

*Metro Chicago*

## *Wind*

*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 19, 2006**

“As [Jesus] came near and saw [Jerusalem], he wept over it, saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’”  
Luke 19:41-42

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### *ABC Missionaries in Lebanon*

We received this word from International Ministries on Friday, July 13.

International Ministries (IM) has confirmed missionaries Dan and Sarah Chetti and volunteer Jennifer Wallace are safe in the Middle East country of Lebanon following Israeli air strikes Thursday on the capital city of Beirut. The Chettis serve at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. Jennifer Wallace, from the First Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ohio, is currently a volunteer at the seminary.

IM staff is in continuing contact with Wallace, the Chettis and the seminary. Rev. Reid Trulson, IM's area director for Europe and the Middle East, is urging American Baptists to be in prayer for our personnel, the students and staff of the seminary as well as the people of Lebanon and Israel.

According to media reports, fighters from Hezbollah – considered a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States -- launched a Wednesday morning assault into Israel, killing six Israeli soldiers, and kidnapping several others. Hezbollah reportedly hopes to swap the Israeli soldiers for the several hundred Hezbollah fighters now in Israeli prisons. In response, Israel sent armored forces into southern Lebanon for the first time in six years and bombed the runways at Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut, shutting down the facility. Israeli naval ships are also blockading Lebanon's ports, to prevent Hezbollah from receiving weapons shipments.

## *Stewardship and Sightings*

TO: ABCMC Family

FROM: Larry Greenfield

Each Monday my longtime friend and colleague, Martin Marty, writes a column for an electronic publication called SIGHTINGS, which comes from the Marty Center at the University of Chicago. The column always relates religion to some dimension of public life (understood in its widest sense). A second edition of SIGHTINGS comes out each Thursday, with essays on a variety of religion/public life themes authored by others. The publication is free just for the time and effort it takes to subscribe (see below at the bottom of this article).

I'm sharing this week's column by Marty on stewardship because I think you'll find it of interest. But, come to think of it, most of his essays here fit that category, too. So I encourage you to subscribe.

Sightings 7/17/06

The Joy of Stewardship  
-- Martin E. Marty

Religious commentators have had much to say (as well they should) over the recent philanthropic moves of Warren Buffett and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Among the critics, one offers theological and logical emphases that bear examination. John J. Miller, who has written at book length on the John M. Olin Foundation, and who writes regular columns for the National Review, now in the Wall Street Journal says some nice things about Buffett and the Gateses ("Open the FloodGates," July 7). But he is not happy with all their grants, and he wants them to model their work on the Olin Foundation, which chose to self-destruct. Those are worthy themes, but they are not at issue here. One thing that is at issue is stewardship.

Miller lunges right in when he hears Bill Gates list among his "motives behind dispensing untold billions" the sense that "we really owe it to society to give the wealth back." To Miller that line is "a cliché, but a strange one," as he then asks, "Are we to assume that [Gates] has spent his adult life 'taking away' -- as if he and the other parasites at Microsoft must make amends for having sucked the life out of the U.S. economy? Surely there are better reasons to embark upon the world's biggest grant-making program than to salve the conscience of a guy who has no business feeling guilty in the first place. If Mr. Gates views his foundations as a vehicle for guilt riddance, etc.,..." Enough.

I can't believe Mr. Miller was even trying to be fair. I have not read the complete works of the Gateses, and may have missed something in the Forbes and Fortune quotes by them on the subject, but I do not recall any reference to or sign of guilt, or repentance over any "parasitism."

And though not a professional Gates-watcher, I have not been struck by any sense that he wants to salve his conscience. Miller sometimes writes on Catholicism with favor, but I don't find in him a trace of Catholic social teaching (since 1891) or biblical teaching on a simple, clear, direct theme that has nothing to do with guilt or conscience-salving: again, it's stewardship. Add another that is totally missing in this criticism: gratitude. One more: sharing common life. Jesus' parable about the rich guy who piled up wealth in his barns but did not tend to his soul calls the man "thou fool." Won't that be the judgment on all Catholics and Christians at large and heirs of the vaunted "values" system called Judeo-Christian or humanism, if those identified with these systems find no reasons to "give back," and if they do not then "give back"?

