

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.

June 6, 2007

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
Psalm 18:2

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ABCMC NEWS

Fax Alert

ABCMC's fax machine is out of order, and has been taken for repairs. Please do not attempt to fax documents to ABCMC until further notice.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TOMORROW! *The Two State Solution: Still Possible?*

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Presents "The Two State Solution: Still Possible? A Moderated Panel Discussion" on Thursday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Chicago, in the Assembly Hall at International House, 1414 East 59th Street, Chicago.

Don't miss what promises to be a lively, moderated panel discussion among four remarkable writers and activists working on bringing about a just resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

As we near the 40th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, there is still hope that such a resolution can be reached. What form this resolution will take however, is both the subject of debate and the focus of this evening's panel discussion.

Internationally, the framework of a two-state solution is broadly endorsed, as reflected in the recent Saudi initiative. Yet several leading thinkers now argue that "facts on the ground" have moved the possibilities for a just peace in other directions.

Please join the American Friends Service Committee for a stimulating and challenging evening. Start formulating your questions now!

Featured Panelists include:

Ali Abuminah 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 Israeli-Palestinian conflict (www.electronicintifada.net).

Prof. Yigal Bronner is an activist in Ta'ayush: Arab-Jewish Partnership, and an Israeli conscientious objector who was imprisoned for refusing to serve in occupied Palestine. He 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 newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune.

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). He is now serving as Senior Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, La Grange, IL.

Moderator **Jennifer Bing Canar** is interim national coordinator for the AFSC's Israel-Palestine Peacebuilding Program.

Sponsors of the event are AFSC, University of Chicago Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and International House. The program will be free and open to the Public. For more information,

please contact Miryam Rashid at AFSC, 312-427-22533 x 18, or mrashid@afsc.org.

SATURDAY! *Peace Vigil in Arlington Heights*

Families for Peace will host a vigil on Saturday, June 9, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Dunton Park, which is at the corner of Northwest Highway and Arlington Heights Roads, Arlington Heights. The site is accessible. Signs will be available. Everyone, including children and military families, are welcome.

Co-sponsors include the Viatorian Community, Sisters of the Living Word and the Women's Resource Center. Families for Peace is a concerned group of citizens working to promote peace dialogue in the Northwest suburbs.

Pearls from the East

"Pearls from the East" will be the theme of the next concert by Sing to Live Community Chorus. The concert will feature selections representing Bali, China, India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and the Philippines. It will be on Saturday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston.

The mission of Sing to Live – Live to Sing is to support individuals affected by breast cancer through the creation of a charitable, social and educational organization. The group focuses its efforts on music and musical performance through an all voice community chorus that brings together singers, both men and women, whose lives have been directly or indirectly touched by breast cancer. It provides its members an interactive musical experience that celebrates hope and survival while providing quality performances for the community. Net proceeds raised by donations, choral performances and CD sales will be used to support local breast cancer communities through the gift of music and/or to support local breast cancer programs.

Sing to Live provides complimentary concert tickets to breast cancer patients and survivors as part of its mission to give the gift of music to local breast cancer communities. For more information please email melinda@singtolive.org or call 773.250.SING.

Tickets will be available at the door. The cost is \$20 for general admission, and \$10 for seniors 65 and over, as well as \$10 for students.

Chicago Rush Fellowship Day

This is an invitation from the Chicago Rush. A flier is attached to this issue of eWind.

Thank you for taking the time to look over this information about this year's Fellowship Day. Last year over 1,500 joined us for Fellowship Day, and shared a great day of football and Godly perspectives.

Be sure to join us this year for our 5th Annual Chicago Rush Fellowship Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 23rd against the Kansas City Brigade. Kickoff is at 7:00 p.m.

A few of the activities we have planned for this season's event are:

- Discounted tickets for just \$15 (regularly \$22).
- Fellowship Hour beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Allstate Arena's Skyline Room (located adjacent to the Box Office). Fellowship Hour is exclusive to the Fellowship Day crowd and will feature faith-based music, interactive games, and fun for all ages.

