

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

October 11, 2006

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;
as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34).

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From our Executive Minister

I want to extend strong encouragement for you to attend the 10th anniversary celebration of Protestants for the Common Good (PCG). As many of you know, I am a devoted board member of PCG, and write regularly for their electronic magazine. But even more important, in my judgment is the opportunity to hear from John Lewis, an authentic hero of the civil rights movement, and one of the strongest spokespersons relating faith with justice, human rights, and civil rights in our nation today. The event is at 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY!! *ABCMC Women*

WOMEN OF ABCMC -- Please hold this date and time: Sunday, October 15, 2006 from 2:30-4:30p.m. Virginia Holmstrom and the American Baptist Women's Ministries' Leadership Team will be in Chicago and would like to have a gathering of as many women as possible at this time.

SUNDAY!! *Celebration*

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Larry Greenfield's ordination on Sunday, October 15 as part of its 173rd Anniversary. Dr. Greenfield will be preaching at the 11:00 a.m. worship. Rev. Taurus Scurlock will be preaching at the 4:00 p.m. service and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Choir will be singing.

SUNDAY!! *Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary*

Please join Protestants for the Common Good (PCG) for a rally in celebration of their 10th anniversary, "Reclaiming the Common Good: The Urgent Agenda." Representative John Lewis, U. S. Congressman from Georgia's 5th District and a civil rights activist, will be the keynote speaker. The North Lawndale Community Church Choir will provide music. PCG will present the 2006 William Sloane Coffin Award to Congressman Lewis.

The event will take place on Sunday, October 15, 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Chicago (Chicago Temple), 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago. This program will be free and open to the public. Since space is limited, tickets will be required. For group tickets, please phone 312-337-3632. Individual tickets may be obtained online at www.thecommongood.org/home.asp. Contact Protestants for the Common Good for more information at 312-223-9544.

That evening the Board of Directors and staff of PCG and Dr. Quentin Young, Honorary Co-Chair cordially invite you to their dinner to benefit the ongoing work of PCG, with distinguished guest Studs Terkel. Congressman John Lewis will read from his book *Walking with the Wind*. The evening program will take place at Hotel Allegro, 171 W. Randolph Street, Chicago. A wine reception will be at 6:15 p.m. Dinner and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$150 each. The favor of a reply is requested by **October 6**. To order benefit dinner tickets, please call 312-337-3630 or visit www.thecommongood.org/home.asp.

MONDAY! *Peace in Palestine*

This invitation is from the American Friends Service Committee.

You are invited to a rare Oak Park appearance and presentation by Jeff Halper, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and coordinator of the Jerusalem-based Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD).

WHAT: Jeff Halper Presentation "Resisting Occupation, Constructing Peace"

WHEN: Monday, October 16, 7:00 pm

WHERE: Oak Park Public Library, Veterans Room, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park

This event is part of The Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine's community education and dialogue series, "Building a Just Peace: Important Perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict."

Co-sponsored by American Friends Service Committee.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY!

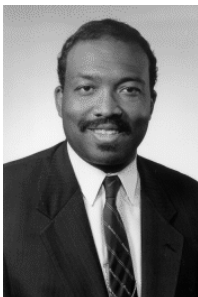
Third Baptist Church of Chicago Fall Revival

Nationally Acclaimed Educators and Theologians Dr. H. Dean Trulear and Dr. James H. Evans Jr. to Deliver a Congregational Charge

Chicago, IL -- Third Baptist Church of Chicago (TBCoC) will host a dynamic three night revival beginning Monday, October 16 – Wednesday, October 18 at 1451 W. 95th Street on Chicago's southwest side. Services will be at 7 p.m. each evening. The 2006 revival will feature two national scholars and theologians who will deliver the Word of God and present attendees with bite sized portions of their tag team lecture and presentation addressing the changing landscape for Churches in the 21st century.

"We are excited about the messages that will come from these two men of God," states, Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, Senior Pastor of Third Baptist Church. "Part of our challenge in ministry today is that as Christians we read the text of the Bible diligently, but we don't read it with a mindset focusing on today's societal components. We must begin to make the connection between the two and understand how and why relating our biblical practices and studies to 21st century living is critical to the future livelihood of religion."

Trulear and Evans, both religious trailblazers on bridging religion, faith and communities, will deliver sermons and messages that will impart valuable information and rationale to the congregation and the community.



Rev. Dr. H. Dean Trulear is the Senior Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Twin Oaks, Pennsylvania. He also teaches at the Center for Urban Theological Studies in Philadelphia and serves on the boards of Evangelicals for Social Action, the Center for Public Justice, and the Christian Academy of Brookhaven, Pennsylvania. He is a noted author and sought-after presenter on religion, and he was recently featured at the 2006 SCUPE (Seminary Consortium on Urban Pastoral Education) Congress entitled, "The Beloved Community Breaking Through the City," where he gave a Core Results

presentation linking theological frameworks, scripture, issue-related data and statistics to examples of faith-based work.

Trulear has authored over 40 articles, essays and sermons that have appeared in journals such as *The Journal of Religious Thought*, *American Baptist Quarterly* and *Auburn Studies*. He has produced one edited volume of George Kelsey's; *Unsung Hero* and has served on the editorial boards of *Prism* and *The Living Pulpit*. He also serves on the Advisory Boards of *World Impact* and *Civitas Doctoral Fellows*, the Faith-Based Initiatives committee of Philadelphia Development Partnerships and the Board of Directors at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and Messiah College.

Rev. Dr. James Evans, Jr., who is equally distinguished, serves as a pastor, educator, and scholar. He is currently the Robert K. Davies Professor of Systematic Theology at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and is the Founding Pastor of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church in Rochester, New York. In 1990, he served as President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and was named the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies and, was made Dean of the Program of Black Church Studies.



Dr. Evans is the author of numerous articles and four books: *We Shall All Be Changed: Social Problems and Theological Renewal*; *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology*; *Black Theology: A Critical Assessment and Annotated Bibliography*; and *Spiritual Empowerment in Afro-American Literature*. He is the co-editor of *Modern Christian Thought*, Volume II, Second Edition. He is the author of two forthcoming volumes: *Going Home: A Theological Analysis of Back to Africa Movements in the US*; and *The Church: Mandate, Models, Motifs, and Mandates*.

For more information please contact Third Baptist Church of Chicago at (773) 445-8500.

MONDAY! *Presentation on the Middle East*

This invitation is from the American Friends Service Committee. Please print out and share the flyer that is attached to this issue of eWind.

You are invited to a rare Oak Park appearance and presentation by Jeff Halper, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and coordinator of the Jerusalem-based Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD).

