

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

May 3, 2006

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10, NRSV).

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Family Council Meeting

TO: ABCMC FAMILY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: Jesse M. Brown, President
Larry L. Greenfield, Executive Minister

RE: **RESCHEDULE FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING**

We are rescheduling the next meeting of the ABCMC Family Council from May 13 to the **morning of June 3** (location to be announced).

This rescheduling will allow us to have a full and informed discussion of matters related to ABCUSA's future that will be considered at the meetings of the denomination's General Board later in the month.

There will also be reporting on the planning that our Family Cabinet has undertaken for ABCMC.

And, in addition to our normal agenda items, we will be welcoming back the ABCMC team going to Ghana on May 10-24.

More information will follow about this important rescheduled Family Council meeting. But please make the change on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Jail Ministry Dinner

ABCMC's own jail ministry invites us all to dinner this weekend.

The Cook County Jail Ministry Spring Dinner will take place this Saturday, May 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, will be host church for the event. Come celebrate the ministry of Rev. Marjean Gonzales and her board and volunteers, as they bring Jesus into the lives of Cook County Jail inmates. Support them as they help inmates find new blessings and open their hearts to the Lord. Enjoy a delightful meal, Christian music and fellowship with those who share our passion for new life in Christ. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Cook County Jail Ministry.

Darfur Genocide—“Not on Our Watch”

by T. J. Litwiler

Several thousand people gathered on Monday afternoon, May 1, in Federal Plaza in the Chicago Loop to rally against the genocide currently taking place in the Darfur region of western Sudan, and in support of efforts to end that on-going atrocity. The event followed a similar rally in Washington, D.C. on the previous day.

Of significant note was the broad range of faith-based organizations that sponsored and participated in the event. They included Jewish groups, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, Protestant denominations, and groups such as Protestants for the Common Good. Jennifer Kottler from Protestants for the Common Good was one of the rally speakers.

ABCMC was an official co-sponsor of the rally, and asks all of its members to inform themselves about the Darfur crisis and to encourage their political representatives to take whatever steps are

necessary to end the genocide. One of the themes of the rally was “Not on Our Watch”—a reminder that the imperative to bring love and peace of Jesus Christ to this crisis rests with us as people of faith.

Ministers Council News

Wait On The Lord- A Reflection

by Douglas Harris

About 275 American Baptist Ministers gathered in Orlando, Florida from April 17 to 20 for a time of refreshment in the Spirit. The Rev. Dr. John Kinney of Richmond, Virginia was the main preacher. His inspiring messages nourished all of those gathered to discover new ways to Wait On The Lord. The Rev. Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles opened the Gospel of John and shared new insights on God's presence in our midst.

The worship services were designed and led by Rev. Brad Berglund and a team of musicians that shared a variety of worship styles. One night was in the *Taizé* style of worship with many times of silence that was unique for many Baptists. The night that Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley preached the service ended with a time for people to come forward for personal prayer.

There were also many workshops that helped people to discover various ways to be with God. Much time was also spent in conversations with new and old friends.

What was most appreciated by this person was to be with other American Baptist sisters and brothers for a week of celebrating our life together in our diversity without any fighting!! God was at the center of our time together and all were fed by the same Spirit of God and were blessed.

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:

TOMORROW! 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 by Tuesday, May 2 to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

Our treasurer, Sara Day, will be in a receptive mood at each meeting. Dues amounts are listed in the article below.

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 of the future of the ABC. RSVP by Tuesday, June 13 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.

Executive Committee Meeting

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.

American Baptist Churches and Their Pacific Southwest Region One Step Closer to Parting Ways

by Leo S. Thorne
American Baptist Churches USA

In a non-binding referendum taken Saturday, April 29, 1125 delegates of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest (ABCPSW) voted to recommend that the region leave the Covenant of Relationships with the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). 209 delegates voted in opposition, and just over 50% of the member churches registered to participate in the vote. The Covenant of Relationships is the written agreement that binds the region with the larger ABCUSA family. The vote, taken without discussion, now goes to the region's Board of Directors for a final decision at a meeting on May 11, 2006.