- Speakers from various churches, religious organizations and a special guest from the Chicago Rush will address the crowd about uplifting Jesus' name and conveying God's value and message.
- Free on-field autograph session. Following the game fans will be able to go onto the turf to meet their favorite coaches, players and Adrenaline Rush Dancers.
- Chicago Rush hats will be given away to the first 5,000 fans in attendance.

We are excited about your church joining us for 2007 Fellowship Day. Please contact me to reserve seats for this year's event.

Regards,
 David Hodge
 Account Executive
 Chicago Rush Arena Football
 773.243.3460
dhodge@chicagorush.com
www.chicagorush.com

More Scholarships Available

Damon Jones, Associate Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago, provided the following information:

Do you know any Black Males (who are seniors in high school) who want to go to college for FREE?

In South Carolina, some colleges are looking for future BLACK MALE TEACHERS, and will send them to Universities/Colleges FOUR (4) YEARS FREE; THIS IS FOR MALES ONLY.

1. Have parents fill out this application.
2. Read the Mission Statement:

There are Ten (10) different South Carolina Colleges and Universities including:

- Benedict College <http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/benedict.htm>
- Clafin University <http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/clafin.htm>
- Clemson University <http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/clemson.htm>
- Morris College <http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/morris.htm>
- South Carolina State University

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/southcarolinastate..htm>

Greenville Technical College

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/greenvilletech.htm>

Midlands Technical College

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/midlands.htm>

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/orangeburgcalhountech.htm>

Tri-County Technical College

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/tricountytech.htm>

Trident Technical College

<http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/schools/tridenttech.htm>

The Choir Academy

The Choir Academy Charter School of Chicago is currently in the process of recruiting students for the 2007-2008 academic year. It is a Renaissance 2010 Chicago Public Charter School currently accepting applications for kindergarten through 8th grade beginning in August 2007.

The Choir Academy gives Chicago-area students the foundation for success in school and life by offering an in-depth academic and social development program using music as an organizing focus. Students come from all across Chicago and represent the rich cultural and ethnic diversity that makes Chicago a great city.

For more information, please phone 773-890-4720, extension 223.

ABCUSA NEWS

Arise & Shine Biennial

Information about ABCUSA's Biennial/Centennial on June 29-July 2, 2007, in Washington, DC is available at the ABCUSA web site. Information about pre-biennial and post-biennial events is also there. Online registration is easy and quick, and can be done at www.abc-usa.org.

Biennial/Centennial Hotels Are Sold Out

If you plan to attend Biennial, but have not yet made arrangements for lodging, consider staying in the convenient (and sometimes cheaper) suburbs. If you want to attend the Biennial/Centennial in Washington DC, June 29- July 2, but don't want to drive downtown, consider hotels in the suburbs – especially those close to the Metro. Unlike downtown hotels, many suburban hotels include free parking and breakfast.

Bacone Breakfast at Biennial

On behalf of Rev. Dr. Robert Duncan, Jr., President of Bacone College, you are cordially invited to attend the Bacone College Breakfast at the ABC Biennial Meeting in Washington D.C. on Saturday, June 30, 2007. The breakfast begins at 7:00am at the Washington Convention Center Room 147B. Tickets are \$25 each. RSVP by June 11 to foutchm@Bacone.edu.

Helping Iraqi Refugees

In Iraq Church World Service is working with the Action by Churches Together coalition to assist thousands of displaced Iraqis, both those displaced within Iraq and those who have left their country because of the war. The United Nations estimates some 40,000 to 50,000 Iraqis leave the country every month, seeking refuge in neighboring Arab nations.

Throughout the war in Iraq, Church World Service has worked through partners to provide medical supplies, CWS Health and School Kits, and other assistance for families in need. The Church World Service-supported "All Our Children" campaign benefited more than 200,000 children, through assistance to clinics, hospitals, a children's theater, and safe water supply projects. In the past year, Church World Service has provided food, CWS Blankets, Health Kits, Baby Kits, Kids Kits, school and other hygiene supplies for Iraqi refugees who have fled to Jordan.