WHAT: Jeff Halper Presentation
"Resisting Occupation, Constructing Peace"

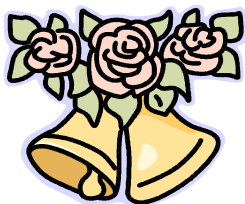
WHEN: Monday, October 16, 7:00 pm

WHERE: Oak Park Public Library, Veterans Room, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park

This event is part of The Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine's community education and dialogue series, "Building a Just Peace: Important Perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict."

Co-sponsored by American Friends Service Committee

Congratulations!



We congratulate Rev. Alice Davis Greene, pastor of Irving Park Baptist Church, and her new husband Rev. Bill Greene on their marriage this past

Saturday, October 7. Their wedding was a beautiful occasion with many sisters and brothers from ABCMC in attendance, and our Executive Minister Larry Greenfield reading a passage from I Corinthians. We pray God's blessing on the life and ministry that Alice and Bill are building together.

Peacemaking

The following communication is from Dave Martin of the West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition. The statement to which he refers is attached to this issue of eWind.



West Suburban Faith-based PEACE Coalition

115 East Memorial Road, Bensenville IL 60106 www.faithpeace.org 630-768-9305

Dear Clergy Members and Faith Leaders,

As people of faith, many of us feel challenged to find meaningful ways to respond *faithfully* to the war in Iraq. A new statement titled "A Faithful Call to Repentance, Justice and Peace" seeks to do just that. Written by local clergy and faith-based peacemakers from across Chicago's west suburbs, the statement draws from sacred scripture, and powerful statements of bishops, denominational councils and faith leaders in appealing for repentance, prayer and taking up the things of God that make for peace. As the war tragically presses into its third year, our yearning desire for peace only increases.

Please review the attached faith statement. All pastors, clergy and faith leaders are invited to sign in public affirmation of God's historic and ongoing call to reconciling love, justice and peace. We believe the public use of this statement, and signatures gathered in support of it, will help magnify God's call to justice and peace. The prayers, conversations, instruction, and work for peace that follow from it – will give flesh to the work of the Spirit, in reconciling a war-torn world to God.

As faith is the evidence of things not yet seen, so we expectantly await the stirring of the Spirit, the compassionate love of God - to move upon this world and bring about an end to this war. We pray that your signature and your continuing participation in this work will help bring that hope to reality.

In faithful service,
Dave Martin

on behalf of the West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition's *Faithful Action Workgroup*

p.s. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 630-768-9305 or davemartin777@comcast.net. For information on WSFPC, see www.faithpeace.org

Important Bulletin Inserts

Attached to this issue of eWind, in both Word and PDF formats, is a bulletin insert to encourage American Baptists to exercise their freedom to vote. ABHS interim librarian Betsy Dunbar was the editor & designer of this piece.

Betsy has also prepared a similarly formatted piece "from the archives" that reflects our history of ministry to children in poverty--should you also like to request that piece directly from Betsy or from our office manager, Charles Primavera.

Position Opening

This announcement is from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, a 70-year-old organization based in Washington, D.C. and committed to extending and defending religious liberty for all, seeks an Associate Director of Communications.

The Associate Director of Communications assists the Director of Communications in gathering, analyzing and disseminating news and information on public affairs as related to the interests and needs of the Baptist Joint Committee and its member bodies.

The duties of the Associate Director of Communications include:

- Serving as Associate Editor of a monthly newsletter, including gathering, writing and editing of materials for the publication.
- Maintaining and strengthening contact with editors and reporters in religious and secular media and distributing
- BJC staff-written analysis and opinion articles to secular and religious publications.
- Helping expand and maintain the Baptist Joint Committee's website.
- Preparing leaflets, brochures and reports for constituents and member bodies.
- Writing articles and analysis on church-state relations for BJC and other publications.
- Helping create and maintain a database of media and constituent e-mail addresses for Baptist Joint Committee communications.
- Managing communications with constituents.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree
- Strong writing and editing skills
- Experience with page layout and related software preferred
- Experience with web design software preferred

How to apply

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Oct. 24 or until filled. Please submit resume, cover letter and two writing samples as Word documents to jhuett@BJCOnline.org.

Please visit www.BJCOnline.org for more information about the Baptist Joint Committee.

Children's Sabbath

This invitation is from the First Baptist Church of Waukegan.

First Baptist Church of Waukegan invites you to join us in a worship service October 22, 5 p.m. in our annual celebration of National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. The 2006 theme, "Congregations Stand for Healthy Children: Bringing Hope and Healing" will be addressed by Rev. Dr. Wendy Morris, our guest preacher. Wendy an active member of Community Baptist Church, Warrenville is Coordinator of Shalom Education, and author of "Stop the Violence! Educating Ourselves to Protect Our Youth." Special music will be provided by the mass choir of Mr. Sinai Institutional Baptist Church of North Chicago.

The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths celebration is sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), guided by an interfaith advisory Committee, and endorsed by hundreds of denominations and religious organizations.

This national observance brings attention to the urgent plight of children in our nation and calls people of faith to put their faith into action to meet children's needs through direct service and work for justice. This year's theme focuses attention on the nine million children in the United States who do not have health insurance and may not be able to see a doctor when they need to. Congregations are coming together on Children's Sabbath to start putting our nation's priorities in the right place and to stand for healthy children.

First Baptist looks forward to our ABCMC's congregations worshipping with us as we focus on ways to "bring hope and healing "to children. Contact Pastor Keith Cerk at 847-623-2821 for additional information.

Health Care Sabbath

This invitation is from Grace Baptist Church.

Grace Baptist Church invites members of the ABC/MC family to join us on Sunday, October 22 at 6 p.m. for a special worship observance of a Health Care Sabbath. Health and healing ministries have long been central to Grace's mission. We've been inspired this fall by the Health Care Justice Faith Caucus's invitation to dedicate a worship service to the Creator whose intent is for shalom. We will worship as a people who believe this, and who are empowered with Christ's spirit to proclaim this Good News.

Join us for a time of empowering praise, invocation, lament, confession and hope. Join us for familiar and new spirited justice music. Join us for sabbath.

Grace is located at 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, near Foster and Sheridan. (We rent space from Epworth United Methodist Church). Our parking lot, shared with the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist, is located 1/2 block north of Berwyn on Kenmore. Contact pastor@gracebaptistchicago.com or Jacki at 773-334-9003 for more information.

Karen Refugee Family

To: ABCMC Family

From: Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister

We recently received the following message from Rev. Biak Mang, pastor of the Myanmar Christian Church, one of our ABCMC congregations in Mount Prospect. Please respond as you feel led. Biak's email address is bhmang@juno.com. I will welcome hearing from you how you are helping this family in need.

