

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

July 5, 2006

“The Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher,
patient, correcting opponents with gentleness” (II Timothy 2: 24-25a).
“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1).

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Viewing an Important Film

This announcement is from Evelyn Perez-Almonte, formerly a member of the pastoral staff of North Shore Baptist Church, and now on the staff of the faith-based organization Esperanza, USA. Please use this announcement as a bulletin insert.

Esperanza, USA, the largest Latino faith-based organization in the United States, would like to extend an invitation to our Spanish-speaking pastors and lay leaders, as well as anyone who understands Spanish, to see the movie premier *NoTe Rindas*. The movie is a drama, not a documentary. The purpose of this movie is to educate and create awareness of the HIV/AIDS crisis among our churches and community groups. Discussion and feedback will take place after the movie. Rev. Hector Cortez, a former pastor of North Shore Baptist Church, and Esperanza’s National Projects Vice-President, will be the host for the program.

Date: Thursday, August 10

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Marriott Medical District Hotel,

625 Ashland Avenue, Chicago
(across from Rush Hospital and junction with I-290)
Cost: Free, including reception with hors d'oeuvres.
RSVP before July 15 to Evelyn Perez-Almonte, 312-731-3858 or eperez-almonte@nueva.org.

Join Church World Service Response to U. S. Flooding

U.S. East Coast—Many towns and cities from Virginia to Vermont have been inundated this past week with heavy rains and flooding. For example, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, some 200,000 residents were ordered to evacuate their homes. Pennsylvania officials are calling the disaster “the worst flooding in 50 years.”

CWS is seeking funds to provide seed grants for long-term recovery groups addressing unmet needs of vulnerable people.

Emergency Clean-up Buckets are urgently needed by CWS. For information on contents of the buckets and where to send them, visit the CWS Kits page at www.churchworldservice.org.

International Ministries Xtreme Teams

International Ministries (IM) announced the Xtreme Team Mission Adventure Program is training two teams of young adults to do mission outreach in the South American countries of Bolivia and Brazil for the summer. With Xtreme Teams, cross-cultural mission service becomes an adventure for American Baptist young adults.

Acting Executive Director, Rev. Charles Jones, said "We are pleased young people can express their faith, explore mission, and examine other cultures in depth through the Xtreme Team ministry of IM. I am sure these young adults will come back excited about the opportunity to bring God glory through this mission experience."

This summer marks the ninth anniversary of the Xtreme Team. Since 1998, teams have engaged nearly 150 young adults, ages 19 to 29, in seeking where and how God may use them in global mission.

“Young adults on the Xtreme Teams learn to Xercise their faith, Xtend their hands in friendship and service, Xpand their world view, Xamine their values and Xplore God’s Word and world,” said Jonathan Hilsher, IM’s Coordinator of Volunteers in Global Mission. Hilsher said the Xtreme Teams provide opportunities for team members and their hosts to witness God at work.

Team members post regular online journals, photos and slideshows to highlight their Xperiences throughout the trip. To follow the adventures of this year’s teams online, visit www.xtremeteamonline.org.

Position Opening at Voices for Illinois Children

In keeping with ABCMC’s current emphasis on ministry with children living in poverty, we share with you this announcement from Voices for Illinois Children.

Background:

A+ Illinois is a major campaign of more than 100 organizations and thousands of individuals across the state committed to real reform in the quality and funding of public education for all Illinois children. Partner organizations include AFSCME Council 31, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, Chicago Urban League, Illinois Education Association, Illinois Farm Bureau,

Illinois Federation of Teachers, Metropolitan Planning Council, Tax Policy Forum and Voices for Illinois Children.

