

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

August 2, 2006

In this Issue

Ghana Baptist Partnership
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
Church World Service Urges Safe Corridor for Humanitarian Response in Lebanon
Lebanese Christian Leader Will Address World Mission Conference
Church World Service in Lebanon
Church World Service in Indonesia
Church World Service in Pakistan
Afraid for the Children of Lebanon
Church Coalition Staffer in Beirut Warns of 'Underground Disaster'
Radio Interview Features American Baptist Pastor and Author
American Baptists Contribute to Latest Release of Hunger for the Word Resource
Culto Unido de las Iglesias Bautistas Hispanas de Metro Chicago
Joint Worship Service of ABCMC's Hispanic Congregations
Holy Relationships for All People
Healthcare Sabbath
ABCUSA Resolution on Health Care for All
ABCUSA Policy Statement on Health Care
Healthcare Sabbath Speakers
Two AWAB Congregations Find New Regional Home
Healthy Congregations Workshop
Pre-Biennial Ministry Event
Ministers Council News
 Summer Gatherings
 Together in Ministry
 Practicing Our Faith Grant
 Ministers Council Dues
Prayer Requests
Calendar

Ghana Baptist Partnership

TO: ABCMC Family
FROM: Larry Greenfield
DATE: August 2, 2006
RE: Clarification

At the Fifth Sunday Service at Irving Park Baptist Church last Sunday evening, I wasn't as clear as I wanted to be about the similarity and difference between Baptist religious life and modern economics.

For those of you who weren't present, the evening worship service was devoted to celebrating Ghanaian Christianity, which has now become a part of our ABCMC life with the Sub-Saharan Church Start under the leadership of Pastor Joseph Atta-Fynn.

I was to speak on the "Ghana Baptist Partnership." It is this partnership between ABCMC and the Ghana Baptist Convention over recent years – including sister-to-sister congregational partnerships, financial support for church construction and seminary scholarships, visits to Ghana, the new church start, etc. – that has so enriched us here in Metro Chicago, and we hope has enriched the life of the Ghana Baptist Convention.

I told the assembled group at Irving Park on Sunday evening that, having returned from a trip to Ghana myself only two months ago, I continue to be struck by the parallels I see between Baptist principles and the principles of modern economics. But in explaining those parallels, I don't think I was any too clear. So let me try concisely to lay out my case here.

Baptists have three cherished principles: (1) soul liberty – the need for every individual to respond to God's grace freely, to interpret the Bible freely as the Holy Spirit guides the individual, and freely to choose in what fellowship of Christians one will live the life of faith; (2) the autonomy and freedom of the local congregation – as a group of gathered believers who have chosen to live their life of faith together, the self-determining character of the local congregation to shape its witness, ministry, and mission without coercion of either the state or other religious bodies; and (3) the associational principle – the opportunity for free congregations to choose to work together for their mutual strengthening of ministry and mission.

Those three principles get at the core of what it means to be a Baptist. And on all those fronts, I wanted to say, we now exercise our faith not just at the local level, or the national level, but now also at a global level. That "global" component is reflected in the "partnership" we as American Baptists in Metro Chicago have with the Ghana Baptist Convention.

But as I've reflected on that I can see a parallel with modern economics: (1) the principle that economic actors must individually be essentially free and self-determining; (2) that, similarly, corporate bodies must themselves have the freedom to be self-determining, and (3) that corporate bodies should have the freedom to establish associations and partnerships that advance their work and mission. Like the Baptist principles, moreover, all of these economic principles now operate at not just the local and national levels, but increasingly at the global level.

The parallels are striking, at least to me.

But then I have to ask myself, given the parallels between the principles that guide Baptist and economic life in today's world, what distinguishes one from the other?

Here's what I believe the difference is: that in modern economic life the freedom that is so essential for individuals, corporations, and associations of corporations serves the purpose of *self* interest – the self interest of the individual, the corporation, and global networks.

But in Baptist life, the freedom that is so essential for individuals, congregations, and associations at the local, national, and global levels serves the purpose of advancing the interest of *others* – of giving of one's self individually, congregationally, denominationally in our *global* setting so that others can flourish. And then learning that in our mutual self-giving, we all flourish in a growing and dynamic way.