Hello everyone,

A Karen refugee family arrived from Thailand on Thursday. The family composed of eight members. 2 twins, another two children and parents. Children are under age ten. They need help. Can anyone or any church help them by providing furniture, clothes, food, and cash. They are currently staying at their friend's house in Joliet.

Let me know.

Biak
Pastor of Myanmar Christian Church

George Winston Concert to Benefit Homeless

GEORGE WINSTON will do a benefit solo guitar concert for HEAR US, the Naperville-based national homelessness advocacy organization, on Friday, October 27, 7:30 p.m., at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1313 N. Mill Street, Naperville. (Free parking, handicapped accessible.)

Every dollar raised will benefit HEAR US! Funds are needed to ensure the successful completion of an exciting documentary, featuring homeless children, youth and their families. George Winston's generous offer to share his gift of evocative instrumental guitar music is a welcomed opportunity; one that HEAR US hopes will raise significant funds for their nonprofit organization. St. Timothy's gracious hospitality providing a venue is deeply appreciated.

Suggested donation for tickets is \$20 (advance purchase), \$25 at the door. Premier donors, \$40 or more, will receive a signed copy of the book, *Crossing the Line: Taking Steps to End Homelessness* by HEAR US founder/president Diane Nilan. Books will be available for sale at the concert. Tickets may be purchased online, www.hearus.us/donate.htm, or available at the door. LIMITED SEATING, reservations/advance purchase encouraged. Reservations may be made at 630-225-5012, or by email at info@hearus.us.

HEAR US, the inspiring, innovative outgrowth of Diane Nilans 20 year of work with homeless children and adults, gives voice and visibility to homeless kids. She is getting ready to embark upon another cross-country odyssey to non-urban communities to film homeless children, youth and adults. Northern Illinois University media professor, Dr. Laura Vazquez, is producing several film projects that evolved from Nilans first national trip last year and will produce a series of documentaries from her new footage.

Empowering homeless children, youth and their families, HEAR US seeks to raise awareness of and sensitivity to homelessness. Nilan will be speaking at several events as she travels across the nations backroads in her RV. For more information, visit the HEAR US website, www.hearus.us.

For ticket information, contact Diane at diane@hearus.us.

Good Company Coffee House

Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, invites us all to their Good Company Coffee House on Saturday, October 28, at 7 p.m. at the church. The format will be open microphone (without the microphone). Please come, and bring your instrument, voice, poetry, imagination to share. Listen to other performers. Enjoy delightful refreshments and effervescent conversation. The acoustics and ambience of the room are terrific. Don't miss it!

The church is located in the Epworth United Methodist Church on the southeast corner of the intersection of Berwyn and Kenmore Avenues. Entrance to the coffee house will be on the Kenmore Avenue side of the building. Free parking is available in the lot ½ block north of the church, on the west side of Kenmore, and immediately north of the Christian Science Church.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Kelley at 847-909-8191 or Jacki Belile at 773-334-9003.

Ministry in Times of Disaster

A number of our church leaders have expressed interest in learning about ministry in times of disaster. A continuing education event offering just such information will take place on October 30, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, 450 W. Highway 22, Barrington. A flyer with information and registration form is attached to this issue of *eWind*. The seminar, including materials and meals, is offered free of charge; however, registration is required by October 23.

Ministers Council News

Meeting of the ABCMC Ministers Council November 10, 3 p.m.

Remember to keep your Friday, November the 10 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. available for our special Minister's Council meeting with Rev. Marilyn Turner, the guest speaker for our Annual Meeting of ABCMC. This will be a focus on the Children In Poverty Initiative of National Ministries of ABC/USA.

Together in Ministry

Applications for Together in Ministry 2007 funding for collegial covenant groups are due in the Ministers Council office by October 31. They are to be sent first to the constituent Ministers Council officers for review and forwarding to the national office. **This means that applications must be submitted to ABCMC's Ministers Council President Doug Harris no later than October 20.** Doug's email address is dharris@northshorebaptist.org. Forms and essential instructions are available at www.ministerscouncil.com under the Together in Ministry link. If you have any questions please contact Kate Harvey at Kate.Harvey@abc-usa.org.

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/>.

Ministry in Such a Time as This

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 for

pastoral leaders in the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on Friday, June 29, 2007, from 9 am until noon. The event is designed to invite pastoral leaders into reflection on what it takes to be faithful and effective Church leaders in such a time as this. For more information and speakers, check www.ministerscouncil.com.

ABCMC Annual Meeting

Watch this space for more information about the ABCMC Annual Meeting November 10-11. Our gathering will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 10, and run through the afternoon of Saturday, November 11.

Our special guest speaker will be Marilyn Turner, Associate Executive Director, Program Ministries, on the staff of ABCUSA National Ministries. She will address the ABC focus on children living in poverty.

ABCMC's Task Force on Children in Poverty is planning this year's meeting. Much—but not all—of our focus at the meeting will be ministry with children in poverty.

We will also hear committee reports, elect officers and committee chairs, and adopt a budget for 2007.

The meeting will include some special celebrations and surprises.

After the family reunion, what better way is there to end our annual meeting than by going to the Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner? See the article below.

Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner

The Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner and fall 2006 Fund Raiser will take place at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, on November 11. Sponsored by Chaplain Marjean Gonzalez, the Cook County Jail Ministry Board, and the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, the event will begin with fellowship at 6 p.m. and dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. All dinner tickets are purchased at the door. The cost is \$15/adult, \$5/child, and \$100/table. If you have questions, please phone Paul Sengpiehl, 708-383-8859.

African Partners Promote World Mission Offering

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/5/06)—International Ministries has invited several African church leaders to come to the United States this fall, to strengthen their partnership with American Baptists, and to encourage giving to the World Mission Offering (WMO) <http://www.internationalministries.org/wmo/2006/index.htm>, by sharing what God is doing through their ministries. "We are excited about this venture," said Rev. Charles Jones, acting executive director of American Baptist International Ministries (IM). "So often, when we tell the story of mission, only one set of partners shares—our missionaries," Jones said. He added, "While their stories are crucial, the ones with whom our missionaries work around the world have a valued and critical voice and vision that can encourage American Baptists who want to support God's work globally." The following African church leaders have come to the U.S. at the invitation of IM, and will remain until late October:

- Rev. Gabrielle Kasa-Vubu and Rev. Emmanuel Kembo, who serve the Baptist Community of Congo (CBCO) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rev. Kembo has served as the

general secretary of CBCO since last September. He pastored and worked in denominational leadership in the Bas-Congo region of the country. Rev. Kasa-Vubu heads women's work for CBCO. One of the first women to graduate from the Theological Faculty of Kinshasa, she has pastored six congregations in Kinshasa, the nation's capital. Kembo and Kasa-Vubu are being hosted by Dr. Ivan George, former IM area director for Africa, and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. This year's recently released mission study guide (Mbotel!) focuses on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- Rev. Joao Kiasissua, who serves as general secretary of the Free Baptist Churches in Angola (IBLA). IBLA is a continuation of the ministry initiated by the then American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in 1882. After many years in exile in the Congo, and after Angola achieved independence from its colonizer Portugal in 1975, the Baptist work was revived in Angola in 1986. Rev. Kiasissua was educated in Congo and served in many capacities in IBLA, since Baptist work was renewed in his country. He is being hosted by American Baptist Churches of Ohio.
- Rev. Thomas Lumba, who serves as president of the Baptist Convention of Zambia (BCZ). Rev. Lumba has served BCZ for over 30 years, and was the organization's youngest recording secretary, when the group was formed in 1974. Since then, he has studied both at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia and the International Baptist Seminary in Switzerland. He has served as executive director of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia and as general secretary of BCZ. Rev. Lumba is being hosted by the American Baptist Churches of the South.

Rev. Eleazar Zihrambere said these leaders made great sacrifices to come to the U.S to be with American Baptists at this time, because the All Africa Baptist Fellowship will hold its general session while these leaders are in the U.S. Several IM staff persons, including Zihrambere and Jones are traveling to Limuru, Kenya for this event, October 8-13, 2006. "We believe this is an important exchange," said Zihrambere, IM's area director for Africa. "While these African leaders are here sharing with American Baptists about God's great work in Africa, we will be in Africa sharing with other African Baptist leaders about the American Baptist commitment to mission partnership and the continued growth of the church in Africa." You can support the work God is doing in Africa through these dynamic partnerships—and the life-changing ministry God accomplishes through IM all around the world—by giving to the World Mission Offering. You can support these vital ministries [online now](#). For more information about supporting the worldwide ministries of IM, visit the [2006 World Mission Offering website](#). IM is a Baptist mission agency, established in 1814, which serves the more than 5,800 churches of the American Baptist Churches USA.

Search Committee Nominates Trulson to Lead International Ministries

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/6/06)—The committee formed to conduct the search for the next Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries has unanimously chosen Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson as its nominee. The announcement of the committee's decision was made today by the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), and the Rev. Ray Schooler, President of the Board of International Ministries (IM).

The action of the committee culminates a six-month search process, which will bring Trulson's nomination to the full ABC General Board and the IM board for election on November 15, 2006. Schooler expressed gratitude for the work of the committee, saying, "The search committee members really gave themselves to this effort. We had a very solid process and a great outcome. We are deeply grateful for God's leading throughout our work, and also very appreciative of the selfless service Roy Medley graciously rendered to the committee."

Medley expressed his own enthusiasm for the nomination of Trulson, saying, "Reid has won the respect of Baptists throughout Europe and the Middle East with whom he has worked closely as a missionary and staff person, as well as the respect of our American Baptist family. He will provide strong leadership to our international mission."

Trulson brings to the executive directorship a great depth and breadth of experience in the life of ABCUSA and IM, having served over twenty years in local church ministry and over eleven years with IM in international mission (five years as a missionary in Europe and six years as a member of the home office staff). During his years in local church ministry, Trulson served on both region and national boards: he was President of the ABC of Wisconsin region board and, during his eight years on the ABC General Board and the Board of IM, Trulson served two terms as the President of the Board of IM.

The grandson of Norwegian immigrants to the U.S., Trulson's interest in cross-cultural mission came early. While a student at Fuller Seminary, he interrupted his studies to spend a year serving with Scripture Union in Ghana, West Africa. Upon returning to seminary, he became deeply involved in the life of Friendship Baptist Church, the oldest African American Baptist church in Pasadena, California. Trulson was ordained at Friendship, and served there as Minister of Christian Education. As the Rev. Dr. James Stinespring, Vice President of the IM Board put it, "Trulson's passion for cross-cultural ministry positions him to make a significant contribution to the internationally diverse mission of the ABCUSA."

Trulson comes to IM at an important time of transition in the life of IM and of the ABCUSA as a whole. For over 192 years, the agency currently known as IM has served as the ABC's instrument for international mission outreach, continually adapting its strategies to changing circumstances. The strategic plan guiding IM's work during the first decade of the twenty-first century, *Go Global*, combines classic commitments to evangelism, leadership development and holistic ministry to human need, with innovative commitments to partnering with local churches and ABC regions.

Trulson served both on the task force that crafted *Go Global* in 1998-1999 and on a smaller task force that in 2003 made significant mid-course adjustments to IM's way of pursuing *Go Global*. Chief among those adjustments has been the introduction of IM's Missionary Partnership Networks (MPN), a highly relational approach to providing for the various elements of missionary support.

Schooler summed up the feelings of the search committee, saying that "Reid has a depth of knowledge and historical perspective not only regarding IM, but the whole ABC. He knows who we are, knows where we've been and has a great vision for our future."

Trulson himself commented that, "The World Mission Conferences that IM conducted this year in West Virginia and Wisconsin reminded us how often we are surprised by God's work in the world and by God's call for us to be part of that work. It is both exciting and a bit overwhelming to see how God is calling IM to serve American Baptists to make a difference in the midst of cultures that are clashing and rapidly changing. The challenges before us in the U.S., Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the world are immense. To be called into service as Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries at such a time is very humbling. I ask you to join me in prayer that together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may be found faithful in making disciples of Jesus Christ and meeting human need to the glory of God...and embracing God's surprises along the way."

The search committee included: Ray Schooler (IM President), Lloyd Beachy, Sampson Birdinground, Rachel Cocar, Manuel Hernandez, Betty Long, James Pollard, James Ratliff and James Stinespring (IM Vice President), assisted by A. Roy Medley (ABC General Secretary), Wendy Rothenberger (Director of Human Resources) and C. Jeff Woods (Associate General Secretary and affirmative action officer to the committee).

Two African Leaders Address Faith and Politics at AABF/BWA Conference

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/9/06)—Leaders from International Ministries (IM) were among dozens of Baptists who gathered at the joint conference of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF) and the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) outside of Nairobi, Kenya to hear from two African government leaders living out the challenging intersection of political leadership and Christian faith.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo opened this joint AABF general assembly and BWA "Living Water" evangelism conference on Sunday, Oct. 8, telling dozens of African Baptist leaders in prepared remarks, "Our real challenge as Christians today in Africa is how can we effectively be light and salt within the dark and tasteless corners of our communities and societies?" Obasanjo, who is Baptist, said to be truly Christian in Africa is to work to make "instability, hunger, poverty, disease and underdevelopment things of the past to our continent." Obasanjo challenged the church in Africa to be "reinventing itself as a relevant, progressive institution, and a partner with the [African Union]."

