

# 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  
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region.

**May 2, 2007**

Happy are those who consider the poor; the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.  
The LORD protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land.  
Psalm 41:1-2

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### ABCMC NEWS

Bob Webber

Are You Going to Biennial?

Family Council Meeting May 12

Thinking Theologically

Immigration

**SATURDAY!** Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner

#### FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

**THIS WEEKEND!**

Second Baptist Church of Wheaton Hosts 100 Year Anniversary Celebration

**SUNDAY!** Pastoral Installation

Speaker on Islam

#### COMMUNITY NEWS

**THIS WEEKEND!** Education and Faith

Car Wash

CWS Interethnic Dialogues on Immigration begin April 28

Eyes Wide Open

Spotlight on Torture

The Two-State Solution: Still Possible?

#### ABCUSA NEWS

**TOMORROW!** ABCUSA General Secretary Urges American Baptists to Join the Nation in  
Prayer May 3

Baptist Heritage Sunday – May 20

[Celebration of Religious Liberty](#)

[Ministry in Such a Time as This: Adaptive Change for Faithful and Effective Leadership](#)

[Arise & Shine Biennial](#)

[Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church](#)

[National Ministries Announces Home Mission Events at Biennial Meeting](#)

[Come to the Edge!](#)

## IM Special Service Worker Dies at Age 79

### MINISTERS COUNCIL

Spring Meeting in Metro Chicago  
September Meeting in Metro Chicago  
Ministers Council Dues

### PRAYER REQUESTS

### BOOK NOOK

### CALENDAR

### POSITION OPENINGS

Pastoral Search  
Carlson Ministries

## ABCMC NEWS

### *Bob Webber*

Dr. Robert E. Webber, Myers chair of Ministry at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, died on Friday, April 27 following a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 73 years old.

Through his teaching career at Wheaton College, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, as well as books including *The Complete Library of Christian Worship*, and his Ancient-Future series, Bob greatly influenced pastors and other church leaders to focus on worship in new and historically-based ways.

Colleagues at NBTS remember Bob as an exceptionally capable teacher and mentor. A committed scholar, he continued to write and even completed a book during his illness.

Bob is survived by his wife Joanne, as well as four adult children, their spouses, and several grandchildren. Joanne indicated, "In lieu of flowers, Bob would ask that anyone who wanted to send them to send a donation to one of the following:

Advancement Fund, the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, 151 Kingsley Highway, Orange Park, FL 32073

Or, to the Robert E. Webber Center for an Ancient Evangelical Future, Northern Seminary, 660 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL 60148."

Bob and Joanne discussed his funeral wishes at length, and he wrote out the service himself. It will be a worship service, Joanne indicated, "in an ancient-future format, with a few short [5-7 mins] eulogies at first and then a service that celebrates Christus Victor!" In an email to friends, Joanne explained, "There are going to be three services in order to bring things to a close. This is due to the fact he lived his life in three different venues, Chicago, Michigan and Florida." The service in the Chicago area will be on Wednesday evening, May 16 at 7 p.m. at Christ Church of Oak Brook at 31<sup>st</sup> and York Road. The phone number of the church is 630-654-1882.

Please keep in prayer Joanne, and her and Bob's family. Please hold in prayer also the many friends and colleagues who are grieving Bob's death while celebrating his life.

### *Are You Going to Biennial?*

If so, please tell Tony Rake at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com). ABCMC will host a reception at 9 p.m. on Friday evening during Biennial. Everyone attending Biennial is welcome at the reception.

Whether you are going or not, please print out, copy, and use in this Sunday's worship bulletin the newest Biennial bulletin insert, attached to this issue of *eWind*.

### *Family Council Meeting May 12*

The quarterly meeting of ABCMC's Family Council will take place on Saturday, May 12 at Community Baptist Church, Main Street and Warren Avenue, Warrentville. Everyone is welcome at this meeting. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be from 9 a.m. through lunch at noon. Please phone Tony Rake at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com) to tell him whether you will attend.

### *Thinking Theologically*

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield pens a fortnightly column for *The Common Good Network*, the electronic newsletter of Protestants for the Common Good. His latest article, "Suspense," is attached to the issue of *eWind*.

### *Immigration*

Much is in the news these days about reforming U.S. immigration laws, especially in light of demonstrations across the country yesterday (May 1). This raises many important issues that we as Christians need to consider.

In the ABCMC family, we have many immigrants, especially in our churches who worship in languages other than English, including French, Latvian, Romanian, Spanish, Telugu and Urdu-Hindi. Regardless of their immigration status, they are our American Baptist sisters and brothers. Their rights are important to us, as are the rights of all God's children.

Shakespeare Osorio, pastor of Central Spanish Baptist Church in Chicago, asks that ABCMC join others asking for attention to a number of concerns about immigrant rights and immigration law. Executive Minister Larry Greenfield would like to add that discussion to our agenda for the Family Council meeting on May 12 at Community Baptist Church in Warrentville.