"It is with profound sorrow that we have come to this point of separation," said Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary of ABCUSA. "Though not uncommon in Baptist life, such actions grieve the heart of God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Rev. Arlee Griffin, Jr., Ph.D., president of ABCUSA, added, "We regret the actions of some of the churches in ABCPSW in breaking the unity of our denominational family. We consider it unfortunate that, at a time when secular society is merging and coming together, there are those in our Christian family who seek to divide even in light of our Lord's request to remain one in unity."

"We give our blessing to the region, if it chooses on May 11 to leave, that they may do God's work as they feel led," said Medley. "Though the vote was not unanticipated, we had hoped and had made many efforts to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace," he added.

Even if the region does leave the Covenant of Relationships, not all the churches of ABCPSW will leave. A significant number of churches wish to remain American Baptist. They will form an Association of American Baptist Churches immediately if the region board votes on May 11 to break covenant. Dr. Samuel Chetti, executive minister of the Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society, with the endorsement of his board, will give watch-care and oversight to the new association. There will continue to be a strong American Baptist presence even if the region splits away. "Most individual churches will be slow to take action to leave," said Joe DeRoulhac, Jr.,

Ph.D., pastor of First Baptist Church of Redlands, and strong supporter of ABCUSA mission. "The complexity of the possible separation will take a long time to sort out."

"ABCUSA will continue its clear focus in mission and ministry to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are committed," said Medley, "to the seven Key Ministry Areas of Radical Discipleship, Healthy Missional Churches, Leadership, Church Planting, Youth, Stewardship and Mutual Faithfulness. God has given us a compelling mission and call. American Baptist Churches are healthy missional churches that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God." Chetti added, "ABCUSA has always held the Bible to be the standard and authority for Christian living. We are a Bible-based people and, since our inception, our mission and ministry have always been guided by the wisdom of the Scripture."

For further information, please contact the Office of the General Secretary at 800-222-3872. If immediate assistance is needed, please contact Dr. Robert H. Roberts at 610-585-8023.

Responses to ABCPSW's Decision

ABCMC

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield had this response to the latest news about ABC of the Pacific Southwest:

"The decision of PSW comes as no surprise, but that doesn't lessen the sadness that a member of the family chooses to leave. I am heartened that a number of churches in that region want to remain part of the ABCUSA family. Let's hope and pray that we will all find ways to become stronger and more effective in ministry."

Roger Williams Fellowship

The Roger Williams Fellowship (RWF), a denominational grassroots group, produced a press release on the decision made this past weekend by the ABC Pacific Southwest Region. RWF's response appears below:

"The board of directors of the Roger Williams Fellowship laments the announcement that delegates voted to affirm withdrawal proceedings of the ABC Pacific Southwest region from the covenant of relationships and other official ties with the American Baptist Churches/USA. We invite all concerned with this situation to pray for those persons, congregations, and denominational entities affected by this decision.

"We express regret that the PSW board of directors felt that 'deep differences of theological convictions and values between the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest (ABCPSW) and the American Baptist Churches in the USA (ABCUSA) are understood by the Board of Directors of the ABCPSW as irreconcilable.' (source: ABC-PSW press release on 4/29/06). The churches of this region have been part of the denominational family for many decades, and their presence at the denominational Table will be missed.

"Our regret, however, is tempered by a repudiation of the methods suggested by the ABC PSW board to reconcile these differences. By their insisting that one policy statement (i.e. 1992 statement on homosexuality) becomes THE normative document through which denominational identity, leadership, and even hermeneutics and Baptist principles are understood, the PSW

leadership articulate a fundamentally flawed vision of what it means to be part of the American Baptist Churches/USA. While we regret that the leadership deems withdrawal is necessary, we are more deeply troubled by their insistence in undercutting the values held dear by the Baptist tradition, particular as understood by American Baptists and their Northern Baptist forebears. We affirm that God alone is sovereign over the individual conscience, and that each local church has the responsibility to determine God's calling for that community's time and mission."