What accounts for the difference – the difference between Baptist people of Christian faith and the world of economics?

Jesus. Jesus is the answer to that question.

For in Jesus, in his teachings and in this life, death, and resurrection, we have revealed to us who God is – a God, that is, who lives not for God's self, but who gives up the divine self for the life and flourishing of the world. This is the revelation of the God who gives up the divine life for each one of us.

And that's why, in response to that divine self-giving, that divine grace revealed in Jesus the Christ, we give ourselves to each other.

That's what I see at work in our Ghana Baptist Partnership.

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

The American Broadcasting Company (the other ABC) has a show about helping families with new or remodeled homes. The show is planning a visit to Chicago, and would like our churches to assist them in finding a family who could be featured on the show. A flyer is attached to this issue of *eWind*. Please use it as a bulletin insert or announcement at your church **this Sunday**.

Do you know of an **inspiring** family who could use a total home remodel? "We are looking for inspirational families that America can really root for," says Casting Director, Quintin Strack. "Please help us find that family that is an inspiration to their community. We're looking for those local heroes who have neglected their own homes because they have given so much of their time and money to others instead. Or who have overcome adversity and are now helping others. Please tell us about the inspirational men, women and families in your community."

To qualify, a FAMILY must own a single family home. The family's story should be inspirational, with a current situation that could be solved with a home makeover. If you are able to recommend such a family, please send an email to Veronica at Castingillinois@yahoo.com

Your email should include:

- names and ages of each member of the household
- 1-2 paragraph description of the family story and how it effects their home
- the top 3 things that are wrong with their home

The subject line should read re: Chicago.

The deadline for family submissions has been extended, but please apply promptly.

Church World Service Urges Safe Corridor for Humanitarian Response in Lebanon

This article is from Church World Service.

July 28, 2006

Agency Sends Initial Aid Shipment, Issues U.S. Fundraising Appeal as Attacks Continue

New York -- Going into a third week of violent attacks between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, international humanitarian agency Church World Service (CWS) is voicing increasing concern over the growing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon. The agency announced today that it is responding in the region and has issued an initial \$1 million fundraising appeal.



Families in Lebanon receive aid from CWS partner the Middle East Council of Churches.

Photo: ACT

CWS is also alarmed at the lack of safe passage, needed to deliver humanitarian aid to affected populations. "The UN has been asking for opening of humanitarian corridors," says Church World Service Emergency Response Program Director Donna Derr, "but so far those corridors haven't materialized and transport routes and communication in the damaged Lebanese regions are severely hindered."

Derr says, "It's an increasingly critical situation, with bridges destroyed, so many roads impassable, airports and power supplies bombed and inoperable."

In a meeting in Rome on Wednesday, U.S., European, and Arab leaders failed to reach agreement on a ceasefire plan. "If Israel continues its attacks," says Derr, "we can only expect the situation for civilians in Lebanon to worsen."

Derr says the agency's fundraising appeal will support the work of its partners in the region, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Church World Service has expedited a delivery to the region of food, water containers bedding, and hygiene parcels.

Derr says, "We have initially shipped 5,000 Church World Service Health Kits, 500 water containers and a large supply of blankets, in support of current work on the ground by International Orthodox Christian Charities. IOCC is delivering food, water, bedding, hygiene parcels and medicines. "

Church World Service's Derr says CWS is planning a shipment of food and non-food items to the Middle East Council of Churches. The Middle East Council of Churches is delivering food, non-food relief items, water and sanitation, and psychosocial attention and is responding through its Inter-church Network for Development in Lebanon (ICNDR) program and working in conjunction with the Action by Churches Together (ACT) International network.

International Orthodox Christian Charities is reporting that areas of Lebanon, particularly in the south, have been devastated.

Church World Service states particular concern for the disproportionate number of children being affected, as civilian casualties continue to flood area hospitals. The Lebanese government and

United Nations estimate that more than 500,000 people are displaced from their homes, needing shelter, food, safe drinking water, sanitation and medical assistance. At least 140,000 have fled to Syria and other neighboring countries for refuge.