In view of the many immigrants present in this country, Shakespeare asks that we advocate for comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration laws. Among the concerns Shakespeare raises are hope that the U.S. will stop raids on immigrants, especially when those raids lead to terrifying scenarios involving children. Shakespeare also urges us to ask that the federal government stop deportations of illegal immigrants not believed guilty of another crime, until congress passes a comprehensive immigration law reform. It is especially important for us to say no to any deportation process that separates immigrant families, he adds.

Leticia Gutierrez, who emigrated legally to the U.S. from Mexico in 1972, is part of a group of folks, mostly immigrants, who work hard cleaning O'Hare Plaza, where the ABCMC office is

located. Leticia cleans the ABCMC office every evening. Agreeing with Shakespeare's statements about the need for reform of immigration laws, Leticia pointed out that most immigrants, whether in the U.S. legally or otherwise, are in the U.S. because they seek a better life for themselves and their families.

Leticia added that immigrants are not seeking to take jobs away from American workers. She has observed that most Americans do not want to do the cleaning work that she and her colleagues do—certainly not at the wages they are paid. But even the opportunities immigrants have at low wages in this country are greater than the opportunities in Mexico, Leticia says. In Mexico, where everything but housing costs as much as or more than it does in the U.S., Leticia's sister works hard 60 hours a week at a grocery store, but earns only 800 pesos—\$80—per week. In comparison, even jobs that pay minimum wage in the United States look very attractive. She says that since undocumented immigration is dangerous and sometimes deadly, people would not risk entering the U.S. illegally if comparable opportunities were available to them in Mexico.

Leticia sees a need for reforming the process by which immigrants may become legal residents. That process now requires an undocumented person who enters the U.S. and wishes to become a permanent resident must first pay a fine of \$3,000. The cost of then becoming a legal resident is \$10,000. Such costs are beyond the reach of someone working for minimum wage, especially if those wages are supporting children in addition to the wage earner.

Congress is currently considering a number of proposals for reforming immigration laws. Church World Service is sponsoring a series of dialogs exploring issues. (Please see the article below, "**CWS Interethnic Dialogues on Immigration begin April 28.**") Much information is available online, in newspapers and in magazines about recommendations under consideration. Online resources include <http://www.nclr.org/content/policy/detail/1058/>, <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/> and <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/immigration>. Just as we Baptists believe in studying and discussing the Bible and theology and ethics, and coming to our own conclusions with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we need to study the immigration matter, and come to Spirit-led, informed decisions.

We have many opportunities to become informed about the matter before our discussion on May 12, where we will no doubt learn even more. We thank Shakespeare for bringing issues before us, and invite the ABCMC family to learn about, and then come together to discuss, questions about immigrants and U.S. immigration law.

### **SATURDAY!** *Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner*

ABCMC's Cook County Jail Ministry (CCJM) will host a dinner on Saturday, May 5 at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. This event will be the ministry's spring fund raiser. Everyone in the ABCMC family is encouraged to attend.

The evening will include a time of fellowship from 6 p.m.-6:30 p.m. The dinner and program are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The program will include testimonies and good Christian music. A free will offering for the jail ministry will be taken.

The cost of tickets will be \$15 per adult, \$5/child, and \$100 per table. All dinner tickets are to be purchased at the door. If you have any questions, please contact CCJM board member Paul Sengpiehl at 708-383-8859.

## **FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS**

**THIS WEEKEND!**

## *Second Baptist Church of Wheaton Hosts Centennial Celebration*

The Weekend of May 4-6, 2007, Second Baptist Church of Wheaton will host its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration honoring its humble beginning, historical relevance, and future direction. Come celebrate with Pastor Andre Allen and the Second Baptist Church Family as they celebrate 100 years of service for the Lord. On Friday May 4th at 6:00 p.m., Second Baptist will kick off the weekend with a Banquet Celebration at Indian Lakes Resort, 250 West Schick Road in Bloomingdale, Illinois. Featured guest soloists are Sis. Delores Cole from Oak Ridge, Tennessee and songwriter/producer, "Gospel Balladeer" Desmond Pringle of Magnum Opus Entertainment of Beverly Hills, Ca. Those Funny Little People from Chicago, Illinois are our guest performers. We encourage event goers to stay at Indian Lakes Resort on Friday night to experience the resort's world class amenities.

On Saturday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m., the Anniversary Choir will help celebrate the goodness of the Lord at a massive church service at First Baptist Church, 1310 North Main Street in Wheaton, Illinois. Rev. James T. Meeks, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Chicago and Illinois Senator, is the keynote speaker.

A closing service at Second Baptist Church of Wheaton, 1520 Avery Avenue in Wheaton on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. will end our celebration. The guest speaker is Rev. Lacy Banks a minister at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago and a sports writer for the Chicago Sun Times.