The Roger Williams Fellowship is an American Baptist grassroots organization advocating for Baptist principles since 1935. For more information, visit www.rogerwilliamsfellowship.org

TOMORROW! *Governing in an Age of Diversity*

On Thursday, May 4, 2006, DuPage Voices for Racial Justice (DVRJ), in partnership with the Bahá'i Campus Association at College of DuPage and its other co-sponsors will host a public forum on "Governing in an Age of Diversity" featuring Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar, Addison Village President Larry Hartwig and municipal leaders from Oak Brook and Villa Park. The program is open to the public and will begin at 7:30p.m., Thursday, May 4, 2006 in SRC 2800 at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL. The program is the part of a DVRJ series begun in 2001 that has explored issues raised by diversity in DuPage County and the western suburbs. A fall program on "The Native American Experience in the Western Suburbs" is also being planned in collaboration with the Aurora University Native American Museum.

The 2000 Census confirmed that the communities in metropolitan Chicago have never been as diverse as they are today. The trend over the past 15 years continues to show growing numbers of families of Asian, African, and Latin American descent. There are also increasing numbers of individuals in Buddhist, Muslim, and Hindu faith communities joining the existing Christian and Jewish populations.

What does this increasingly diverse mix portend at the municipal level? How is this multi-ethnic flower garden (or salad bowl) affecting municipal government in the county? Inspired by recent census data showing striking increases in the numbers of citizens of African-American, Asian and Latino descent, this series of panel discussions provides an opportunity for all citizens to gain an insight into the actual experience of living in this county of nearly one million people as either a Buddhist or Jew or Muslim, as an ethnic Chinese or Mexican or African-American. What are the challenges? What are the risks? What are the unique opportunities? Are we really a welcoming community? Do we really reflect the spirit of our national motto- "*E pluribus unum*"-or simply pay lip service to it?

These forums, intended as a service to community leaders, students, police departments, policy makers, and community residents at large, are sponsored by the Addison Police Department, AAUW Chapter of Wheaton-Glen Ellyn, the Carol Stream Police Department, the Downers Grove Police Department, the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park, the Bahá'i Campus Association at College of DuPage, Latin Americans United, the Peace & Justice Ministry (Roman Catholic Church - Joliet Diocese), the People's Resource Center, Shalom Education, the West Chicago Police Department, YWCA DuPage, and DuPage Voices for Racial Justice. For further information contact DuPage Voices for Racial Justice, a community organization founded in 1996 and dedicated to eliminating racism in our community, at 630-469-6136. Please check out the flyer attached to this issue of *eWind*.

North Shore Baptist Church Centennial Celebration Continues

North Shore Baptist Church will host the renowned Christian piano artist Ken Medema "in concert" as the conclusion to our Centennial celebrations. The concert will take place at the church, 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago (off-street parking available) at 7 pm on Saturday, May 20, 2006. It will conclude at 9 pm in anticipation of a substantial number of young people present. We are promoting this as a FAMILY EVENT. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$5 children under 12. We are anticipating a huge crowd and request that if your church plans ten or more in attendance, you call in advance. More info at 773-728-4200 or mthornburgh@northshorebaptist.org. Credit cards welcomed.

On Sunday, May 21st, guest preacher to combined congregation worship at 10 am will be former Executive Minister of ABC/Puerto Rico Rev. Yamina Apolinaris. Following the service, the congregation will dedicate their new Centennial Garden, North Shore's Centennial "gift" to the Edgewater community.

American Baptist Personnel Services

Rick Harris of the American Baptist Personnel Services will be available to meet with ministers between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at the ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago. You may phone James Jackson at ABCMC, 773-695-9791 to confirm your plans to drop by during that time frame.