Those remarks were followed on Monday, Oct. 9 by Azarias Ruberwa Maniwa, Vice President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who said Christian leaders in church and society must demonstrate the highest level of integrity. Maniwa, who is the president of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) party, was one of over 30 candidates in the first round of presidential elections in Congo this summer -- finishing sixth. He said he is still weighing his options, including whether to support either of the two candidates left for an Oct. 29 run-off election, or his future role in any subsequent government.

"I'll be needed," Maniwa said, but added, "whatever happens, I am going to stay truly attached to the Lord with integrity."

Maniwa, like Obasanjo of Nigeria, admitted several political problems in Congo including sexual violence against women, corruption in the judiciary, and a country rich in mineral resources yet with widespread, abject poverty. However, he asked delegates to pray for a successful run-off, saying of the presidential election, "this is not a small thing." There has been violence between factions supporting the two candidates, which include current leader Joseph Kabila. Maniwa said he had tried to mediate between the factions. "The biggest fear of the people is that whoever loses will cause great conflict in the country. If we can get through this important moment without hostilities, the hope is that a newly elected movement can move ahead."

Leaders in attendance from International Ministries responded positively, yet cautiously to the remarks from the two political leaders.

"I can appreciate that these leaders -- heads of state -- value the place of the church in civil society, and want us to be partners for the good of all," said Rev. Charles Jones, acting executive director of IM. "In our attempts to do global mission, we see ourselves as positive contributors, along with our local partners in any of the countries in which we serve or support, including Nigeria, Congo, and many other countries on the continent."

Rev. Eleazar Zihembere, IM's area director for Africa, said he appreciated Maniwa's continued openness to the presence of missionaries in the Congo. "We have over 100 years of history in Congo, along with our partner, the Baptist Community of Congo. For me, it was significant recognition that this vice president would value and see a continued role of support and solidarity for mission-minded churches like American Baptists in his country." This history was recently recounted in IM's newly published 2006 Mission Study Guide on the DRC.

Both Jones and Zihembere emphasized as an outside organization, which sees its primary role as support to national denominations, IM takes no political position in any country, but "we support the efforts of our partners to be prophetic witnesses of Jesus Christ for justice with mercy, peace without suppression, and economic opportunity instead of exploitation." The mission agency's monthly newsletter, the IM Update, will focus on ministry in DRC in light of presidential elections in its upcoming edition.

Jones, a native of Liberia who served many years in Baptist denominational leadership in that worn-torn country, said he was hopeful that the political presence at the AABF conference would push leaders to readily embrace the challenge of Obasanjo for the church to reinvent itself as relevant. "The gospel of Jesus Christ is relevant and transformative in every age. The gospel has flourished in Africa as independence movements and indigenous Christian leaders have arisen. I believe our Lord mandates a faith with works that improves the lives of people materially and spiritually. Toward that end," Jones said, "I hope organizations like BWA and IM will continue to be valued partners, undergirding the powerful witness of African Baptists all over the continent." The All Africa Baptist Fellowship was established in 1982 as one of the six regional branches of the Baptist World Alliance. Its general assembly meets once every four years.

Baptist Assembly in Africa Told to Transform Ministry to Persons with HIV/AIDS

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/10/06)—Pastors, missionaries, and persons living with HIV/AIDS challenged dozens of Baptist leaders gathered together from across Africa to preach and practice transformation in order to make a significant impact on the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the continent. "There is ignorance and fear," said Rev. Fletcher Kaiya, General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Malawi, "but the church is there as a light to shine through the ignorance and fear to bring Christ to liberate people from these chains."

Kaiya addressed the joint general assembly of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship and the "Living Water" evangelism conference of the Baptist World Alliance at a conference center in Limuru, outside of Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, Oct. 10. The joint event runs from Oct. 8 through Oct. 13, 2006.

Sylvia Opandu, a Christian activist living with HIV, said pastors must confront Christian ignorance and passivity. "When I went to Bible School, I met many pastors who, when I shared my status in class, they almost ran away," said Opandu. "They did not believe I was saved." Opandu, who runs a program at City Harvest Ministries in Nairobi, said many churches still have the "misconception that HIV is a curse and a punishment from God." This was hurtful, Opandu said, because she had been faithful to her husband. And she was not told by the doctor that her husband had HIV/AIDS until after he died in 1995.

Kaiya agreed that the stigma and taboo around women's sexuality is among the chief cultural issues that churches must confront with information. "[Traditionally, when] the husband dies, the wife has to be sexually cleansed. When a child dies, sexual cleansing has to take place," said Kaiya. "Girls, after circumcision, are supposed to sleep with an older man. Everything is around the [woman's] sexuality and not the man's sexuality." Kaiya said that the Baptist Convention of Malawi, with the support of the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance in the U.S., has produced a pamphlet called "Breaking the Silence," to talk effectively about HIV/AIDS. But challenges remain.

"When we go to rural areas," Kaiya said, "we still find people preaching things that would be offensive to those who have the HIV virus, despite the fact that I don't know any one church or any one family that has not been affected." Kaiya said that within his own family of seven

siblings, four (two brothers and two sisters) had died from complications and infections brought on by HIV/AIDS.

Like Kaiya, Rev. Bernard Kabarú Mwangi is also attempting to mobilize churches. In 2000, when Mwangi was principal of the Kenya Baptist Theological College, he said a survey suggested less than 40 percent of pastors surveyed believed that HIV/AIDS was a crisis. To combat this challenge, he mobilized a conference through the college, which brought together about 150 pastors, educators, and church leaders. Today, he is active in forming the Fellowship of Baptists of Central Kenya, more than 300 churches. He also lives out the ministry he envisions through Koinonia Baptist Church, a new church plant he pastors, just outside of Nairobi.

"There is awareness, but still not appropriately transformative responses that are self-initiated," said Mwangi. "I would expect every church to have a small group of counselors for HIV/AIDS. I would expect every church to have 'True Love Waits' for youth and 'True Love Stays' for married couples. I would expect every church to have some form of orphan support."

Baptist leaders from South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were among those who said they had developed policies, programs, and training for the churches in their unions and conventions.