Second Baptist Church is eternally grateful to God for keeping us 100 years as we have worked and are striving to glorify God, build up the Saved and win the Lost in the name of Jesus Christ.

For more information call the church at 630-260-0190 or visit their website at [sbcwheaton.org](http://sbcwheaton.org). Please join us.

### **SUNDAY!** *Pastoral Installation*

A Service of Installation for Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque will take place on Sunday, May 6 at 4 p.m. at the Community Church of Barrington, 407 Grove Street, Barrington. The Guest Pastor Rev. Nathaniel Edmond, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Elgin. Ordained clergy are asked to vest and arrive by 3:45. For more information, please phone the church at 847-381-1294.

### *Speaker on Islam*

The Community Church of Wilmette invites you to hear Dr. Ghada Talhami, D.K. Pearsons Professor of Politics at Lake Forest College speak on "Islamic Societies Hear and Abroad: The Challenges of Assimilation." Please join our sisters and brothers in Wilmette for an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the ancient religion of Islam and a greater appreciation for the challenges faced by the American Muslim community in coping with the pressures of a secular and multi-ethnic society and outside calls for reform. Learn what life is really like for most Muslims, particularly women, in a world dominated by religious laws and strict traditions. Grow in your awareness of the common goals we must seek together to achieve a world where all views are tolerated and respected.

A flier about this event is attached to this issue of *eWind*. Please print it out and share it with others in your church and community.

The presentation will take place on Wednesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette. For more information, please phone 847-251-4370.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## **THIS WEEKEND!** *Education and Faith*

Illinois' school funding system punishes students in poor areas, burdens property taxpayers and results in inequality and poor performance in public education. *The time is now for change!*

During the weekend of May 4-6, congregations across Illinois will join A+ Illinois to address the urgent need for school funding reform. Thousands of congregants will sign postcards urging their lawmakers to stand up for change.

To involve your congregation in Education and Faith Weekend, please contact A+ Illinois organizer:

Chicago – Chris Butler at [cbutler@aplusillinois.org](mailto:cbutler@aplusillinois.org) or 312-402-2204

Kane / DuPage - Laurel Bault at [lbault@aplusillinois.org](mailto:lbault@aplusillinois.org) or 630-484-4874.

Lake County – Ilya Sheyman at [isheyman@aplusillinois.org](mailto:isheyman@aplusillinois.org) or 847-970-1527

## *Car Wash*

Girl Scout Troop 4402 will be attending the 95th Anniversary celebration in Washington, DC on June 8. They are raising funds for their trip, and invite your participation. On Saturday, May 12 they will have a car wash at the Berwyn VFW on 15th & Harlem Avenues from 9 - 12. Their Troop Advisor is Sandy Cervenka from the First Baptist Church of Berwyn.

## *CWS Interethnic Dialogues on Immigration begin April 28*

NEW YORK, April 25, 2007 - Global humanitarian agency Church World Service is inviting people from a wide variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds and with diverse opinions about U.S. immigration policy to a new series of Interethnic Dialogues on Immigration.

Set to launch on April 28 in Grand Rapids, Mich., the dialogues will encourage participants to speak out - and to listen to each other – on this crucial topic.

New York-based Church World Service (CWS) is sponsoring 10 such events, aimed at helping participants from different backgrounds move toward unity and community action. Nine local dialogues are scheduled through July: Grand Rapids, Michigan (April 28); Miami, Florida (May 7); Boston, Mass. (May 12); Omaha, Nebraska (May 16); Syracuse, N.Y. (May 24); Atlanta, Georgia (June 1); Columbus, Ohio (June 13); Chicago, Illinois. (June 15), and New Haven, Ct. (July 12). A final, national dialogue, at which findings from the local gatherings will be presented, is scheduled for July 18 in Washington, D.C.

"Too often, different ethnic groups are pitted against each other as potential winners and losers in the immigration debate," says Jamie Pitts, dialogue coordinator, who works in CWS's Washington, D.C., offices. "And too often, the debate seems to forget that immigration affects people of all nationalities.

"Yes, Latinos are at the forefront of our current debates, but it is time to recognize that the immigration issue is far broader," he said. "For instance, few of our debates take into account the impact of immigration policies on our Asian and African populations. And few of our discussions

on undocumented immigration talk about the thousands of Irish and other European undocumented people."

That is why dialogue organizers are inviting a cross-section of each host community - between 40 and 100 organizations and individuals, including people from immigrant and refugee communities, community advocates, businesspeople, government officials, and media - to each dialogue.

Participants are asked to come with the one immigration-related issue that is most important to them and/or their organization. An agenda for each meeting is created out of those issues, and participants break up into small groups to discuss each issue.