Job Posting for Full-Time Church Office Administrator

Active Community Church seeks an energetic, full-time Office Administrator. Responsibilities include data base management, reception, production of church publications, scheduling and coordination of events, website maintenance. Qualifications: friendly, self-directed person with good writing and organizational skills; excellent attention to detail; computer proficiency. Hours and salary negotiable; medical benefits. Fax or send resume to: Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. Fax: 773.324.3874.

Disciples Dinner

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CLAIMING N A
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First Annual ABC Metro Chicago
DISCIPLES DINNER

Featured Speaker:
A. Roy Medley
General Secretary
ABCUSA

June 10, 2006
6:30 PM

Health Care Sabbath

Save the dates—**September 15-17**—for an observance of Health Care Sabbath in Illinois. Please see the attached flyer for more information about what it means and how you can become involved.

Chicago CROP Walk

The Church Rural Overseas Project will have its annual Chicago CROP walk on October 15. The CROP Walk will raise funds to help fight hunger both locally and around the world. Save the date, and plan to participate. For more information, visit www.chicagocropwalk.org.

Former National Ministries' Indian Ministries Director, Annette Anderson, Dies

by Andrew C. Jayne
American Baptist Churches, USA

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—Annette Anderson, National Ministries' Indian Ministries director from 1973 to 1985, died April 14 in her hometown of Clovis, Calif. She was 75.

While at National Ministries, Anderson proved herself to be devoted to serving others and to possess unusual leadership ability. Her vision for service was shaped by experiences teaching during the 1950s and '60s at Bacone College, her alma mater. In addition, her service as president of the American Baptist Women of the Oklahoma Indian Baptist Association was significant to Anderson, who later wrote: "They gave me more inspiration and spiritual uplift by their Christian witness than they will ever know."

A member of the Mono Tribe, Anderson also served as secretary to the American Baptist Indian Caucus. She was an officer of the Bacone Alumni/ae Association, and served as the association's secretary and president. When Bacone celebrated its 75th anniversary, Anderson was named one of Bacone's 75 outstanding graduates.

Anderson's background of growing up in a church-centered home and her knowledge of American Baptist churches in western Oklahoma — she saw their deep faith and loyalty to the Lord — fueled her desire to become directly involved in Native American ministries within the denomination.

Commenting on Anderson's movement toward direct denominational involvement, Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III, said, "She could see that concern was growing among Native Americans about the future of their churches and she made a commitment to help them."

Anderson graduated from Bacone College, Muskogee, Okla., in 1952. She received a scholarship to Mary Hardin-Baylor College (now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor), Belton, Texas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business. Later, she received her master's in business education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

A memorial service was held for Anderson in Clovis on April 19. Katie Choy Wong, National Ministries' Asian Ministries director when Anderson was with Indian Ministries, and currently pastor of New Life Christian Fellowship in Castro Valley, Calif., officiated.

Condolences may be sent to her niece Pearl Annette Hutchins, PO Box 689, Auberry, CA 93602.

Chinese Church Leaders Exhibit Bibles in Historic U. S. Tour

by Andrew C. Jayne
American Baptist Churches, USA

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—International Ministries (IM) and the American Baptist Churches USA are pleased to support The Bible Ministry Exhibition of the Church in China, which celebrates the amazing work of God in China. The Exhibition will be held in three locations: the Crystal Cathedral in Los Angeles from April 27 to May 4, the Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist

Church in Atlanta from May 19 to 24, and the St. John's Cathedral in New York from June 5 to 12, 2006.

The Exhibition is sponsored by the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement. It will be hosted by Christian churches and organizations like Crystal Cathedral, Saddleback Church, Fuller Seminary, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Presbyterian Church (USA), Emory University, American Bible Society, Episcopal Church of New York and American Baptists.

When the Exhibition was held the first time in Hong Kong, it attracted more than 30,000 visitors. In his speech at the opening ceremony, Bishop K.H. Ting, president of the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, underscored the centrality and significance of the Bible in the life of Chinese Christians. "Christians in China," Ting said, "study the Bible carefully and try to understand the word of God regarding Himself and human life so as to actively respond to the call of proclaiming, in this new century, the good news that God is love."