The joy of stewardship is that it frees the rich and the poor of the need for being egotistic and greedy, for claiming to be self-made and then worshipping their creators -- themselves. It asks us to steward the earth's resources for the sake of the earth and the community and the future, and gratefully to acknowledge the Creator of those resources. "Giving back" is just about the highest theologically based motive. Sorry if that's a cliché, but it has become so for having been stressed so frequently in the scriptures and traditions. Neither guilt, nor salving, nor repentance over parasitism or for having sucked up resources are behind most people's "giving back." Perhaps they are not for these philanthropists either.

So much for theology. Logically, where would Gates, Buffett, Miller, or Marty (quite a gulf and gap in the middle of that four-name group!) be, were not our "society" in the past made up of people who homesteaded, invested, built, invented; served on college boards and in the military; donated to charities and provided tools and power without which...? Again, enough. Capitalism of the sort that Miller presents will self-destruct as did the Olin Foundation. But the Olin people did it by choice; we would do it by destiny.

Sightings comes from the <http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/>>Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago Divinity School, <http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/sightings/index.shtml>

Subscribe unsubscribe, or manage your subscription at the Sightings <https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/sightings>subscription> page.

### *Light Bulbs, Global Warming, and Christian Faith*

TO: ABCMC Family

FROM: Larry Greenfield

RE: Light Bulbs, Global Warming, and Christian Faith

That's quite a combination, huh--light bulbs, global warming, and Christian faith?

But I'm increasingly convinced they all are related. And add financial stewardship as well.

The information sheet below comes from a very highly respected organization--the Environmental Law & Policy Center--located here in Chicago.

We all can add the theological case for energy conservation out of the Bible and Christian thought.

Here's what I am asking you to consider:

- 1) Share the information with members of your congregation.
- 2) Ask that your Board of Trustees and/or Church Council consider a policy of using compact

fluorescent light bulbs wherever possible in the church.

3) Pass this information along to other friends and colleagues.

Remember, we're doing this not just for ourselves but for generations to come.

## **Global Warming Solutions**

### **Public Campaign #1**

#### **Buy Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs - Reduce Global Warming Pollution Now, Save the Planet, Save Money**

Global warming is the challenge of our times. Public policy reforms are essential to solve global warming problems and save the planet for future generations. Here's what we can do now in our homes and businesses to be part of the solution:

#### **Replace regular light bulbs with Energy-Saving Compact Fluorescent Lights**

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are energy efficient and screw into standard sockets. They produce the same quality of light and come in many of the same shapes as regular light bulbs. Learn more at <http://actionnetwork.org/ct/xpLS3fK1oXOW/>.

CFLs produce 75% less global warming pollution than regular light bulbs. That's because each CFL uses only 25% of the electricity to produce the same amount of light as a regular bulb.

CFLs save us money on electricity bills

Even after accounting for the higher cost of the CFLs, replacing just 10 of your highest-use regular light bulbs with CFLs will save you more than \$110/year! And, the CFLs last 7-10 times longer. Go to <http://actionnetwork.org/ct/xpLS3fK1oXOW/> to find out more.

Where can we buy them? Go to <http://actionnetwork.org/ct/xdLS3fK1oXO6/> and just type in your zip code and check the CFL box to get a list of nearby stores.

Pass this on to more people! Join the CFL Campaign!

Forward this email to your friends and families to engage them in helping to solve our global warming problems. Join this Global Warming Solutions Action Campaign! Make a difference! Working together, we can solve the global warming challenges of our generation. > Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Please help spread the word about the Global Warming Solutions Campaign. Engage your friends and families in helping us to solve our global warming problems. Visit [www.globalwarmingsolutions.org](http://www.globalwarmingsolutions.org) and tell your friends!