At a January 18 pilot dialogue in Washington, D.C., participants' concerns clustered around issues that included the impact of immigration on low-income, U.S.-born workers; detention of immigrants and immigrant families, and the unintended impact of the "material support to terrorism bar" on legitimate refugees and asylum seekers.

"In other communities, the priorities that emerge might be totally different," Pitts said. "At the end of the day, time is set aside for strategic planning to ensure the implementation of action steps that arise from the discussions. As relationships form through the dialogue process, action steps are identified and implemented."

Why "dialogue?" Haven't we talked enough?

"Yes and no," Pitts said. "Though we have been talking about immigration for a long time, we have made little progress. There are a number of reasons why we have not progressed, but among them are our tendencies to only talk with people who agree with us and not to listen to those who disagree.

"Interethnic Dialogues on Immigration create space for people with a wide array of opinions to share those opinions and respectfully listen to others. We believe the give and take of sharing and listening - dialogue - is central to our democratic process and will help our national discussion on immigration.

"We do plan for action to come out of the dialogues and these dialogues will facilitate new alliances and help identify common ground where action can take place. Finally, the dialogues are a great way to connect with organizations that are active on immigration in your community."

For more information in both English and Spanish, please visit [www.immigrationdialogues.org](http://www.immigrationdialogues.org).

## *Eyes Wide Open*

An Exhibition on the Human Cost of the Iraq War will be held in Grant Park, Jackson and Columbus Drive, Chicago, May 24-28. More information is available at <http://www.afsc.org/eyes/chicago-three-years.htm>.

In January 2004, the American Friends Service Committee unveiled Eyes Wide Open in Chicago's Federal Plaza with 504 pairs of boots, each tagged with the name, rank, age and home state of a fallen soldier or Marine. Since that time, it has been a traveling exhibit. With each passing week, each stop in a new city, more pairs of boots are added to represent the newly fallen. This Memorial Day weekend, the exhibit returns to Chicago, the city where it all started.

Volunteers are needed from now until May 28 for Outreach, Volunteer Recruitment, Program planning, Boot-tagging, Boot installation, On-site management, Boot take-down, etc. For more

information, please contact Erin Polley at 312.427.2533ext 25 or at [epolley@afsc.org](mailto:epolley@afsc.org).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Thursday, May 24 - Opening Day**

8:00 a.m. Exhibit installation

12 p.m. Opening Press Conference. Participants will include:  
Raed Jarrar, Iraq Consultant for AFSC and an Iraqi who is now living in the US and who conducted door to door casualty counts at beginning of war  
Celeste Zappala, Gold-Star mother and co-founder of Gold Star Families Speak Out  
Aaron Hughes, Chicago representative of Iraq Veterans Against the War  
Mary Ellen McNish, AFSC General Secretary  
Michael McConnell, AFSC Great Lakes Regional Director

### **Friday, May 25- Focus on Youth**

12 p.m. Presenters will include:  
Ray Parrish, Viet-Nam Veterans Against War  
Dante Zappala, Gold Star Families Speak Out  
Raed Jarrar, Iraq Consultant  
Free Street Theater (invited)

7 p.m. Youth + Militarism Poetry Slam will feature:  
Young Chicago Authors  
Crib Collective  
Kumba Lynx

### **Saturday, May 26- Focus on Military Families and Vets**

10:30-12 pm Kids Step Up for Peace. Presenters will include:  
Jennifer Bing-Canar, National Middle East Coordinator, AFSC  
Childs Play Touring Theater (invited)  
Co-sponsored by Chicagoans Against War and Injustice

12 p.m. MFSO speakout  
Co-sponsored by Military Families Speak Out

### **Sunday, May 27- Focus on Iraqis**

11:00 a.m. Quaker meeting for worship

4:00 p.m. Interfaith Service. Speakers will include:  
Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence  
Raed Jarrar Iraq Consultant, AFSC

### **Monday, May 28- Closing Day**

10:00 a.m. Presidential Candidates and Illinois delegation invited

12:00 p.m. Closing ceremony

3:00 p.m. Exhibit de-installation

For more information, contact Cynthia Okayama Dopke at [cdopke@afsc.org](mailto:cdopke@afsc.org).

## *Spotlight on Torture*

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is asking your help in encouraging your congregation to show Rory Kennedy's HBO documentary "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" during either the week of June 10-17 or October 21-28.

In a nation-wide project called "Spotlight on Torture," the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) has arranged for DVD copies of "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" to be available to 1,000 congregations, on a first come, first served basis - 50 during the week of June 10-17 and 950 during the week of October 21-28. Within those two weeks, congregations can choose the date and time they wish to schedule a screening and discussion.

"Ghosts of Abu Ghraib," an HBO film, features the familiar and very disturbing pictures of torture at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison and raises many questions: How did torture become an accepted practice at Abu Ghraib? Did U.S. government policies make it possible? How much damage has the aftermath of Abu Ghraib had on America's credibility as a defender of freedom and human rights around the world? Acclaimed filmmaker Rory Kennedy looks beyond the headlines to investigate the psychological and political context in which torture occurred.