Rev. Sheng-jie Cao, president of the China Christian Council, shared her joy of seeing the exhibition come to the US. "I know that many Christians in the United States are very concerned about China," said Cao. "They think Chinese Christians have no access to Bibles. The exhibition is intended to bring new understanding between Americans and Chinese, and to create a greater dialogue between Christians in China and the United States."

Since the establishment of the Amity Printing Company in 1988, more than 40 million Bibles have been printed and distributed. Now the company prints about 2.5 million Bibles every year, plus significant quantities of hymnals and Christian literature.

Former President Jimmy Carter supports the Exhibition, stating that it will be "a good learning experience for Americans to see more and more of what is going on in China." Mrs. Ruth Graham, wife of the renowned Dr. Billy Graham, is another honorable guest of the event affirming God's blessings on the land where she was born.

The Exhibition will include six galleries: The History of the Bible in China, the Exciting Bible Publication after 1980, the Dynamic Bible Distribution after 1980, the Bible Ministries for Minority Churches, the Bible and Church Life, and Christian Artwork. Not only will the attendees have a chance to learn the most recent development of church ministry and Christian life in China, they also have an opportunity to see valuable Chinese Bibles dating back to the 18th Century. There will also be music performances by Christians from minority groups.

American Baptist delegations will take part in all three events. Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, ABC General Secretary, and Rev. Charles Jones, IM Acting Executive Director, will represent American Baptists at the exhibition in New York. Rev. Benjamin Chan, IM's area director of East Asia, China and India, has played an active role in the planning and promotion of the event and will be attending the Los Angeles exhibition.

American Baptists have supported the printing of the Bible and mission cooperation based on mutual understanding and respect. The denomination has sponsored church planting, pastoral training, leadership exchange, and a variety of Christian social ministry in China. For more exhibition information, please visit the following websites : www.bibleexhibition.org, www.bibleexhibitatl.org, and www.bibleexhibitny.org.

*William Sloan Coffin Remembered
as a Leading Advocate for Peace and Justice*

by Andrew C. Jayne
American Baptist Churches, USA

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—American Baptists are among many marking the life and ministries of the late Rev. William Sloane Coffin, former senior minister of American Baptist-related Riverside Church in New York City and a leading voice for peace and justice for more than 40 years.

“The spirit of William Sloane Coffin has touched every spot in the sacred space in life and in death,” the Rev. James Forbes, current senior minister at Riverside, noted last Thursday at a memorial service.

Coffin, who died earlier this month at age 81, gained national prominence in the 1960s for his opposition to racial injustice and to the Vietnam War. Ordained as a minister in the United Church of Christ in 1956, Coffin became chaplain at Yale University in 1958. He joined the Freedom Riders and was arrested several times as they demonstrated against segregation in the South. In the mid-1960s he helped lead Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam and was actively involved in civil disobedience and nonviolent demonstrations aimed at ending U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia.

After leaving Yale in 1976, Coffin became senior minister at Riverside, where he continued to be a prominent and persuasive voice for a wide range of peace and justice issues, including nuclear disarmament, poverty, homelessness and the environment. He retired from Riverside in 1987.

“What this country needs, what I think God wants us to do, is not practice piecemeal charity but engage in wholesale justice,” Coffin maintained in a 2004 television interview. “Justice is at the heart of religious faith. When we see Christ empowering the poor, scorning the powerful, healing the world’s hurts, we are seeing transparently the power of God at work.”

Coffin also was a noted speaker and the author of *Living the Truth in a World of Illusions* (Harper and Row, 1985) and other works.

“Often the focus of national media, Bill Coffin brought a distinctly Christian perspective to the volatile issues that challenged U.S. society,” noted the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA. “He lived out the call of Christ to bring good news to the poor, to help the oppressed achieve freedom and to pursue peace and reconciliation. We are grateful for the ways he moved us, prodded us and engaged us, often making us uncomfortable.”