### ***Culto Unido de Las Iglesias Bautistas Hispanas de Metro Chicago***

Culto unido de Las Iglesias Bautistas Hispanas de Metro Chicago

Fecha: sabado 9 de septiembre, 06

Lugar: Iglesia Bautista Misionera

Direccion: 6715 S Hamlin Ave Chicago, Il 60629 tel. 708/288-1351

Nota especial: en este culto unido estaremos celebrando el acto de instalacion del pastor de la Iglesia Misionera, José Nunez. La adoracion y la predicación estarán a cargo de la iglesia local y al final tendremos una cena.

Tanto la iglesia local como su nuevo pastor, el hno. Nunez esperan el apoyo de todos los pastores/as e iglesias hispanas para este importante culto de instalacion. Los esperamos.

Para mas información llame al pastor Almonte: 773/784-2479

### *Joint Worship Service of ABCMC's Hispanic Congregations*

ABCMC's Hispanic congregations will gather for a joint worship service on Saturday, September 9 at Iglesia Bautista Misionera, 6715 S. Hamlin Avenue in Chicago. In this service we will celebrate the installation of José Nunez as pastor of Iglesia Bautista Misionera. The local church will be in charge of the worship and preaching. A dinner will follow. For more information, please phone ABCMC's Hispanic Coordinator, Omar Almonte, 773-784-2479.

### *Fifth Sunday Unity Service*

On July 30, at 6:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church will welcome Rev. Dr. Joseph Atta-Funn to their pulpit for the next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Unity Service—Celebrating Diversity. Joseph is the pastor of ABCMC's new Sub-Saharan African church plant. Joseph will be the speaker, and the congregation will celebrate with African music. After the service, they will experience a taste of Africa, with a variety of traditional African foods.

This will be a special service, a fundraiser to help the new church plant get off to a strong start. All ABCMC congregations are invited to attend. The church is at 4401 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago. A flyer about the service is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

### *What is it with One of the Girls?*

Tripp Hudgins, pastor of the Community Church of Wilmette, sent us this invitation.

Is One of the Girls taking the suburbs by storm? Eh, who can say?

One of the Girls, a laudable blueirishfolkgrass band, will be appearing on the lawn at the Community Church of Wilmette on Sunday, July 23rd, at 6:30pm. The concert is free. The ice cream and cake are free. You will likely be charged a scandalous price for beverages. What rapture! What joy!

The address:  
Community Church of Wilmette  
1020 Forest Ave.  
Wilmette IL 60091

The time: 6:30pm until the cops cut us off.

For further information call the church at 847-251-4370. In case of rain, the concert will be in the basement...so too will the ice cream.

### *Healthcare Sabbath*

TO: ABCMC LEADERS

FROM: Larry Greenfield  
RE: Healthcare Sabbath (September 17)

I write to encourage you to make plans now to observe **Healthcare Sabbath on, Sunday, September 17.**

American Baptists have a long history in health care ministries, with hospitals, clinics, chaplaincies, and policy advocacy.

And certainly there is an urgent need now for American Baptists, joining with other people of faith, to be involved in efforts to make quality and affordable health care available to everyone. (See the enclosed ABCUSA Policy Statement on Health Care.)

We are part of the Health Care Justice Faith Caucus, which is organizing the Healthcare Sabbath this September. A packet with excellent resources for worship, preaching, education, and advocacy is available.

If you would like to look through the materials available, I'll be happy to send them to you. Simply write, e-mail, or call the office and we'll get them to you.

I very much hope you will be willing to do this.

*ABCUSA Resolution on Health Care for All*

**8193:11/91**

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON HEALTH CARE FOR ALL**

Healing is a significant sign and metaphor of biblical faith. The prophets of the Old Testament and Jesus himself were healers. Physical well-being was valued for its own sake as well as a sign of hope for the day when everyone would share equally in the blessings of shalom.

Many of Jesus' miracles were miracles of healing. He touched and healed lepers, restored sight, caused the lame to walk and renewed the life of the woman who had suffered for years with a flow of blood. Christ's example (Mark 6:53-56) has inspired countless Christian health care workers including those serving as missionaries. Clearly, we have understood Jesus' concern for physical well-being as a commission to carry on that work of healing.

Today in the United States we have a health care system that is in crisis. Health care providers, health office workers, health support staff, insurers, and payers form a patchwork system without any coordination based on policy.