To each of the 1,000 congregations participating in the Spotlight on Torture project, NRCAT will provide:

- A free copy of the DVD;
- A facilitator's guide for leading a discussion after the film is shown;
- A copy of "Torture is a Moral Issue" - a statement that could be endorsed by those attending the screening and discussion, and by others in your congregation;
- Suggestions of action steps that could be taken by your congregation to end U.S.-sponsored torture; and
- Resources providing further background about U.S.-sponsored torture.

In order to participate in the Spotlight on Torture project, each congregation showing the film will need to provide NRCAT with:

- A completed sign-up form;
- The name and contact information for a primary and secondary contact for this project;
- Confirmation that the clergy or leader of the congregation is aware of the plans to show the film;
- An estimate of the number of people who may attend the showing; and
- After the screening and discussion, a brief report on your experience. This information will assist NRCAT develop other programs that can help congregations engage in anti-torture activities.

This film is for mature audiences only - The film makes extensive use of the photographs from Abu Ghraib. These images and some of the interviews are extremely intense. The film contains numerous photos with male nudity. It is only suitable for mature audiences. We at NRCAT have undertaken the Spotlight on torture project because we believe that "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" will help people of faith deepen their understanding of the nature of U.S.-sponsored torture.

Due to the film's intensity, it is important that audiences have the opportunity to talk about their thoughts and feelings through facilitated dialogue and to consider possible anti-torture activities.

Learn more and to sign up your congregation to screen the film at <http://www.nrcat.org/spotlight.aspx>. If you have additional questions, please contact John Humphries, the NRCAT contact person for the Spotlight on Torture project, at [spotlight@nrcat.org](mailto:spotlight@nrcat.org) or 860-216-7972.

## *The Two-State Solution: Still Possible?*

ABCMC Colleagues,

*I hope you will find time to attend this event at the University of Chicago on June 7 about the two-state solution in Palestine/Israel. I know the date may seem a little far off and the subject either remote or overly idealistic. But I continue to believe that a solution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict is at the very core of many of our problems in the broader Middle East and that we as Americans cannot responsibly overlook them. So even if seven weeks away, please make plans to attend in order to be better informed of the issues.*

Larry Greenfield  
Executive Minister

**“The Two-State Solution: Still Possible?”** presentation will take place on June 7, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Chicago’s, International House, Assembly Hall, 1414 East 59th Street, Chicago.

As we near the 40th anniversary of the Israeli military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, there is still hope that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be reached. For the past two decades the “two-state solution” has become and remains the international consensus framework for a solution to the conflict. Yet, in recent years questions have been raised as to whether this proposal is still feasible after 40 years of military occupation.

Please join the American Friends Service Committee for an evening of discussion of this important question.

Panelists:

Ali Abunimah is author of *One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse* and co-founder of The Electronic Intifada, an internet gateway about Palestine and the Palestine-Israel conflict ([www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net)). When he is not writing and speaking about Palestine-Israel issues, he directs research for children’s services in the US and Europe. He received his MA from the University of Chicago.

Prof. Yigal Bronner is an activist in Ta’ayush: Arab-Jewish Partnership, an Israeli conscientious objector who was imprisoned for refusing to serve in occupied Palestine, and an active parent in Hand in Hand, a Jewish-Arab elementary school in Jerusalem. Dr. Bronner currently teaches South Asian languages at the University of Chicago.

Emily Hauser is an American-Israeli writer and speaker. She has regularly placed commentary regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in major American dailies, such as the Chicago Tribune. She received her MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago.

Rev. Said Aliabouni served as Director for the Europe and Middle East Program in the Global Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) from 1997-2007. He is presently serving as Senior Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange, Illinois.

Moderator: Jennifer Bing-Canar is interim national coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)’s Israel-Palestine Peacebuilding Program. Jennifer’s involvement in Middle East issues began in 1982 when she lived and traveled in Israel and Palestine and researched the Israeli peace movement. She later returned to work at the Ramallah Friends School in the West Bank where she taught middle school and high school boys for three years.

Sponsors: University of Chicago Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
And International House  
This event is free and open to the public.

For more information please contact:  
Miryam Rashid, American Friends Service Committee  
Middle East Peace  
Education Program  
(312) 427-2533 x 18, [mrashid@afsc.org](mailto:mrashid@afsc.org)

<http://www.afsc.org/israel-palestine>

## ABCUSA NEWS

### **TOMORROW!** *ABCUSA General Secretary Urges American Baptists to Join the Nation in Prayer May 3*

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 04/20/07)** -- The Bible is very clear about the power of prayer.