"People have fled their homes in various regions affected by the military operations in Lebanon and are sleeping in schools, monasteries and anywhere they can find shelter," said Linda Shaker, IOCC Program Coordinator for Lebanon based in Beirut.

People are feeling the lack of food and medical supplies and prices are increasing dramatically, says the Middle East Council of Churches.

In so-called safer areas Lebanese civilians are mobilizing and offering assistance to the displaced and hoping to receive rapid aid from local or international organizations.

As of last Wednesday, Israel was reporting that 51 Israelis have been killed in rocket attacks across the Lebanon-Israel border or in combat by the militia of Hezbollah, an Islamic political party in Lebanon, with hundreds more Israelis injured and homes and other buildings in Israel destroyed or damaged.

Humanitarian Focus Continues on Gaza

Church World Service's Derr says the agency is concerned also about the humanitarian situation in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank/Gaza, which also continues to worsen. "Even as the crisis continues in Lebanon, the situation in Gaza in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) continues to be equally dire," reports Callie Long, Communications Officer with CWS partner international aid consortium Action by Churches Together.

Poverty rates in the area now standing at 75 percent. In March CWS issued an appeal for emergency medical assistance to Palestinian civilians, for the work of the Lutheran World Federation-Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and Middle East Council of Churches assistance to civilians in the West Bank/Gaza. Given escalating violence, CWS says OPT fundraising appeal will likely be increased soon.

Church World Service has longstanding presence and partnerships in the Middle East. In 2005, CWS hosted a delegation to the U.S. of Christian, Muslim and Druze academics, policy advisors and religious leaders from Lebanon, Egypt and Syria to promote the positive Arab interfaith relationships that exist in the region and that proactively support peace.

CWS received American Baptist support through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to help with disaster relief. You may make designated gifts through your home congregation.

Lebanese Christian Leader Will Address World Mission Conference

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 7/31/06)—Dr. Martin Accad, a Lebanese Christian leader and seminary professor, will address denominational executives and church and lay leaders at International Ministries' (IM) World Mission Conference, to be held Jul. 29 through Aug. 4 in Green Lake, Wisconsin, leaders of the mission agency announced.

Accad, the academic dean of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Lebanon's capital city of Beirut, will address the conference on Friday, Aug. 4, and will also engage in an extensive question-and-answer period, said Rev. Reid Trulson, IM's Area Director for Europe and the Middle East.

"I am deeply grateful Dr. Accad will be able to join us at World Mission Conference," said Trulson. "We need to hear the voice of respected Christian leaders from the Middle East, such as Dr. Accad, who can give us insight we may not generally find in the secular U.S. media." Accad, who was in the U.S. to do lectures at Fuller Theological Seminary in California, has been unable to return to Lebanon since a military conflict emerged mid-July.

On July 12, the Hezbollah militia attacked an Israeli military post, killing several soldiers and taking two others hostage. Subsequently, the Israeli military launched a reprisal campaign with air bombing and some ground troops. The conflict has resulted in fatalities estimated to be more than 400, mainly Lebanese civilians, and the displacement of an estimated 750,000 people or 20 percent of Lebanon's population. ABTS is housing hundreds of displaced persons, as is its partner, the Beirut Baptist School.

Accad has been [speaking out](#) in various outlets, including several [articles](#) in *Christianity Today*. The announcement that Accad will address the World Mission Conference follows a [letter](#) from Dr. A Roy Medley, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, written to President George W. Bush, urging him to work for an immediate cease-fire in the current conflict. Trulson noted that since 1980, American Baptists have been on [record](#) advocating a mediating role for our government in the search for a just and lasting peace in the region.

Church World Service in Lebanon

This article is from Church World Service.

Going into a third week of violent attacks between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, Church World Service is voicing increasing concern over the growing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon, and the lack of safe passage, needed to deliver humanitarian aid.

"The UN has been asking for opening of humanitarian corridors," says CWS Emergency Response Program Director Donna Derr, "but so far those corridors haven't materialized and transport routes and communication in the damaged Lebanese regions are severely hindered." "People have fled their homes in various regions that are affected by the military operations in Lebanon and are sleeping in schools, monasteries, and anywhere they can find shelter," said Linda Shaker, International Orthodox Christian Charities program coordinator for Lebanon, based in Beirut.

