rally to Stop the Genocide in Dafur, 4:30 p.m., Federal Plaza, Chicago, at Dearborn and Adams. Organized by the Chicago Coalition to Save Dafur, an alliance of faith-based, ethnic, civic and student organizations dedicated to ending the atrocities that threaten the lives of 2 million people in the Darfur region of Sudan. ABCMC is a co-sponsor of this event.

**May 4**—Ministers Council meeting, noon to 2:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church 4100 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Emma Justes will discuss her new book, *How to Be a Listening Pastor*. Lunch will be served. RSVP to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

**May 7**—Baptist World Alliance Sunday

**May 10**—Ministers Council Executive Committee meeting, 11 a.m., ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago

**May 10-24**—ABCMC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana.

**May 11-14**—“Doing Our Own Work: A Seminar for Anti-Racist White People,” April 6-9 and May 11-14, 2006 at The Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan. You may register online with a credit card or download a registration form at The Leaven Center web site: [www.leaven.org](http://www.leaven.org). For more information about The Leaven Center or to inquire about scholarships, call 989-855-2606 or email [leavencenter@leaven.org](mailto:leavencenter@leaven.org).

**May 13**—Family Council meeting, 9 a.m.

**May 15**—Deadline for submitting a proposal for a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal grant.

**May 23**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

**June 1**—Deadline for entries in the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty’s essay contest.

**June 2**—Children in Poverty Initiative meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Third Baptist Church, 1551 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago.

**June 2**—AWAB Wine and Cheese Reception, 6 p.m., and worship time, 7:30 p.m., Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston.

**June 3**—AWAB Community Building Event, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston. Contact Ann-Louise Haak, 847-864- 2181 or [alhaak@lakestreet.org](mailto:alhaak@lakestreet.org) for child care.

**June 4**—AWAB Executive Director Ken Pennings preaches at The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mt. Prospect, 10:30 a.m.

**June 4**—AWAB Executive Director Ken Pennings preaches at Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 6 p.m.

**June 7**—Ecumenical Millennium Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m., Archdiocese of Chicago Pastoral Center, 155 E. Superior Street, Chicago.

**June 12-13**—Pilgrimage to Taizé, France. Please contact Brad Berglund at [info@illuminatedjourneys.com](mailto:info@illuminatedjourneys.com) for more information. Deadline for application is March 1.

**June 15**—Ministers Council meeting, noon to 2:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church 4100 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Francine Stark will discuss the summit meeting on the future of the ABC. RSVP to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

**June 20**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

**July 7**—Children in Poverty Initiative meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago.

**July 18**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

**July 27-29**—The Center for Parish Development’s Missional Church Conference, at the Cenacle in Chicago. Visit [www.missionalchurch.org/pages/seminars](http://www.missionalchurch.org/pages/seminars) for more information and registration.

**August 22**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

**August 26**—Family Council meeting, 9 a.m.

**November 10-11**—Annual Meeting.

**November 21**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

**December 19**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

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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 necessary 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](mailto: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](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com).