- James 5:16-18 tells us, "...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
- Jesus taught, "...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20)
- Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- The Bible urges us, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

"God invites us to pray anytime, anywhere, anyplace," says Dr. Roy Medley, general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). "That's why I urge American Baptists across the United States to join others in prayer on May 3, which has been set aside as the 56th National Day of Prayer." The official website [<http://www.ndptf.org>] offers a prayer that begins by asking God for wisdom "in such as time as this."

Dr. Medley says that he believes God is calling on Baptists in such a time as this to lift their voices in prayer to help: those caught in the web of human trafficking; those struggling with lack of adequate medical care; the homeless and the mentally ill who sleep on the streets or under bridges; children in poverty; victims of violence; leaders of our regions, our pastors and all our lay workers and missionaries; our churches be more effective in spreading the Gospel; the ongoing work of the World Council of Churches as it promotes the Decade to Overcome Violence; the persecuted church worldwide; and for those die for their faith in Christ and for peace in the Middle East.

"Even though we are often overwhelmed by the many challenges we face, God's heart is open and is ever attuned to the needs of our world," Dr. Medley says. "Often we find that God works to open our own hearts as a response to the very prayers we have offered, so that we become the hands and feet of Christ in building the Lord's kingdom here on earth."

Dr. Medley reminds people who need an example of a prayer to read the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. "Probably all of us have memorized that prayer since childhood," he says. "However, I urge you not to recite it mindlessly, but to use it to fashion your own words to worship

God, reiterate your trust in God, to offer your requests, to confess your sins, and to ask for God's protection and bounty.

"Whether you use the prayer composed for the National Day of Prayer, the Lord's prayer or one of your own choosing, I believe that when we pray with passion and purpose, God responds in powerful ways," Dr. Medley says. Dr. Medley also reminds American Baptists not to overlook the ABCUSA web site with its interactive "virtual prayer meeting," called PrayerNet. It provides an opportunity for American Baptists to pray for the denomination and to share their concerns. Each Wednesday afternoon, ABCUSA staff gathers to lift those in prayer who come to the site.

PrayerNet includes an email list that automatically notifies American Baptists when the PrayerNet page is updated. Almost 1,000 people are actively involved in the site. Another date to add to region, church and personal prayer calendars is Friday, September 21, when churches and communities are invited to observe an International Day of Prayer for Peace, a joint effort across denominations sponsored by the World Council of Churches, of which ABCUSA is a partner.

### *Baptist Heritage Sunday – May 20*

Baptist Heritage Sunday is May 20. We hope you and your congregation will observe this time to focus on and celebrate Baptist history and distinctives. Resources for Baptist Heritage Sunday are available from <http://www.abc-usa.org/heritage.htm>. These resources include a brochure, eight posters, a bulletin insert and a book excerpt.

### *Celebration of Religious Liberty*

This summer, the biennial meeting of ABCUSA and the annual General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will overlap in Washington, DC. The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) invites you to be a part of a historic celebration of our unity as Baptists. Please make plans to join them for:

#### **Thursday, June 28-Friday, June 29**

Opportunities to meet with your members of Congress.  
Email BJC at [advocate@BJCOnline.org](mailto:advocate@BJCOnline.org) for more information.

#### **Thursday, June 28**

BJC Workshop on Speaking out for religious liberty

#### **Friday, June 29**

**8 a.m.** Baptist Unity Rally for Religious Freedom on the U.S. Capitol grounds

**12:15 p.m.** Author/Professor Randall Balmer delivers keynote address at annual Religious Liberty Council Luncheon

**7 p.m.** National Ministries of ABCUSA presents award to BJC during combined service

#### **Saturday, June 30**

**5 p.m.** BJC's Hollyn Hollman delivers keynote address at the Roger Williams Fellowship

Make plans to attend the celebration, June 28-30. Visit the ABCUSA web site at [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) for lodging information.

### *Ministry in Such a Time as This:*

*Adaptive Change for Faithful and Effective Leadership*

Pastoral and lay leaders are invited to attend MINISTRY IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS, a Pre-Biennial event in the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on Friday, June 29, 2007, from 9 am until noon. The event is designed to invite American Baptists into reflection on what it takes to be faithful and effective Church leaders in such a time as this.

LOCATION AND TIME:  
Washington DC Convention Center  
Ballroom C - Third Floor  
Friday - June 29, 2007  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

More information is available at [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com).

### *Arise & Shine Biennial*

Spread the word about attending the Biennial/Centennial, June 29-July 2, 2007, in Washington, DC. Online registration is easy and quick, and can be done at [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org). Be sure to watch the promotional video too! Please print out, copy, and use in this Sunday's worship bulletin the newest Biennial bulletin insert, attached to this issue of *eWind*.

### *Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church*

Discover creative ministry models that meet the needs of children living in poverty. Turn children's programs into ministry for children in poverty. Come to the pre-biennial event, **Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church** June 27-28 at Howard University Divinity School, Washington, D.C.