Derr says, "It's an increasingly critical situation, with bridges destroyed, so many roads impassable, airports and power supplies bombed and inoperable."

"We have initially shipped 5,000 CWS Health Kits, 500 water containers, and a large supply of blankets, in support of current work on the ground by International Orthodox Christian Charities," adds Derr. "IOCC is delivering food, water, bedding, hygiene parcels and medicines."

Derr says CWS is planning a shipment of food and non-food items to the Middle East Council of Churches. The MECC is delivering food, non-food relief items, water and sanitation, and psychosocial attention and working in conjunction with the Action by Churches Together International network.

CWS is particularly concerned about the disproportionate number of children being affected, as civilian casualties continue to flood area hospitals. It is estimated that more than 500,000 people are displaced from their homes, needing shelter, food, safe drinking water, sanitation and medical assistance.

As of July 26, Israel was reporting that 51 Israelis have been killed in Hezbollah rocket attacks across the Lebanon-Israel border or in combat by the militia of Hezbollah, an Islamic political

party in Lebanon, with hundreds more Israelis injured and homes and other buildings in Israel destroyed or damaged.

"Even as the crisis continues in Lebanon, the situation in Gaza in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to be equally dire," reports Callie Long, Communications Officer with CWS coalition partner Action by Churches Together. Poverty rates in the area now stand at 75 percent. In addition, since June 28, more than 150 Palestinians have been killed and more than 540 injured by Israeli incursions, shelling, and air strikes.

In a **statement** earlier this month, CWS called upon all parties in the Middle East to end the current hostilities, to develop non-violent strategies for engagement, and to work toward a just and sustainable settlement of the issues that plague the region.

CWS is seeking \$1 million in response to the emergency. Contributions to support humanitarian work in Lebanon may be **made online**, or by calling (800) 297-1516. CWS receives American Baptist funding through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Church World Service in Indonesia

A year and a half after a massive tsunami hit Indonesia's coast, residents of a small village in Aceh province have come home. Earlier this month in Lampu Kawat, 124 families moved into their new homes. The houses were built by Church World Service, with help from many of the new homeowners.

"On behalf of Lampu Kawat residents, we would like to express our highest gratitude for CWS, which has built our houses," says Nurdin, a representative of the village's residents. "We lived in emergency tents and barracks for eight months."

"Before CWS built our houses, we regularly received aid, especially food, blankets and medicine, from CWS after the disaster," says Nurdin. "Our wooden houses were destroyed by the tsunami, but now, they are rebuilt and we can live in them. Thanks again, CWS," adds Nurdin.

As a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of one of the finished houses, a Muslim preacher sprinkled water and rice on it, an Acehnese tradition which blesses the house and its occupants and calls for it to be stronger and a pleasant place to live.

CWS receives American Baptist funding through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Church World Service in Pakistan

As CWS recovery efforts continue in quake-affected areas of northern Pakistan, it is also responding to recent floods caused by heavy rains in Tehsil Balakot, Mansehra district. Many homes, roads, and bridges have been washed away, and some 250 families have evacuated to safer ground.

CWS and partner Norwegian Church Aid are assessing needs and providing plastic sheeting, blankets, and tents. Food packages will also be provided to the affected families.

The CWS quake rehabilitation and recovery program in northern Pakistan continues, and includes construction training centers, livelihood programs for widows, an animal resource network, and establishing veterinary centers.

For more on the CWS response to the South Asia quake in northern Pakistan and how you can help, visit [CWS Response to the South Asia Earthquake](#). CWS receives American Baptist funding through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Afraid for the Children of Lebanon

August 1, 2006

By Hege Opseth, ACT International

Beirut, Lebanon--People waving white flags continue to drive towards Beirut, fleeing the southern part of their country. They are leaving behind not only their homes, but also lives that in many respects were characterized by the rebuilding of their country since the last war. Today, their reality is very different. In the words of a 73-year old woman: "We are afraid of what lies ahead over the next few days. We are afraid for the children of Lebanon."

Planning an emergency operation in today's Lebanon is not an easy task. Nobody here knows where the next bombs will fall, or how deep the Israeli offensive will manage to strike. There are far more questions than answers at this stage of the conflict.