Position Description:

Voices for Illinois Children seeks to employ on A+ Illinois' behalf a Deputy Campaign Manager to lead statewide field operations and coordinate day-to-day campaign operations to advance public education and policy change on education funding, school quality and tax reform. The Deputy Campaign Manager will be responsible for conducting outreach and leading a team of organizers and volunteers to mobilize communities and key constituents statewide. The Deputy Campaign Manager will build support for public policies that meet the A+ Illinois principles (see www.aplusillinois.org). The ultimate goal of this project will be the enactment of comprehensive statewide reforms that meet the A+ Illinois principles.

The Deputy Campaign Manager will report to the A+ Illinois Campaign Manager and supervise field organizers across the state. The position will involve periodic travel, for which he/she will be reimbursed at the prevailing federal rate, and applicants must have their own reliable vehicle and proof of a valid driver's license.

The Deputy Campaign Manager is a full-time employment position with benefits, with compensation commensurate with the individual's experience. This position is an employed position that will expire on May 31, 2007. The individual will be employed and paid by Voices for Illinois Children, a partner organization of A+ Illinois. The individual hired into this position will receive the same employment benefits as other similarly situated employees at Voices for Illinois Children. The time demands of this position preclude outside employment, and an immediate start date is preferred.

Project Goals:

Voices for Illinois Children expects the Deputy Campaign Manager to accomplish the following project goals:

- Develop and implement an organizing strategy based on legislative targets that will include a statewide petition drive and may include door-to-door surveys and other outreach activities
- Hire, manage, and evaluate field organizers across the state to:
 - Educate and secure active support of constituents in key geographies and key target groups
 - Lead efforts to create and expand local campaign committees for school funding and tax reform including building a volunteer base at the local level
 - Devise and help implement a variety of localized organizing tactics to achieve goals (e.g. community events, candidate forums, rallies, circulating petitions, grassroots contact with elected officials, etc.)
 - Generate communications from local supporters to local media (e.g. letters to the editors)
 - Expand A+ Illinois' membership
- Engage and leverage members of large A+ Illinois member organizations such as the Illinois Farm Bureau, Chicago Urban League, Illinois Education Association, and AFSCME
- Coordinate outreach/organizing staff from member groups of the coalition
- Assist in development, revision and direction of earned media, paid media, telemarketing, internet and direct mail plans in support of field organizing efforts

Preferred Experience:

- Minimum of 2-5 years in organizing large-scale issue, legislative or electoral campaign campaigns (State level electoral campaign experience preferred)

- Experience developing an organizing plan
- Experience implementing diverse organizing tactics (e.g. local events, electronic advocacy, circulating petitions, etc.)
- Demonstrated track record of building relationships with diverse constituencies
- Past success in reaching campaign goals
- Supervisory and teamwork skills to coordinate regional organizers and multiple players in other organizations
- Knowledge of communities across Illinois and experience working statewide
- Positive relationships with a range of opinion leaders and elected officials
- Strong communications skills, especially writing and public speaking
- Capacity to execute and track details of an organizing plan

Voices for Illinois Children is an equal opportunity employer.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter and resume to: Bindu Batchu, A+ Illinois, 25 E. Washington Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60602 or bbatchu@aplusillinois.org. No phone calls please.

Pre-Biennial Ministry Event

The Ministers Council, the Campus Ministers Association and International Ministries of American Baptist Churches invite you to "MINISTRY IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS," a Pre-Biennial event in DC on Friday, June 29, 2007, from 9 am until noon. The event is being designed to lead clergy in reflection on what it takes to be faithful and effective Church in such a time as this.

Speakers are Diana Butler Bass, who has just completed her work as Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Project on Congregations of Intentional Practice, a Lilly Endowment funded study of mainline Protestant vitality. She holds a Ph.D. in American religious history from Duke University and is the author of four critically acclaimed books. *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church* (Alban, 2004) has been featured in *The Christian Century* and *Sojourners Magazine*. *Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship* (Jossey-Bass, 2004) received enthusiastic praise and was excerpted in several publications. She will speak on learnings about practices that build communal vitality. You may access further information about her online at <http://www.practicingcongregations.org> and <http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/resources/?hce>.