Rev. Charles Jones, who is leading a delegation from International Ministries (IM) of American Baptist Churches, said mission partners can be useful in helping meet these ministry goals. "Just as an example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of our missionaries works with our denominational partner, the Baptist Community of Congo, to teach the 'True Love Waits' curriculum to thousands of Congolese youth," said Jones, IM's Acting Executive Director. Moreover, Rev. Eleazar Zihembere, IM's Area Director for Africa, said IM was working in other countries, like South Africa and Zambia among others, to promote health, awareness, compassion, and support for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Mrs. Michaelé Birdsall, IM's Treasurer, said she was moved by the stories she heard. "I deeply connected with the testimonies of those living with HIV, particularly Opandu's story of power and the determination to live openly with her status and minister to others."

After her experience in Bible School, Opandu said she knows more than 15 pastors who are HIV positive. As a Pentecostal/charismatic Christian, Opandu also said she believes in healing, and believes God will one day heal her. But she and Kaiya said many have misled persons into not taking medication because they were supposedly healed by a preacher, only to end up dying later in the hospital. Only continued openness and honesty, she said, can help the church combat the disease.

"HIV is not a scourge, it is a manageable disease, like cancer or diabetes," said Opandu. "HIV does not kill, it is the opportunistic infections that kill, and now many of them are manageable and treatable. But what is killing people is fear. The church has a responsibility before God and before man to teach and preach against these social ills."

The Way Home Is Peace

This article is from Church World Service

October 5, 2006

By Charlotte Brudenell, ACT-Caritas field communicator

El Daein, South Darfur, Sudan --For some of the internally displaced people living in camps in Darfur, it is now safe to go home. However, those who can go home are not Darfurians; they are the displaced from southern Sudan who, two decades ago, fled fighting in their homeland.

For the last 19 years, Mary has lived in Khor Omer camp on the outskirts of El Daein town. She is one of thousands of internally displaced southern Sudanese living in the camp. "Tell the world," says Mary. "After the rains, nobody will stay here." The southerners are going home.

Mary's story is harrowing. While trying to escape the war in her home in southern Sudan, her whole family was abducted by armed militias. Two of her children are still missing, her husband was killed, she herself stabbed and left for dead, and hundreds of her fellow southerners burnt alive in railway cars before her eyes.

Everyone in the camp has his or her own difficult story to tell. Many have come to Khor Omer camp since the conflict broke out in Darfur, having been displaced by fighting elsewhere, but they are all hopeful.

Since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed by the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) 18 months ago, thousands of Southern Sudanese living across Sudan, including Darfur, have been returning to their homes in the south. But many, like Mary, have been waiting for the rains to end in early October to return home. Some of them have tried to get home, but find themselves having to wait in Darfur. Two large wadis, or seasonal rivers, some 150 and 250 kilometers south of Khor Omer camp, must be crossed to reach southern Sudan. During the rainy season they are impassable, blocking the route south.

"I was on my way home," says Garang, who came from the west in South Darfur to Khor Omer camp in May. "I was being repatriated, but heavy rains fell, and it was no longer possible to cross the wadi."

In coordination with the United Nations, the Sudanese government is organizing repatriations, which are due to begin once the rains end. But many people are anxious to get home, and they worry they might have to wait another year if left to rely on the government. "We need to go home quickly, so that we can build good houses. To get home, we need one of two things: either transportation, or if that is not possible, we need food so that we can walk home," says Garang.

Others hope to find work on a farm at harvest time, so they can raise enough money to pay their way home. But there isn't enough work for everyone.

The southerners will also need assistance at home. After more than 20 years of war and 20 years of absence from their homes and farms, there is little they are returning to.

"We have nothing, but it is our home," says Mary. "In the first year, we need help. We need axes so we can clear the land and start to cultivate, then we will not ask again. We will be able to provide for ourselves as we did before." Although there's a peace agreement in place, little has been done in terms of development in the South.

On the other side of El Daein town, the people in El Neem camp also want to go home. But they are not waiting for the end of the rainy season, nor the harvest, nor transportation. They are Darfurians. They are afraid to go home. "There must be security. This is the first thing," says Zobeida. "If there is no security, there is no life." He adds, "Then the villages that were destroyed need to be rebuilt. But first we need security, before eating, drinking, anything."

The Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) between the Government of Sudan and one faction of the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army was signed five months ago. But civilians continue to be killed and displaced by in-fighting among rebel groups and a fresh military offensive targeting those rebels who refused to sign the DPA. It isn't safe to go home.

Fozia, 45, and Fatima, 17, both live in El Neem camp. They say they will go home when there is peace. But how long will they have to wait? Eighteen months? Twenty years?

ACT International is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies worldwide. Church World Service is supporting the ACT humanitarian assistance in Sudan.

Contributions to CWS Sudan-Darfur emergency efforts may be [made online](#), by phone to 800-297-1516 ext. 222, or mailed to CWS, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Thank you.

Winter Threatens with Another Emergency

This article is from Church World Service.

October 6, 2006

Battagram, Pakistan--On Sunday, October 8, a year will have passed since a massive earthquake shook parts of Pakistan. The earthquake--the strongest in more than a century--killed some 80,000 people, injured at least 200,000, and left nearly 3.5 million people without shelter. Now, 12 months later, the picture remains grim for many of those affected, with less than two percent of houses in the most seriously affected areas having been rebuilt. It means that hundreds of thousands of people are preparing to endure another winter without shelter, and there is much evidence to suggest that these communities are facing another humanitarian emergency.



Photo: Arne Grieg Riisnæs, Norwegian Church Aid, ACT International

When the earthquake struck, the Pakistani authorities and the international community were quick to respond with lifesaving emergency aid. This assistance, combined with an unusually mild winter and few heavy snowfalls, allowed those affected by the earthquake to tackle the winter far better than was feared. Yet financial support from the international community soon dried up, and donations have fallen around US\$151 million short of the UN's target for relief and rehabilitation activities.

In Mansehra, Shangla, Battagram, Kohistan and Abottabad--all districts of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP)--where more than 570,000 houses were entirely or partially destroyed, less than two percent of the population has so far been able to rebuild their homes. Authorities estimate that 66,000 families from the mountainous districts are currently without shelter, and that these families will move to lower ground when winter sets in. They will need insulated tents, blankets, food and water. After last year's mild winter which was relatively kind to the earthquake survivors, the weather this winter is expected to be much harsher, with freezing temperatures and heavy snowfalls.

"Hundreds of thousands of people will be forced to leave their homes over the coming months. A humanitarian emergency is very probable," says Hussain Ullah, national coordinator for earthquake response activities in Pakistan, who also reports to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In Balakot, four hours north of Islamabad, more than 17,000 people were killed and almost 90 percent of homes in the town itself flattened by the earthquake. Today, Balakot is a confusion of ruins and haphazard constructions of corrugated iron. In the center of what was once a flourishing trading hub, some small, provisional shops have been set up. In one of them we met a teacher, Mohammed Perwaz. He had just begun the day's lesson when the earthquake struck last year. Four of the children in his class were killed instantly as the school collapsed. He lost his own younger sister. Mohammed still works as a teacher, but lessons take place now in makeshift tents on the outskirts of town. The quake destroyed 7,669 schools, and only a small number of these have been rebuilt. "It will take 50 to 100 years before we can get back to where we were before the earthquake. Balakot is a graveyard, but we have to look to the future. For the children's sake," says Mohammed.