Christian Community Credit Union Donates \$18,000 to ABWM

(San Dimas, CA - May 30, 2007) Christian Community Credit Union donated \$18,000 to American Baptist Women's Ministries to provide leadership training curriculum in Spanish and for young women's ministries.

"American Baptist Women's Ministries strives to provide relevant resources for ministries with

women and girls in American Baptist churches. I am elated that Christian Community Credit Union is partnering with us to produce our new CD-ROM curriculum resource for ministry with girls this year," said Virginia Holmstrom, Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Entitled "Leadership 101: Leadership Training for Ministry with Girls," the leadership CD includes articles, workshops and PowerPoint presentations designed to equip girls to be critical thinkers in interpreting the culture in which they live, applying Biblical truths to every day life and embracing a multi-ethnic and cross-cultural environment.

The Credit Union's donation will also help support American Baptist Women's Ministries program resources for women and girls in Spanish.

"I'm immensely thankful that Christian Community Credit Union will also help us produce our women's Ministry Resource in Spanish for a growing Hispanic Baptist constituency," added Holmstrom.

The contribution comes from one of the Credit Union's financial products which generates a donation every time a member uses it for a purchase. To date, the Credit Union's donation program has donated over \$2 million to national and international ministry projects, disaster relief efforts, church planting, college and seminary scholarships and other ministry projects.

"The Credit Union is blessed to strengthen our partnership with American Baptist Women's Ministries in making a positive and significant difference in the spiritual lives of the women and girls in our American Baptist family," stated John Walling, President/CEO of Christian Community Credit Union.

"Action of the Month"

Encourages Expressions of Concern about No Child Left Behind Act

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 05/31/07) -- American Baptists can take action to support National Ministries' Children in Poverty initiative by expressing their concerns about the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, due for reauthorization by Congress this year. According to Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, National Ministries' coordinator for Public and Social Advocacy, work on reauthorizing this act will intensify during the month of June.

Information about resources that can help American Baptists share their concerns about the act can be found at www.nationalministries.org/CIP/ in the current "Action of the Month."

"Now is an opportune time for American Baptists, and all those concerned about public education, to share their suggestions for improvements in NCLB," Ramsey-Lucas said. "Lawmakers need to hear four key concerns as they work through the process of reauthorizing NCLB. First, while the law should continue to set ambitious expectations for all children, it should measure and honor growth in each child's learning, not just average group test scores. Second, it should reduce reliance on standardized testing and consider additional ways students can demonstrate learning. Third, the focus of NCLB should shift from punishing schools and blaming teachers to strengthening school communities and supporting teachers. Finally, in the reauthorized NCLB, Congress should fully fund all the programs the law mandates."

Working with the National Council of Churches' Committee on Public Education and Literacy, Ramsey-Lucas has participated in developing a sample letter to members of Congress that includes these concerns as well as "talking points" on NCLB reauthorization, all in the form of a

bulletin insert. He also recommends the Web-based No Child Left Behind Letters Project as another excellent advocacy resource.

“It is our hope American Baptists churches will use the bulletin insert in June, encouraging members to make use of creative tools for advocacy such as the No Child Left Behind Letters Project,” Ramsey-Lucas said.

The Children in Poverty initiative supports National Ministries’ NEW LIFE 2010 goal of vitalizing a multitude of caring ministries.

Judson Press and Abingdon Press Announce New Sales Partnership

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/6/07) -- Judson Press, a ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, announced that on June 1 Abingdon Press sales representatives began presenting Judson Press products to the Christian Bookseller’s Association (CBA) market.

Abingdon Press, in Nashville, TN, is the publishing arm of the United Methodist Church. The sales representatives will present Judson Press products to booksellers during many in-store visits and to customers during select conventions.