"ACT International is trying to meet some of the immediate needs of the internally displaced," reports Tor Valla, of ACT member Norwegian Church Aid. NCA and Church World Service local partner, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), are working to address humanitarian needs on the ground.

"At the same time we are making plans as to how we can effectively meet the crisis that will be there once a ceasefire is in place. Most of the people we have spoken to are clear that they want to go home--if they can," Valla says.

In the meantime, Church World Service and the ACT International coalition, along with other humanitarian agencies continue to bring what relief they can, by distributing emergency parcels containing food, and by setting up water and sanitation systems such as showers, to meet the immediate needs of people seeking shelter in the centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs) that have sprung up over the weeks since the bombing started.

An elderly woman sits huddled on the floor in the National Evangelical School of Saida in southern Lebanon. She is upset. She talks of a life characterized by many dramatic events, saying that this is hard for her--to again live through another war at her age. Other people we talk to agree: Memories of the last war still pose a heavy burden for this nation, one that had just started blossoming again.

"Look at me, I have problems with my blood pressure, diabetes, my hip was broken. I cannot move without my stick," 73-year old Wahibe says quietly. She is sitting on some blankets on the hard concrete floor of the IDP center. She lost most of her belongings when she fled her home with her family.

The IDP center is sheltering some 1,000 people--offering a refuge that people believe to be as safe as it gets in the south today, but still a far cry from the lives they lived and loved. The streets are filled with the sounds of ambulance sirens.

And still, people are fleeing the south of their country. Yesterday's news that this nightmare may not be over soon adds to peoples' fears. People have no knowledge of what will face them if and



Wahibeh and Chaabi fear for their grandson Ibrahim's future.
Photo: Hege Opseth, ACT-NCA

when they are able to go home. Many people are finding it difficult to believe the brutality of what is happening.

On the 20th day of the conflict, the Lebanese wait. For what is to come. For any news. But most of all, for news of a ceasefire. Only a few dare to hope that this nightmare will end soon.

Church Coalition Staffer in Beirut Warns of 'Underground Disaster'

August 1, 2006

Dominic Nutt, of Action by Churches Together member Christian Aid, reports that there are signs that fuel is running out, water supplies in the capital and elsewhere are intermittent, and there is a hidden problem of internally displaced people who are living on people's floors, in basements, and in schools.

"It is impossible to be precise about the extent of the human crisis that is facing Lebanon," said Nutt. "This is not a tsunami where you can see the people who have been affected. By definition, these people are in hiding. They have run away from the bombing.

"Today I met three families--12 people in total, including children as young as 18 months--living in a dank, humid, windowless basement. They were being helped by Association Najdeh, a Lebanese organization. (Association Najdeh is receiving funding from the Action by Churches Together coalition.) They were lucky because they found this place after their homes were destroyed on the first day of the Israeli bombardment.

"This means they have a safe haven in which to stay, even though it is a horrific, soulless place, and they have been given clothes and will receive emergency rations from Najdeh.

"Many people are relying on charity and have been absorbed into the city by friends, neighbors, and even strangers. Others are living in schools and parks and wherever they can."

Nutt reports that there are rumors that fuel supplies for both cars and for generators are running out--"which would make matters worse," he says. Added to this, Nutt says that many people are stuck in their villages, and aid workers, including the UN, are unable to reach them. "Those that are left are either too old, too weak or too poor to move. And the Israelis are not consistently allowing aid workers to reach them," says Nutt.

Aid workers say that it is difficult to know how many people are in need and what they are in need of. While the full dimensions of the humanitarian disaster in Lebanon are not yet known, observers say it is likely to be huge in scope.

Radio Interview Features American Baptist Pastor and Author

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 7/27/06)—This Sunday, July 30, Everett C. Goodwin, pastor of Scarsdale Community Church in Scarsdale, New York, will be featured on the Interfaith Connections program on WKTU-FM, New York City. During his interview with host Ben Gums, Goodwin shares insight from his Judson Press book *Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith*. He also answers questions about the new National Ministries' initiative, ABC Reads, which launched in June with Everett's book as the first selection for the year-long program.