Photo: Arne Grieg Riisnæs, Norwegian Church Aid, ACT International

FEAR OF DEATH

"We have nothing. We live from hand to mouth," says 76-year-old Lalparam Jan in the village of Dharian in Battagram District. The terrain is mountainous here, and hardly a person is to be found who has not in one way or another suffered from the earthquake's effects. She and her husband Gul Zarin were both injured when parts of their house collapsed that fatal morning - they were rescued by a Japanese relief team. Lalparam's injuries were so severe that she is still unable to move. The elderly couple now spend their days in the ruins of their former home. At night they retreat to the tent they received in January. It is full of holes and is slowly rotting. In this region, up to 150 cm of snow can fall during the winter months. They are afraid that when the snow comes their tent and what remains of their home will collapse. "Then we're finished. I can't move, and we can't afford medical treatment. I may as well die now, but I'm scared," says Lalparam. Her husband dried a tear, but when he heard we were from Norwegian Church Aid and Church World Service--both members of the global alliance ACT International, he reached out his hand. "Thank you. Without water, we would already be dead." A stone's throw away from Lalparam and Gul, we met Sultan and his four year-old daughter Mairfazon. Her younger brother was buried alive, just one year old, when their house collapsed in the earthquake. Since then, Mairzafon has been living in a tent with her mother, while her father sleeps in their uncle's barn. "I don't care about the house, but I mourn the loss of my boy every day. I also fear winter. Most of the women and children sleep in tents - they won't move back into the buildings because they are afraid another earthquake or aftershock will come. But the tent we have is no good. The rain comes straight through it. When the snow starts to fall, I don't know what we're going to do," says Sultan.



Photo: Arne Grieg Riisnæs, Norwegian Church Aid, ACT International



Photo: Arne Grieg Riisnæs, Norwegian Church Aid, ACT International

RELIANT ON AID

Soon after the earthquake struck last year, the Pakistan government placed a ban on reconstruction efforts by organizations--because the authorities wished to introduce a "common standard" to ensure that new houses were more earthquake-resistant. However, the issue of land ownership has had an impact on the reconstruction efforts, creating many challenges.



Photo: Arne Grieg Riisnæs,
Norwegian Church Aid, ACT
International

In March this year, the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), the Pakistani authorities' reconstruction agency, promised economic compensation to all who had lost their homes in the earthquake. However a very large number of those affected by the earthquake are extremely poor and have had to use this money on food and clothing instead.

"We (the authorities) cannot help the fact that people have used their money on other things than the intended purpose, namely the reconstruction of their houses," said Hussain Ullah, admitting that this is a serious problem. "But it is still their problem," said Ullah, and underlines that the authorities are currently preparing themselves to deal with the large numbers of people who are expected to descend from the mountains, bringing with them little else than the clothes they are wearing. And this is before the authorities turn to those who will remain in the mountains.

"If people had only used the money they received to build houses, the situation would be entirely different," said Hussain Ullah. "When the snow comes, large areas of the Allai valley will be isolated. A very large number of residents will be dependent on aid via helicopter. Otherwise they will die. Many will die this winter," says Ullah.



Photo: Arne Grieg Riisnæs,
Norwegian Church Aid, ACT
International

Contributions to support these efforts may be sent to ABCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing offering (through your church or through www.abc-usa.org), or directly to Church World Service, Southern Asia Earthquake -- #6979, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Contributions may also be made by **credit card online**, by calling: (800) 297-1516, ext. 222.

Former ABC Missionary to North East India and the Philippines, Frank Curry, Dies

Dr. Frank F. Curry, retired missionary to North East India and Philippines for 33 years of service, died June 16, 2006, in Des Moines, Washington, at the age of 89. He was born April 11, 1917, in Grafton, Illinois.

Frank graduated from the University of Washington where he received his B.S. degree in 1939. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Oregon Medical School, and studied at the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. He served his medical internship in Detroit and received special training at the National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana, in the treatment of leprosy. For two years he served with U. S. Army Medical Corps. He was married to Beryl Harriet Newton on August 11, 1940. They had six children.

Frank and Beryl Curry were appointed missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on November 18, 1946. They sailed for India on October 9, 1947. Their first assignment

was rebuilding the Kangpokpi Hospital in Manipur, North East India, which had been badly damaged during World War II. During their first furlough, the State of Manipur, North East India, was declared a "sensitive area" by the Government of India, and they were unable to return. They were reassigned to serve at the Emmanuel Mission Hospital in Roxas City, Philippines. Frank served as associate director of the hospital and as chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 1965, they returned to India to serve at the Jorhat Christian Hospital and Leprosy Colony. He served as a surgeon in the hospital and leprosy colony. In 1969, there was a need for their services at the Satri Bari Christian Hospital, a 135-bed general hospital, in Gauhati, Assam. Dr. Curry was involved in surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and clinical work. They returned to the United States in November 1979 for medical reasons.

After his retirement in 1980, Frank worked for the Fresno County Department of Health in California. In 1989, Frank accepted a call to be a volunteer medical missionary at the Kwai River Christian Hospital in Hui Malai, Thailand. Then in 1989-90 he was a volunteer missionary surgeon at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Limbé, Haiti.

Frank is survived by his beloved wife, Beryl Harriet Curry, six children: Dr. Robert E. Curry, Frank Lee Curry, Patricia Beryl Curry, David A. Curry, Priscilla Ann Curry Allen, and Paul J. Curry, 10 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Monday, June 19, at 2 p.m. at Judson Park Retirement Community, Des Moines, WA. Contributions may be made to Judson Park Resident Funds or American Baptist International Ministries. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Beryl H. Curry, Judson Park, 23600 Marine View Drive So. #217, Des Moines, WA 98198.

Former ABC Missionary to China and Japan, Gertrude Waterman, Dies

Gertrude Martha Waterman, former missionary to East China and Japan for 37 years, died October 2, 2006 in Claremont, CA. She was 97 years old.

Gertrude M. Waterman was born in Crafton, Pennsylvania, on October 20, 1908. She received her B.S. degree in Home Economics from the Connecticut State College and an M.A. degree from the California College in China (College of Chinese Studies) in Berkeley, California. She also studied at the Kennedy School of Missions in Hartford, Connecticut, and the Merrill-Palmer School in Detroit, Michigan, specializing in mothercraft courses. On subsequent furloughs, she studied child development courses at Cornell University (1951), Japanese language (1952), and Nursery School Administration and Supervision at Pacific Oaks College (1965).