Health statistics tell an ugly story. At any given time about 35 million people in the U.S.,

one-seventh of the population, have no health care coverage. They are not covered by private insurance, employer-based insurance or government programs. Another 60 million people, including a large proportion of the elderly, do not have adequate coverage.

In the U.S. we pay more for health care than other industrialized nations and get less for our money. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates the total cost of health care in the U.S. in 1992 to exceed \$800 billion, 13% of the gross national product. These dollars and percentages are rising daily.

Many people do not have health insurance and therefore go without basic health care. They see physicians less often and die younger than those with insurance. Even people with apparently good health insurance coverage have hidden vulnerabilities when faced with paying for expensive medical conditions. Catastrophic accidents or chronic long-term needs can bankrupt a family.

Efforts at shifting costs among government agencies, private insurers, and individual payers drain enormous amounts of energy and attention, and create enormous additional bureaucratic and regulatory costs beyond the costs for the health care itself.

Powerful forces seek to preserve the status quo, but we as American Baptists, like many other citizens and public officials, believe that the time has come for significant change.

Three general approaches dominate the national debate on universal access to health care. One would merely seek to reform current health insurance programs. The second is an aggregate of proposals under the umbrella term, "managed competition." The third, the "single-payer" approach, is a publicly financed system based on taxes with benefits paid by the government and with services delivered by the government and with services provided by a mix of private and public providers, as Canada does. All have negatives as well as benefits.

In accordance with our 1975 Policy Statement on Health Care, we believe that health care should be viewed as a right, not a privilege, and that the basic goal for health care reform should be universal access to comprehensive benefits.

Therefore, as American Baptists, we urge the President and Congress to work together expeditiously to enact a major program of health care reform which will extend health care coverage to every person in the United States.

We seek a national health care system that:

- serves everyone in the United States
- provides comprehensive access, care, and services
- is sensitive to the needs and rights of health workers, patients, and their cultures
- promotes health awareness, disease prevention, nutrition, fitness, and safety

- slows the upward spiral of costs
- draws financial support from the broad base of the entire nation
- reduces unnecessary administrative costs
- reduces inappropriate medical procedures

Adopted by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches - June 1992

167 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstentions

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - June 1993

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1994

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1998

(General Board Reference # - 8193:11/91)

## **Policy Base**

### **Policy Statement on Health, Healing and Wholeness**

- advocate for the availability of, access to, and funding for quality health care for all persons; and
- advocate for availability of, access to, and funding for quality health care for all persons; and
- advocate for legislative health care measures.

### **American Baptist Policy Statement on Health Care**

As American Baptists we affirm and support programs, legislation, research and other formulations which help develop a new comprehensive health care delivery system which provides quality services for all people.

1. Make health care resources, private and public, available in keeping with the total needs of people, rather than on the basis of economic, geographic or racial factors;
3. Provide equitable health care for all residents of the U.S.A. by eliminating financial barriers

### ***ABCMSA Policy Statement on Health Care***

7018:11/75

### **AMERICAN BAPTIST POLICY STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE**

As American Baptists we affirm and support programs, legislation, research and other formulations which help develop a new comprehensive health care delivery system which provides quality services for all

people.

Health is the harmonious integration of body, mind and spirit illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Health is experienced in holistic ways including individual and communal dimensions. It is seen in a perspective of totality and comprehensiveness which provides each person with the opportunity and the strength for self-expression and fulfillment.

Therefore, we support programs which:

1. Make health care resources, private and public, available in keeping with the total needs of people, rather than on the basis of economic, geographic or racial factors;
2. Direct health care resources toward the prevention of disease and the maintenance of health as well as toward the treatment of illness;
3. Provide equitable health care for all residents of the U.S.A. by eliminating financial barriers;
4. Provide professional education and training for medical, paraprofessional and ancillary specialties without regard to economic resources, race, gender, social class or marital status, provided that the students qualify in accordance with public standards and in numbers that meet the needs of the people of the United States;
5. Secure consumer control over medical health services through appropriate representation on boards, committees and agencies.