In *Down by the Riverside*, Goodwin provides a basic orientation to the historical and theological origins of Christian faith as practiced by Baptist believers. This readable overview serves as a guide to understanding Baptist faith and identity. "Given that the book is the perfect orientation

tool for Baptists who want to know more about their faith and history, and that a new companion study guide is available, *Down by the Riverside* was a natural choice to be the first book in the ABC Reads program," explains Judson Press publisher, Laura Alden.

The goal of ABC Reads is to bring people together through the power of a book. It's a chance, literally and figuratively, to start all American Baptists on the same page, and to encourage contemplation and discussion. To learn more about ABC Reads, or to order the *Down by the Riverside* set (which includes the book and study guide at a special price), visit the new Judson Press web site at www.judsonpress.com/specials.cfm.

Interfaith Connections airs on WKTU from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m., and Goodwin is scheduled for the second half of the program. The station can be heard in the New York Metro market at 103.5 FM, and those outside the listening area can catch the program live via the radio station website at www.ktu.com.

American Baptists Contribute to Latest Release of Hunger for the Word Resource

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 7/25/06)—Following the release of two previous editions, *Hunger for the Word: Lectionary Reflections on Food and Justice, Year C* is now available from Bread for the World. A resource for pastors and liturgical ministers interested in justice-oriented Bible study and spiritual growth, Year C draws on the insights and stories of pastors, professors, and others active in anti-hunger advocacy.

American Baptists Rev. Robert Tiller and Minister Derrick Boykin were two contributors to the project which included multiple authors from various denominations. Describing the resource, Boykin, regional organizer for Bread for the World and associate minister at Walker Memorial Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York, said, "Writers, reflecting the colorful spectrum of the Christian community, have wrestled with scripture and have shared profound biblical insights into the believer's role in working to change public policy that perpetuates injustice and inequality throughout the world. This resource encourages men, women, boys, and girls of the Christian faith to be actively engaged in making the world hunger-free."

Having recently become an Endorsing Partner of the [ONE Campaign](#), American Baptists have pledged their commitment to do their part in putting an end to hunger and poverty in the nation and the world. Education on how to accomplish this task is the next step and *Hunger for the Word* can assist individuals and local churches in this endeavor through biblical reflections, ideas for children's sermons, and related musical selections.

Commenting on the opportunity to work towards this goal, Tiller, deputy director for public policy and advocacy at the National Council on Aging, said, "It has been an honor and a privilege to be associated with the *Hunger for the Word* publishing project, and it was especially exciting to work on printed dialogues for year C with Derrick Boykin. I hope that the reflections that he and I contributed will enable clergy and laypersons of all denominations to gain new insights from the Scriptures."

The three volumes of *Hunger for the Word*, including earlier books for Years A and B of the lectionary cycle, are available at www.breadstore.org. Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian's citizen movement whose members, some 55,000 strong, focus on using the power they have as citizens in a democracy to influence government policies affecting hungry people.

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.

Holy Relationships for All People

On Sunday, August 27, 2006, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore, Chicago, Rev. Rich McCarty and team members of the Holy Relationships movement will facilitate a discussion group on the qualities of holy relationships for all people, with a particular focus on gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, and transgender relationships. "Holy Relationships" is an ecumenical movement that began in 2003 in New Brunswick, NJ, and is now coming to the Midwest. Story-telling and guided discussion will make for an enriching afternoon of conversation.

Information will also be presented on the upcoming Holy Relationships Midwest Regional Conference (see www.holyrelationshipsmidwest.org). Please make your reservations for Grace Baptist Church's event by Thursday, August 24. RSVP to 773-334-9003 or pastor@gracebaptistchicago.com.

For a map or further information about Grace, please visit Grace's website, www.gracebaptistchicago.com. The church is located 2 blocks east of the Red Line's Berwyn stop, at the corner of Kenmore and Berwyn Avenues (in the Epworth United Methodist Church building). The parking lot is 1/2 block north of the church on the west side of Kenmore Avenue.

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

ABCUSA 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.

Two AWA Congregations Find New Regional Home

The University Baptist Church and Judson Memorial Baptist Church both of Minneapolis MN, were voted into the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region on June 28, 2006.