In 1939, Gertrude M. Waterman was appointed a missionary for service in China under the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. She was commissioned and sailed for China the same year. Because war had already begun between China and Japan, she proceeded to Peking for language study. In 1941, she was evacuated to Shanghai where she continued her study under a tutor recommended by the language school. Because of the war she was not able to serve at the Memorial Mothercraft School in Huchow to which she had been appointed, but she began to teach at the Christian Cooperative Middle School in Shanghai.

After World War II, Gertrude returned to East China where she served from 1946 to 1948 at the Union Girls School in Hangchow. The political situation in China forced her departure, and she accepted appointment to serve at the Mead Christian Center in Osaka, Japan. Beginning in 1959 she taught at the Shokei Girls School in Sendai, Japan, until her retirement in 1976.

Upon returning to the states, Gertrude became a resident of Pilgrim Place in Claremont and a member of the First Baptist Church. For the last thirty years she enjoyed leading and participating in the many programs and events in both locations.

Gertrude is survived by her brother, Lawrence Waterman, and his wife, Jessie, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, nieces and nephews, and many friends at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 13, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Claremont, 472 North Mountain Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711. Monetary gifts may be sent to The Book of Remembrance at Pilgrim Place, 660 Avery Road, Claremont, CA 91711 or to the First Baptist Church of Claremont, 472 North Mountain Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711.

Central Sectional Black Church Education Conference

Ten ABC regions agreed, in conjunction with ABC National Ministries, to jointly sponsor this event to be held at Midwest Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, OH, April 19-21, 2007. Registration begins at 3:00 PM on Thursday, April 19, and the conference adjourns at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 21. ABC of Ohio is the host region and New Salem Missionary Baptist is the host church.

The theme chosen for this event is "MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS." There will be two major worship experiences, two luncheon plenaries, Bible study and praise and worship each morning, and three opportunities to participate in various seminar and workshop options. The registration fee for the conference is \$99, plus \$30 to cover the cost of the two luncheons. Rooms at the conference hotel will be available at a cost of \$79 per night which includes a complimentary buffet breakfast. We are in the process of securing leadership, but we can confirm that the Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church Cleveland, will lead the Bible studies and that the Rev. Dr. Edward Wheeler, President of Christian Theological Seminary, will give the closing address.

Prayer Requests

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

Please pray for world peace.

Please hold in prayer those who are engaged in sorting out plans for the future of ABCUSA.

Please join Irving Park Baptist Church in prayers of blessing for their pastor, Rev. Alice Greene, and her new husband, Rev. Bill Greene.

Please join Community Baptist Church in prayers of thanksgiving for Rev. Diane Merrill Pomeroy, their pastor for the past 10 years. Let's pray God's blessing on their continuing ministry together.

IM missionary Kim Brown in Thailand requests, "Please join in praying for the youth camp that Healthcare Project for Tribal People (HPTP) staff will hold Oct. 17-19, targeting tribal youth 4th grade and older. The theme will be AIDS prevention and Christian morality, 'Making Right Choices in Relationships.'"

Calendar

FRIDAY! October 13—Deadline for Biennial Award nominations. Please see www.abc-usa.org for specifics.

SUNDAY! October 15—11 a.m. worship service celebrating the 173rd anniversary of the founding of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, and the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Larry Greenfield by that congregation. Larry will preach at the morning service. At the 4 p.m. worship service Rev. Taurus Scurlock, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Evanston, will preach, and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church choir will sing.

SUNDAY! October 15—ABCMC women meet with Virginia Holmstrom and the American Baptist Women's Ministries' Leadership Team from 2:30-4:30p.m. See next week's *eWind* for details.

SUNDAY! October 15—Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary Celebration Rally, First United Methodist Church, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago, 4:30-6 p.m. This program will be free and open to the public. Since space is limited, tickets will be required. For group tickets, please phone 312-337-3632. Individual tickets may be obtained online at www.thecommongood.org/home.asp. Contact Protestants for the Common Good for more information at 312-223-9544.

SUNDAY! October 15—Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary Benefit Dinner, Hotel Allegro, 1717 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, 6:30 p.m. wine reception; 7 p.m. dinner and program. . Tickets are \$150 each. The favor of a reply is requested by **October 6**. To order benefit dinner tickets, please cal 312-337-3630 or visit www.thecommongood.org/home.asp.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY! October 16-18—Fall Revival, Third Baptist Church, 1451 W. 95th Street, Chicago, 7 p.m. each evening. See the above article for information about the dynamic speakers who will bless this occasion with their gifts of preaching.

October 17-19—Conference on “Women in Religion in the 21st Century,” Interchurch Center, New York, NY. The conference begins at 10 a.m. on Oct. 17, and concludes at 3 p.m. on Oct. 19. Full conference registration is \$300, before Sept. 10. One-day registration is \$140. To register online or for more information, visit www.womeninreligion2006.org.

October 21—Family Cabinet meeting, 9:30 a.m., ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago.

October 24—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago.

October 27—George Winston benefit concert for the homeless, 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1313 N. Mill Street, Naperville. (Free parking, handicapped accessible.) Reservations may be made at 630-225-5012, or by email at info@hearus.us.

October 28—Good Company Coffee House, Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m. Open microphone. Come and perform. Come to watch and listen. For more information, please phone the church, 773-334-9003 or Lynne Kelley at 847-909-8191.

October 30—“Prepare to Care: Ministry in Times of Disaster,” 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. 450 W. Highway 22, Barrington. For more information, please email rozann.shackleton@advocatehealth.com, or phone 847-381-0123, Ext. 26-5062. This seminar, including materials and meals, is offered free of charge; however, **registration is required by October 23**.

November 10—ABCMC Ministers Council Meeting, 3 p.m.

November 10-11—ABCMC Annual Meeting.

November 11—Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner, 6 p.m., First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. All tickets are purchased at the door. \$15/adult; \$100/table; \$5/child.

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.

April 19-21, 2007—ABC Central Sectional Black Church Education Conference, Midwest Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio.

April 27-28, 2007—Revive Us Again! Revival of our Spirit, Revival of our Baptist Principles, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, Massachusetts. This will be a gathering of progressive Baptists from around the country.

June 29-July 2, 2007—ABCUSA Biennial Meeting and Centennial Celebration in Washington, D.C. The biennial's theme will be “Arise and Shine.”

Feb 21-23, 2008—Gathering of Baptist Bodies from across the US for a Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, Dallas, Texas.

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

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