Parush Parushav from Prague will also speak that day, bringing wisdom from other parts of the world on how to be Church in postmodernity. He will speak from learnings in a European context that inform our context, because in postmodernity everywhere the Church faces similar dynamics. More information on his background will be available soon.

We believe that their expertise as well as their hopeful, positive spirit will offer great insight and modeling for pastoral leaders of the American Baptist Churches and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

This event is groundbreaking in the bringing together of ABC and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) pastoral leaders for a national event, as well as in the sponsorship by the professional society and ABC clergy, the body of campus ministers, and the international missions organization. We anticipate an attendance of perhaps 1,000 pastoral leaders, since the event will occur at the time of ABC and CBF national meetings.

Church World Service Seeks to Help Darfur

This article is from Church World Service.

Sudan—As violence continues in the Darfur region of western Sudan, CWS is assisting partners in addressing the needs of uprooted families. Since June 2004, more than 470,000 people have received assistance through the Action by Churches Together-Caritas coalition, of which CWS is a part.

This year CWS has helped to provide water cans, cooking utensils, mosquito nets, blankets, and sleeping mats for people displaced by violence in Darfur. In addition, 32 borehole wells have been drilled and two repaired, four shallow wells dug and two rehabilitated, and 13 new hand pumps installed. Chlorinated water-bladder systems are also providing safe water in the camps.

Also, through coalition efforts, some 51 school and pit latrines have been constructed, and insecticide spraying to control vector-spread disease is benefiting 18,000 households in the town of Zalengei. In addition, primary health care clinics are seeing more than 21,000 patients per month, and counseling services are being provided.

Twelve nutrition teams are operating in South and West Darfur. Some 18,000 farmers received seeds and training, and some 16,000 students have received school materials. Four schools have been weatherized.

CWS assistance is also helping to provide training in peace-building, conflict resolution, human rights, and protection issues.

Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bill Frist have added their names to the “Million Voices for Darfur Campaign” postcard. The postcard is part of the CWS-supported Save Darfur campaign, urging President Bush to advocate for a UN Peacekeeping force to protect the people of Darfur.

Denominational Discounts for PurposeDriven Programs

We are very glad to tell you that PurposeDriven is again offering a discount to American Baptist Churches USA for those churches who want to participate in 40 Days of Purpose or 40 Days of Community. The discount is limited to \$100 for these fall campaigns; total cost to the church would be \$300. An information sheet is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Ministers Council News

Summer Gatherings

The Ministers Council of ABCMC will host gatherings of Professional Church Leaders (PCLs) and families in clusters by location of PCL residences. Phone President Doug Harris at North Shore Baptist Church, 773-728-4200, for more information.

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.

Position Opening at National Ministries

National Ministries is currently seeking a qualified candidate to serve as Multimedia Specialist. This position is open immediately.

Key Duties and Responsibilities The Multimedia Specialist position is primarily responsible for developing and producing interpretive electronic communications, such as multimedia presentations and Web pages. The Multimedia Specialist also provides training and technical support to other staff for electronic media and equipment operation. This position coordinates and oversees work with multimedia vendors and contractors. As a member of the communications team, this position is also responsible for writing press releases, and assists in other writing and reporting assignments. This position requires occasional travel.

Competencies and Skills Required The successful candidate will be proficient with PC and MAC computer operating systems as well as MS Office (including PowerPoint), Photoshop, Acrobat, Media 100 and other multimedia software. Knowledge of HTML is required, as is knowledge of digital photography and video editing. The successful candidate will be a service-oriented, self-motivated team player willing to work hard.

Education and Experience The successful candidate will hold an Associate's degree in technology, multimedia or communications, or the equivalent experience. A minimum of two years experience in multimedia or technology field is required. A minimum of one year work experience in a media/communications office environment is required. Work experience in a faith-based or not-for-profit organization is preferred.