After years of feeling alienation from their region (Mid-America ABC) and more recent actions by their region to not recognize ordinations from both churches of GLBT clergy a decision was made to explore the possibility of a new home.

Both Metro-Chicago and Rochester Genesee Regions were considered for a potential new home. Both regions were open to receive these congregations.

Healthy Congregations Workshop

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) will offer a "Healthy Congregations" workshop on September 22-23, 2006 in Glen Ellyn, IL.

With churches of all denominations experiencing **rising levels of anxiety**, the content of the workshop is highly relevant for all serving in leadership roles. LMPC wants to make all clergy and lay leaders aware of this valuable learning opportunity.

The Friday night and Saturday workshop will help participants:

- Learn how to **keep anxiety from being infectious**.
- Learn how to put limits on invasive behavior, **manage reactivity**, and overcome sabotage.
- Discover how leaders can function as the **congregation's immune system**.
- Learn to **focus on strengths**, resources, options and the future.

The workshop focuses on helping to foster healthy congregations. **Clergy cannot take on that task alone**; they need the support of wise and committed lay leaders. Pastors who work in isolation trying to implement ideas gleaned from the workshop will inevitably run into resistance. Pastors who have attended the workshop in the past with a group of lay leaders have found that they can depend on others to back them up in challenging the church to grow in health and wholeness. In order **to encourage teams of clergy and lay leaders to attend the workshop together**, you will find enclosed a discount coupon to be used when four or more people are attending from the same congregation.

Here are some comments from past attendees:

"I've attended a lot of workshops that were not the best use of time. This one was very, very valuable"

"It was a highly well-presented program with an incredible amount of useable information that can help both our church and ourselves towards a more effective ministry to each other and to our community."

"It was a great workshop to take a look at how to deal with anxiety within the congregation."

"It was very helpful to learn this systems approach."

"It was a great help to me. I would encourage church members and pastors to attend."

The pre-registration deadline is September 8. The registration brochure and group discount coupon are both available on the LMPC website (www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

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.

Together in Ministry

Together in Ministry 2006 evaluation forms have been for some time posted on the web <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/> under 2006 Forms to Submit, along with the 2007 application form. Please take note, any TIM groups that have current grants and/or might wish to apply for 2007 funding.

Practicing Our Faith Grant

For the second time, the Ministers Council of Valley Forge has been awarded a \$10,000 Valparaiso Project Practicing Our Faith grant. The grant will fund a year-long program for national leaders on the faith practice of testimony. The series will be shaped around monthly luncheons for prayer, reading and conversation about experiences of God in daily life and how God strengthens for mission.

The Valley Forge Ministers Council convenes pastoral leaders called to positions of national denominational leadership and based in the Mission Center. The previous Valparaiso Project grant in the 2002 and 2003 program year funded monthly luncheon gatherings for leaders who manage numerous responsibilities and heavy travel schedules, on the faith practice of honoring the body.

The philosophy of practices opens the possibility of new ways of being through communal conversation and sharing of stories and struggles, alongside the wisdom of our faith. Further information is available at <http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>.

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.

Pray for safety and strength in ministry for Dan and Sarah Chetti and their colleagues at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and Beirut Baptist School.

Pray for the many victims of the bombing on both sides of the Lebanon-Israel border.

Pray that the nations of the world to act to bring an ending to the violence between Israel and Hezbollah.

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

Please pray for Chuck Armstrong as he recovers from brain surgery, and for his wife Cathy, as well as for the medical and health care professionals caring for him.

Calendar

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

August 26—Family Council meeting. **RESCHEDULED to September 23.**

August 27—Holy Relationships for All People, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. RSVP by August 24 to 773-334-9003.

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 16—ABCMC Family Cabinet meeting, 9:30 a.m., ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago. Please phone Tony at 773-695-9791 with your attendance plans.

September 17—Healthcare Sabbath

September 22-23—"Healthy Congregations" workshop, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC), Glen Ellyn. Register by September 8.

September 23—ABCMC Family Council Meeting, Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago. Registration 8:30 a.m. Please phone Tony at 773-695-9791 with your attendance plans no later than September 20.

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.

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.

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 necessarily 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 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.