Tapestry 2006: A National Gathering of Welcoming Church Programs

Indianapolis - Tapestry 2006, gathering at the University of Indianapolis June 26-29, will bring together the welcoming church programs of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciple Alliance of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church Coalition for LGBT Concerns. Welcoming Church Programs exist in many denominations to work for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in the church and society. This gathering builds upon the historic ties among Baptist Churches, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ.

Each day of the gathering will focus on a word from the event theme "Live, Love, Laugh and Lead" to lift up the empowering aspects of what it is to be a person of faith in an LGBT-affirming Christian community. Keynote speakers and preachers from the three gathering traditions and others will speak. The schedule includes worship and preaching, workshops, opportunities for small group discussion, and denominational gatherings.

Registration for Tapestry is available <http://www.tapestry2006.org/>.

Registration starts at \$124, \$99 before May 15. Youth registration is also available for those 18 and under. Lodging starts at \$75 and meals plans for \$60. Single day registrations are also available.

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 (I Thessalonians 5:15-18, NRSV).

Please lift up and hold in prayer those whom God is gifting with creativity for the restructuring of ABCUSA.

Please pray for the family and dear ones of Annette Anderson as they mourn her passing, and celebrate her life and ministry.

Please pray for all who knew and appreciated William Sloane Coffin, as they grieve his death and rejoice in the life and ministries that he had.

Please continue to pray for the people of Nepal, especially in the capital city of Kathmandu, where shortages of food and fuel, as well as violence, threaten the well-being of all residents.

Please continue to hold in prayer the Antioch Baptist Telugu Church and their pastor, David Sagar, as they mourn the loss of David's wife Nalini.

Please pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This nation is threatened with food shortages due in part to outmoded farming practices. Please pray especially for IM missionary Ed Noyes as he supports and advises Congolese Baptist Church programs promoting more productive, profitable and sustainable farming techniques.

Please pray for Sheila and Steve Heneise as they leave their time of service with IM in Chile, and seek for ministry opportunities in the U.S.

Please pray for IM missionaries Debbie and John Coats, who are returning to their ministries in Cambodia after time at home in the U.S.

Please pray for our denomination in this time of disappointment at the probable departure of ABC of the Pacific Southwest. May we pray for ABCPSW, and bear in mind that God works for good in all things.

Please pray for ABCMC and the new ministries of our region.

Calendar

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 4—"Governing in an Age of Diversity," 7:30p.m., in SRC 2800 at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn

May 6—Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

May 7—Baptist World Alliance Sunday

May 10—9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., “All Options Clergy Counseling Training” program by The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of Illinois, at St. Paul United Church of Christ, 144 E. Palatine Road, Palatine. Suggested donation is \$20. For information call Rev. Penny Willis at 773 434-8313.

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. For more information about The Leaven Center or to inquire about scholarships, call 989-855-2606 or email 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 17-20—Conference on Spiritual Activism, Washington, DC. For more information go to www.spiritualprogressives.org or phone 510-644-1200.

May 20—Concert by Ken Medema, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m. Phone the church for more information, 773-728-4200.

May 21—North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, welcomes Yamina Apolinaris, former Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico, as guest preacher. Following the worship service, the church will dedicate the new Centennial Garden, North Shore’s Centennial gift to the Edgewater Community.

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. 95th 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 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 10—ABCMC Disciples Dinner.

June 12-13—Pilgrimage to Taizé, France. Please contact Brad Berglund at 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 14-16—ABMen National Conference, Parchment Valley, WV.

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 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.

September 15-17—Health Care Sabbath. More information to come.

October 15—Chicago CROP Walk, starting at Studen Center East on UIC Campus, 750 S. Halstead Street, Chicago. Registration, 1 p.m.; Opening, 2 p.m., Step-Off, 2:15 p.m. Phone 888-297-2767 for more information, or visit www.chicagocropwalk.org.

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