The registration fee of \$75 includes all conference fees, lunch, and bus transportation to the divinity school. This is a program of National Ministries and NM's Children in Poverty Initiative. For more information, please phone 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2422.

### *National Ministries Announces Home Mission Events at Biennial Meeting*

VALLEY FORGE, PA. (ABNS 03/15/07)—National Ministries will sponsor a number of special events at American Baptist Churches USA's 2007 Biennial Meeting, "Arise & Shine," June 29 to July 2 in Washington, D.C.

- A pre-Biennial learning event, **Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church, June 27-28** will take place at Washington's Howard University School of Divinity.
- At the **American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries (ABHCM) Breakfast on Friday, June 29**, ABHCM Merit Citation Awards will be presented.
- On **Saturday, June 30, the Children in Poverty Breakfast**, the Rosa O. Hall Town and Country Award and the Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award will be presented.
- At the **National Ministries Luncheon and "Birthday Bash," on Sunday, July 1**, attendees will receive a commemorative gift to mark the 175th anniversary of the

American Baptist Home Mission Society and the 130th anniversary of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society.

- At the **NEW LIFE 2010 Breakfast, Monday, July 2**, the Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award and the Luther Wesley Smith Award will be presented.
- In the **exhibit hall**, National Ministries will feature "Deliver Us From Evil: Baptists, Slavery & Freedom," a pictorial, historic narrative about Baptists' involvement with the antislavery movement and the American Baptist Home Mission Societies' commitment to prophetic justice for all peoples.
- National Ministries' exhibit also will include American Baptist Personnel Services and the opportunity to make connections with chaplains, pastoral counselors and other home missionaries. Of course, the Judson Press bookstore will be open, offering book signings, daily drawings for Judson Press gift certificates and a 20 percent discount on all titles.
- During the Biennial, which celebrates a century of American Baptist Churches USA, National Ministries will also celebrate the heritage of 183 years of the American Baptist Publication Society and 119 years of the American Baptist Education Society.

Register for the Biennial online at [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) or call for a registration packet: (800) ABC-3USA, ext. 2226.

### *Come to the Edge!*

The National Women's Conference will take place at Green Lake Conference Center July 21-28, 2007. Women are invited to "Come to the Edge!" and be challenged by the words of Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God goes with you." More information and registration are available at [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org).

## **Ministers Council**

### *Spring Meeting in Metro Chicago*

On Thursday, May 31 the Ministers Council of ABCMC will meet at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. The meeting will be from 7:15-8:45 p.m., and will include several presentations that will be helpful to hear prior to ABCUSA's 2007 Biennial Meeting.

Larry Greenfield, ABCMC's Executive Minister, will report on the spring meeting of the General Executive Council (GEC). David Gregg, ABCMC's representative to the General Board of ABCUSA, will report on the meeting he attended, and what the General Board will be considering at its June meeting. Alice Greene, President of the Ministers Council of ABCUSA, will bring an update on that body, and report on programs to take place at Biennial time.

Dessert will be served, courtesy of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

### *September Meeting in Metro Chicago*

The Ministers Council of ABCMC will meet on Thursday, September 27 at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. The meeting, scheduled to take place from noon

to 2 p.m., will feature guest speaker Douglas Sharp. Douglas, a professor of theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, is the author of *No Partiality: The Idolatry of Race and the New Humanity*. Racism will be his topic at the Ministers Council meeting.

Douglas' book is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). A discussion guide is available at [www.nopartiality.net](http://www.nopartiality.net).

### *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

Please keep in prayer Joanne Webber, and her and Bob's family. Please hold in prayer also the many friends and colleagues who are grieving Bob's death while celebrating his life.

Please pray for world peace.

Please hold in prayer Bob and Joanne Webber during Bob's illness. Bob is being treated for pancreatic cancer.

Please lift up in prayer ABCMC's bookkeeper Douglas Galbraith as he prepares to leave our staff and move to Florida.

Please pray for ABCMC staff and leaders as they seek a new bookkeeper for ABCMC. Douglas Galbraith has done a wonderful job in this position since November of 2003. He completely turned around the management of our financial records, and made it all much more orderly and efficient. We pray that we will find a successor who will do the work with as much thoroughness and integrity as Douglas has applied to the job.

Please join ABCMC and Irving Park Baptist Church in prayers of thanksgiving for Lowell Young, ABCMC's Mission Support Associate, whose birthday is today.

## Calendar

**May 3**—National Day of Prayer. Please see <http://www.ndptf.org>.

**May 4-6**—Centennial Celebration, Second Baptist Church of Wheaton. See article above for details.

**May 6**—Installation of Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque as pastor of the Community Church of Barrington, 407 Grove Avenue, Barrington, 4 p.m.