Adopted by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches -  
November 1975  
(General Board Reference # - 7018:11/75)

### *Healthcare Sabbath Speakers*

Betsy Ritzman, Director of AIDS Pastoral Care Network, has let us know that she personally and her staff as well are available to do pulpit supply or guest preaching in observance of the Healthcare Sabbath. You can reach Betsy at 773.257.6770 or [betsyritz@comcast.net](mailto:betsyritz@comcast.net).

### *A Fresh Wind for Ministry*

#### *A Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future Conference*

This invitation is from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Join church and ministry leaders, theologians and laity for the inaugural conference on "The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future"--a challenge issued for evangelicals to rediscover their common mission and be energized by the Holy Spirit for ministry! At this historic conference December 7-9, sponsored by Northern Seminary, Baker Books, the Institute for Worship Studies

and *Christianity Today* magazine, you can explore the church's role in life, spirituality and worship. You can also begin to realize the potential for transformational ministry!

Special speakers include: Robert Webber, author of *Ancient Future Faith* and *The Younger Evangelicals* and Myers Chair of Ministry (Northern Baptist Theological Seminary); Brian McLaren, author of *A New Kind of Christian* and one of this century's leaders in contemporary ministry; Martin E. Marty, the well-respected religious historian at the University of Chicago and author of *When Faiths Collide*; Aaron Flores, pastor and co-founder of Union ministry (Irvine, CA) and emergent church planter; Frederica Mathewes-Green, speaker, writer & author of seven books on ministry and life including *First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journey through the Cannon of St. Andrew*; Lauren Winner, speaker and author of *Mudhouse Sabbath*.

"The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future" conference will be held at Northern Seminary (Lombard, IL) at the Lindner Conference Center. For cost and registration information go to: [www.growcenter.org](http://www.growcenter.org).

### *Church World Service Decries Bush's Approval of Cuba Report and Aid Restrictions*

The following article is from Church World Service, an organization of which ABC is a part.

**NEW YORK** -- Humanitarian agency Church World Service has voiced deep displeasure at President Bush's approval today of the report issued by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Cuban-American Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, co-chairs of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba. Church World Service says the report, if adhered to, severely restricts humanitarian aid to Cuba and the exercise of religious freedom.

The commission's report calls for cessation of licensing for humanitarian agencies to dispense aid to Cuba through organizations the U.S. considers linked to the Cuban government. The report specifically names the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC). The Cuban Council of Churches is established by the traditional Protestant churches of Cuba as their national council of churches and is regarded as such by churches and ecumenical councils throughout the world. Church World Service considers the Cuban Council of Churches an ecumenical partner and has channeled millions of dollars in aid through the council since before the Castro regime.

The Commission report language suggests that agricultural and medical commodities will be allowed, though Church World Service regards this as by no means certain. Other humanitarian items, such as blankets, school kits, and sewing supplies, and any other non-food and medicine aid will certainly be off-limits through the Cuban Council of Churches. Restricting this aid amid predictions for one of the worst hurricane seasons ever is unwise and inhumane, according to CWS leaders.

Following the press conference at which Rice and Gutierrez officially announced the report, Church World Service Executive Rev. John L. McCullough said, "I will now be looking at our next course of action. We don't intend to let this rest at this point unless we have no recourse." McCullough, Church World Service and its constituents are stating that the administration's policy, which also tightens visits to Cuba by certain ecumenical groups, academic groups and others, also flies in the face of religious freedom.

"Virtually every other country—including the U.S.' two nearest neighbors and NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico—maintain normal relations with Cuba and do not place impediments in the way of church relationships," McCullough said. "Only the U.S. pursues this misguided policy. Insofar as claims of 'U.S. leadership' go," he said, "one cannot claim to lead where others will not follow." The World Council of Churches and Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), as

members of the world ecumenical family, echoed the plea for protection of aid and travel permissions voiced by Church World Service and the National Council of Churches USA.