National Ministries values diversity, integrity, stewardship, teamwork and collaboration. National Ministries offers employees the opportunity to grow in their personal and professional skills. Our compensation package is competitive, including membership in the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board retirement plan.

If you are interested or know of someone who would qualify for this position, please submit a resumé by **AUGUST 31, 2006** to: Laura Miraz, Staff Services, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851. You may also send it by fax, 610-768-2409 or email, laura.miraz@abc-usa.org.

For more information on National Ministries, visit <http://www.nationalministries.org/>

National Ministries is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Historical Society Held

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—President Trinette McCray reported on Sunday, June 25th, to the General Board of the American Baptist Churches, USA, about her vision for providing Baptist youth with an understanding of their roots on which to build a healthy future. It is in that context, she explained, that the Historical Society plans to consolidate its collections and operations at a single location and is forward looking to aid a new generation in Baptist life. For this reason, the site and new partners selected will be a place of collaboration in this work of education and formation—not just a warehouse large enough to put “the stuff” in our holdings.

Those present voted to elect Garth Brokaw to the Historical Society's Board of Managers. Managers now include President McCray, Vice President Wesley Roberts, Treasurer Melva Gray, Secretary Carla Romarate-Kniple, Professional Standards Chairperson, Sally Dodgson, Development Chairperson Loris Coletta, and Research & Publication Chair Beverly Mitchell. Other continuing board members are Esther Irish (past president), Mary Alice Brake, Mary Purcell, Leroy Gilbert, William R. Scott, J. Samuel Escobar, John C. B. Webster, and Henry A. Pedersen, each of whom welcomes conversation about consolidation or other Historical Society concerns.

Reporting on operations, Executive Director Deborah Van Broekhoven thanked the many volunteers who assisted with the temporary move in Rochester and who rescue or sort records enabling staff to make new collections available to researchers. In order to reach more congregations with information about how to preserve and share their own history, she noted, the Historical Society is seeking representatives who are willing to take a display or otherwise share the Society's ministry of memory at meetings in their regions.

McCray and Van Broekhoven also invited General Board members and staff to an informal discussion about the three current sites under closest consideration: Canonicus Conference Center (RI), Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (Rochester, NY), and Mercer University (Atlanta, GA). They explained the schedule for the decision, with revised proposals due by August 1 st, so that the full ABHS board can review and select the site at their meeting the third weekend of September, 2006.

Dr. McCray welcomed a variety of questions about each site as well as comments about other possible sites. She noted that now was the time for supporters to share information, comments, or concerns with the Historical Society board, since they would be comparing the merits of proposals in August in order to discern and make the best possible decision that would place the Historical Society in the mainstream of Baptist life and scholarly research and study. This move will be pivotal in bringing new relevance to Baptist history as it conveys messages for the present and future generations.

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 the ABCUSA and ABCMC families in prayer.

Please pray for Rev. Dr. Craig Jenkins, pastor of Beth Eden Baptist Church in Chicago, as he recovers from successful surgery last week.

Calendar

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 17—Ecumenical Millennium Committee (EMC) Meeting, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Archdiocese of Chicago Pastoral Center, 155 E. Superior St., Chicago, 6th Floor Conference Room. This is a special summer meeting to discuss planning for the 2008 National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), currently scheduled for 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 for more information and registration.

July 29-August 2—American Baptist Campus Ministers Association gathering at Green Lake Conference Center. For more information, visit www.nationalministries.org.

August 10—6 p.m. premiere of film *No Te Rindas*, sponsored by Esperanza USA, Marriott Medical District Hotel, 625 Ashland Avenue, Chicago (across from Rush Hospital and junction with I-290). Free, including reception with hors d'oeuvres. **RSVP before July 15** to Evelyn Perez-Almonte, 312-731-3858 or eperez-almonte@nueva.org.

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.

June 29-July 2—ABCUSA Biennial Meeting and Centennial Celebration in Washington, D.C. The biennial's theme will be "Arise and Shine."

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. 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.