**May 10**—Fund raiser for Protestants for the Common Good, world premiere production of *Cynical Weathers*, Victory Gardens Biograph Theater. Space is limited, and tickets must be purchased by **April 26th** in order to ensure a reservation. Tickets for this event are \$50 each and can be purchased [online](#) or by calling the PCG offices @ 312.223.9544 ext. 231.  
6:15 reception - 7:30 curtain.

**May 11**—*The Influence Index* simulcast, Judson College, Elgin, 8 a.m. Features Terry Bradshaw. Register at [www.judsoncollege.edu/leader](http://www.judsoncollege.edu/leader).

**May 12**—Family Council Meeting, Community Baptist Church, Warrenville. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 9 a.m.

**May 12**—Girl Scout troop 4402's car wash, Berwyn VFW, 15th & Harlem Avenues, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**May 15**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**May 16**—Presentation on Islam, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 7 p.m.

**May 21**—Deadline for Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty's Religious Liberty Essay Contest. Visit [the BJC's Web site](#) for more information.

**May 24-28**—"Eyes Wide Open", Park, Jackson and Columbus Drive, Chicago. More information is available at <http://www.afsc.org/eyes/chicago-three-years.htm>.

**May 26-June 9**—Join **Interfaith Peace-Builders** (IFPB) and the **American Friends Service Committee** (AFSC) as they travel to Israel/Palestine. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until April 23, 2007. Apply early to reserve and lock-in lower airfares.

**June 7**—"The Two-State Solution: Still Possible?" presentation, 6:30 p.m., University of Chicago's, International House, Assembly Hall, 1414 East 59th Street, Chicago. Free and open to the public.

**June 19**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**June 23**—Chicago Rush Fellowship Day, Allstate Arena, Rosemont. Fellowship Hour, 4 p.m. Game, 7 p.m. For more information and reservations, contact David Hodge, 773.243.3460 or [dhodge@chicagorush.com](mailto:dhodge@chicagorush.com).

**June 27-28**—"Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church" pre-Biennial event, Howard University Divinity School, Washington, DC.

**June 29**—Deadline for applying for The Retirement Research Foundation's Accessible Faith Grant Program. Please see [www.rff.org](http://www.rff.org) for more information.

**June 29**—"Ministry in Such a Time as This: Adaptive Change for Faithful and Effective Leadership" pre-Biennial event, 9 a.m.-noon, Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. This event is sponsored by the Ministers Council, the Campus Ministry Association, and International Ministries. Visit [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) to register.

**June 29-July 2**—ABCUSA Biennial Meeting and Centennial Celebration in Washington, DC. The theme will be "Arise and Shine."

**July 17**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**July 21-28**—National Gathering for Girls, Green Lake Conference Center. The conference fee is \$485 per person, and includes conference registration fee, housing, and meals; scholarships are available. Further information may be found on the American Baptist Women's Ministries' website at [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org).

**August 6-10**—Mediation Skills Training Institute. For more information and registration, please visit [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

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

**August 21-23**—Here I Stand: Leading Change Through Self-Differentiation. For more information and registration, please visit [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

**September 15**—ABCMC Stewardship Seminar

**September 18**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**September 21**—International Day of Prayer for Peace

**September 21-22**—Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's *Healthy Congregations* Workshop, Christ Community Mennonite Church, Schaumburg. For more information and registration, please visit [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

**October 16**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**November 20**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**December 17**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

**February 21-23, 2008**—Gathering of Baptist Bodies from across the U.S. for a celebration of a new Baptist covenant, Dallas, TX.

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

**June 21, 2008**—ABCMC's Third Annual Disciples' Dinner, Lindner Conference Center, Lombard. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Executive Director of ABCUSA's National Ministries, will be our keynote speaker.

## Position Openings

### *Pastoral Search*

The South Church of Mount Prospect, a progressive, friendly and inclusive American Baptist church in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, seeks a full-time pastor. The person called will have demonstrated skills in spiritual, pastoral and community leadership and a dedication to work in partnership with members in congregational development and growth.

Contact: [tmwh23908@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmwh23908@sbcglobal.net).

*Carlson Ministries*

The Carlson Ministries, an inner-city community organization seeks an Executive Director. The ED is responsible for developing and implementing community service projects, developing budgets and securing funding. A college degree, demonstrated leadership skills and successful grant writing are required. It is a 20 hour position with some evening and weekend time required. For a complete position description, go to <http://www.iplc.org/CarlsonExecDir.pdf> <<http://www.iplc.org>>. Send resumes to [pastorpetersen@IPLC.org](mailto:pastorpetersen@IPLC.org) or mail to: [pastorpetersen@IPLC.org](mailto:pastorpetersen@IPLC.org) or mail them to Carlson Ministries, Attention Pastor Petersen, 3938 W. Belle Plaine, Chicago, IL 60618. Applications will be accepted until May 15.

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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](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com). We email the newsletter each Wednesday.

If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com).