The Bush administration's thrust, as detailed in the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba report, is aimed at accelerating Cuba's post-Castro transition to adopting democracy. The report calls for an \$80 million program to bolster that transition. Anticipating that the commission report's resulting restrictions might be approved by Bush, Church World Service had enlisted ecumenical and church bodies worldwide as well as its own constituents to urge Secretary Rice and the President to lessen, not tighten, restrictions on aid provisions and travel to Cuba. In response, World Council of Churches (WCC) General Secretary Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia told President Bush in a letter to today, "We strongly feel that it is completely inappropriate for the US Government, or any government, to determine who is and who is not a legitimate national council of churches, and to restrict or deny Christian fellowship and humanitarian assistance to any particular national church council, including the Cuban Council of Churches."

Responding to the administration's announcement, the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) said in a letter to the White House, "The USA government has for many years tried to address the Cuban situation from positions of isolation and tightening of regulations," and asked, "Is it not a time for dialogue and reconciliation without neglecting the principles of justice?"

"Before the Commerce Department actually changes its licensing guidelines on aid to Cuba, Church World Service will call on all Americans who cherish religious freedom to speak out against the implementation of this recommendation," said CWS's McCullough. "CWS also hopes that our allies in Congress will help us prevent this policy from being implemented." Church World Service is also looking into the possibility of a lawsuit.

As of the Bush administration announcement, McCullough says, "We've distributed action alerts nationwide to our constituents and urged our member denominations to keep focus on the religious freedom issues at stake here by the administration's limiting the way faith-based organizations may carry out their mission with like partners in Cuba. Or elsewhere."

Click on these colored letters to email President Bush and Secretary Rice and **Urge them not to ban aid through the Cuban Council of Churches**

Click on these colored letters to sign a petition **to oppose curtailment of humanitarian aid to Cuba**

## *Paralegal Position*

This is from the law firm of Mauck and Baker.

Paralegal for small Chicago law firm providing a friendly, dedicated working environment, and a practice concentrating in the representation of Churches and Christian Organizations. The candidate should have working knowledge, experience, organizational skills and be detail oriented in real estate, estate planning, probate and corporate law. Responsibilities include drafting legal documents and correspondence, managing files and interacting with clients. Resumes should be sent by fax to Lisa S. Freeman (312) 726-1039.

## *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.

## 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.

### *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 Dan and Sarah Chetti, their daughter Rachel, who is 16 years old, and for Jennifer Wallace.

Please pray for the students and other staff at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut.

Please hold in prayer the people of Lebanon and of Israel.

Please pray for the health of IM missionaries Carlos and Mayra Bonilla and their children, Alberto - 9, Carolina - 7 and Daniela - 2. All have been suffering from viral illnesses while they have been making a transition from the U.S. and Puerto Rico to their current place of ministry in Chile.

Please pray for Karen Smith, IM missionary in Thailand. She is recovering from Dengue fever.

Please pray for IM missionary Jeff Dieselberg in Thailand. Jeff is recovering from contusions from an accident.

Pray for IM's upcoming Conference for Missionaries and for the World Mission Conference, soon to begin in Green Lake. Pray for all traveling, especially our international guests, and for a blessed gathering that will exalt the name of the Lord and further the global mission that God has given us.

## *Calendar*

**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.

**July 29-August 2**—American Baptist Campus Ministers Association gathering at Green Lake Conference Center. For more information, visit [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org).

**July 30**—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Unity Service—Celebrating Diversity, 6:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Joseph Atta-Fynn, pastor of ABCMC's new Sub-Saharan African congregation, will be speaker. "Taste of Africa" will take place following the service.

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

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

**September 9**—Culto unido de Las Iglesias Bautistas Hispanas de Metro Chicago, el sábado 9 de septiembre, 06, Iglesia Bautista Misionera, 6715 S Hamlin Ave Chicago, IL 60629 tel. 708/288-1351. Para mas información llame al pastor Almonte: 773/784-2479

**September 17**—Healthcare Sabbath

**November 10-11**—ABCMC Annual Meeting.

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

**December 7-9**—"The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future" conference, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, at the Lindner Conference Center. For cost and registration information go to [www.growcenter.org](http://www.growcenter.org).

**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."

**April 14-17, 2008**—National Workshop on Christian Unity.

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