“Abingdon Press is very excited about representing Judson Press,” said Tammy Gaines, vice president of Abingdon Press. “The African American resources offered by Judson Press and Abingdon Press will allow our sales representatives to present one of the strongest lines of African American resources available in the marketplace. Judson Press’ array of resources to support congregations and ministry leadership also complements the strong line of Abingdon resources in these same areas.”

Judson Press will continue to operate its own phone, fax and mail-order customer service center in Valley Forge, PA (800-ABC-3USA) and online bookstore (www.judsonpress.com), as well as exhibiting at Baptist and other special events.

“We are pleased by this new partnership,” said Kim Shimer, marketing director for Judson Press. “It leverages the strengths of both organizations.”

Founded in 1824, Judson Press publishes Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of persons, congregations, communities and cultures.

Ministers Council

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.

If you would like to purchase a copy of his book, it is available from www.amazon.com, BUT you can get it from him for less. He has copies of the book that he sells for \$14 plus \$3.49 for shipping. His price is considerably less than what people pay on Amazon - \$23. Please contact

Douglas at drs217@yahoo.com A discussion guide is available at 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 pray for world peace.

Please pray for Grace Baptist Church. This active ABCMC congregation is seeking a new location for their office and Sunday evening worship services on the north side of Chicago. If you are aware of available space that might serve that congregation, please contact davigregg@gmail.com.

Please hold in prayer those who are suffering as a result of flooding in Haiti. Please pray for our missionaries serving there.

Please pray for ABC missionary Lauren Bethel's work with the European Baptist Federation's "Anti-Trafficking Work Group", as they help churches to get involved in anti-trafficking ministries. Please pray also for churches in Frankfurt and Vienna, as they are just starting to go out on the streets to minister to people in prostitution.

Please pray for Mabudiga and Kihomi Nzunga, who serve as a vital link between International Ministries and the Haitian Baptist Convention. Mabudiga teaches theology at the Christian University of Northern Haiti, trains assistant professors in teaching and writing books, administers a scholarship program, and visits and preaches in churches. Kihomi works with families in areas of counseling, family planning, and women's health issues. She also coordinates and advises the women's association of the Haitian Baptist Convention, representing women of all the Baptist denominations of Haiti at international conferences

Calendar

TOMORROW! 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.

SATURDAY! June 9—Peace Vigil, 3 pm to 4 pm at Dunton Park, corner of Northwest Highway and Arlington Heights Roads, Arlington Heights.

June 10—Tony Rake preaches at the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 Barrington Road,

Wauconda, 9:45 a.m.

June 16—Mauck & Baker, LLC presents The 2007 Church and the Law Seminar, The Sweeting Center, Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle Boulevard, Chicago. Event begins with a continental breakfast at 8:15 a.m., and concludes at 12:30 p.m. For more information, please phone 312-726-1243.

June 16—ABCMC Family Cabinet meeting, 9:30 a.m., ABCMC office

June 16—Sing to Live Community Chorus Concert, Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

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.

June 27-28—“[Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church](#)” pre-Biennial event, Howard University Divinity School, Washington, DC.

June 29—Religious Liberty Council Luncheon, 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., Independence Ballroom A of the Grand Hyatt Washington, DC. Tickets are \$40. To register and pay online, visit the [online registration page](#). To register by phone, contact Phallan Davis at (202) 544-4226 or pdavis@BJOnline.org.

June 29—Deadline for applying for The Retirement Research Foundation’s Accessible Faith Grant Program. Please see www.rrf.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 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.

August 6-10—Mediation Skills Training Institute. For more information and registration, please visit 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.

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.

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.

January 30-February 1, 2008—New Baptist Covenant Celebration, Atlanta, Georgia. Please visit www.newbaptistcovenant.org for more information.

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.

The Metro Chicago *eWind* is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessarily express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago.

We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments.
Please email your communications to abcmchi@aol.com. We email the newsletter each Wednesday.

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