

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.

July 5, 2007

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Got Van?

One of the realities of our nation these days is that a growing number of refugees from Myanmar (Burma) are making their way to the United States. Many of these folks are settling on the north side of Chicago.

As we all know, the first international missionaries from Baptists in the United States went to Burma. Burmese Baptists all have their roots in mission efforts from this country. We American Baptists have an investment in them that goes back more than two centuries.

Burmese Baptists in Chicago would like to participate in ministries with American Baptists here. Some are attending our churches. In our region, we have a Burmese language congregation, Myanmar Christian Church of Greater Chicago, which worships on Sunday afternoons and evenings at the South Church in Mount Prospect.

This congregation would love to welcome some refugees into their worshiping fellowship, but the church has no van or other appropriate vehicle with which to transport them from their north side homes to Mount Prospect. Do you, or does your church, have a van or bus that the Myanmar congregation could lease or rent to use once every three weeks, or monthly, to transport these folks to their suburban place of worship? The congregation would need use of the vehicle from 3-8 p.m. on Sunday every few weeks.

If you have or know of such a vehicle that would be available, please phone 773-368-8613. Biak Mang is pastor of the Myanmar church.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

New Home for Grace Baptist Church

Grace Baptist Church of Chicago has moved its worship space to Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago. The building is at the intersection of Kenmore and Bryn Mawr. Services are at 6 p.m. each Sunday. During July, free parking will be available in the lot just north of the Christian Science Church, 5308 N. Kenmore. Beginning in August, Grace will have access to free parking in the parking lot of Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, 5649 N. Sheridan Road. All are welcome to worship at Grace Baptist Church.

Oracle to Speak at Lake Street Church

Lake Street Church of Evanston invites you to join them on Sunday, July 8 at 4 p.m. to hear words of wisdom from the Tibetan State Oracle, Ven. Thupten Ngodup, Dharamsala. His talk, titled "Making the Choice: Bringing Forth the Environmental Renaissance," will focus on global warming and personal responsibility. The program will include cello by Michael Fitzpatrick, Welcome, Lamas Chanting, Blessing Ceremony, Remarks, and Dinner. For reservations, call 847/864-2181 or send an email to oracle@lakestreet.org.

There is a flyer attached to this issue of *eWind*.

COMMUNITY NEWS

APCN Programming to End July 26

This information is from Rev. Betsy Stith, Executive Director of the AIDS Pastoral Care Network.

This is to alert you to changes taking place at AIDS Pastoral Care Network (a program of ACCESS Community Health Network) and with our staff. As of July 26, the programming of AIDS Pastoral Care Network (including Spiritual Connections) will end. The remarkable legacy of this 22 year-old program now lives in the ministry and work of the thousands of people it has touched:

- Over 5,000 clients,
- Hundreds of campers, counselors and volunteers,
- Hundreds of ministers and lay leaders trained and ministering in their communities,
- Tens of thousand reached by APCN's HIV prevention ministries.

APCN has inspired and supported the birth of many ministries in Chicago and beyond. Five local organizations in particular "carry the torch" forward for these ministries:

- The Faith in Prevention program at AIDS Foundation of Chicago,
- OASIS—a prevention collaboration of several congregations serving Latino/a neighborhoods on the west side,
- Englewood Eagles—a prevention collaboration of five United Methodist congregations,
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois who now operates Camp Getaway with NO CHANGE to its programming. Their phone number is 847-635-4645; fax 847-375-8287,
- Fourth Presbyterian Church's volunteer ministries, serving not only those with HIV/AIDS but many others with unmet needs.

I know you join me in prayers of gratitude, support and blessing for these and the many ministries like them.

ACCESS Community Health Network continues to provide excellent health care to people with HIV/AIDS and maintain its commitment to reducing health inequities. Call ACCESS at 866-88-ACCESS or connect online at www.accesscommunityhealth.net.

As of the 26th of July, Rev. Luis Quiñones, Sylvia Jo Oglesby and I will be moving on—but not far away! We have "ears to hear and mouths to speak"; so we plan to continue the fight combating HIV/AIDS in our community. Chaplain Ray Sousa will continue to provide psychosocial services at CORE Center and at ACCESS under our current contract with the city of Chicago for the foreseeable future.

It has been a delight to join you in this amazing work and in the living legacy of APCN.

Gathering in Cleveland

This invitation is from Sojourners.

Reviving our Souls, Restoring our Politics

Not quite a conference and not quite a retreat...

In a unique gathering experience, we will bring together more than a thousand people who are searching for spiritual revival and looking for sources of hope in our political system.

What makes this gathering so different?

- There will be speakers to provoke and challenge, including Jim Wallis and Richard Rohr (and others not yet confirmed)—but also opportunities for personal "table talk" conversations

following each of these speakers, where you can share your thoughts and hear the ideas of others.

- There will be time for contemplation, such as body prayer and meditation—but also time for action, such as a witness through the streets of Cleveland, Ohio (widely considered the poorest city in the United States).
- There will be space to learn through interactive sessions on a number of topics, from "Finding your Voice" to "Re-energizing the Seasoned Activist"—but also a place to share your spirit through silence, song, dance, and other interpretive arts.

Why should you come? You should join us...

- If you are seeking to engage like-minded Christians from across the theological spectrum who believe that the combination of prayer and peacemaking is vital to the spirit of the individual and to the soul of our world;
- If you are looking for signs of hope—you will be surrounded by more than a thousand people who believe, as you do, that another world is possible if we work and pray together;
- For yourself—because your spirit needs a reviving boost; and
- For your world—because we all need to restore relationships around us based on love and compassion.

Where do I register or get more information?

- There are several different registration offers—for individuals, groups, and emerging leaders (those 30 and under). Scholarships are available as well. Early bird registration ends on September 17! To register online, visit us at www.cacradicalgrace.org/conferences/ros.
- For more information about the conference and housing, please visit www.cacradicalgrace.org/conferences/ros or call 1-800-714-7474.
- If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact lfriesen@sojo.net for a sponsorship kit.

Make your plans now to be with us in Cleveland, Ohio, from **October 19-21** for this soul-stirring and life-changing event.

ABCUSA NEWS

More ABCUSA news, including more highlights from Biennial, is available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/howeare/newsservice/newsservice.aspx>.

ABCUSA General Board Receives Resolution on Children in Poverty

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/28/07) -- General Board members of American Baptist Churches USA, meeting here where the denomination was founded a century ago, gave first reading to a resolution affirming the need to raise children out of poverty.

The resolution noted that 17 percent of American children fall below the government's official poverty line. "They are our children," it said.

In presenting the resolution, Ashley C. Smith, chair of the policies and resolutions committee of the Board of National Ministries, described two years of work and study that went into framing the statement.

She also called attention to a meeting at Howard University, "Seeing the Children—Transforming the Church," that will precede the denomination's biennial convention and centennial celebration this coming weekend.

The resolution outlined a series of steps to raise consciousness about the plight of children in poverty, to break down stereotypes, to promote national policies on equitable distribution of wealth, and “to reach out to all who are economically vulnerable.”

“Between a quarter and a fifth of our children,” it noted, “are growing up in poverty, often resulting in inadequate nutrition, mediocre education, deficient health care, and many other stumbling blocks to living an abundant life.

“These impoverished children are of all races, ethnicities and heritages. They live in city centers, in suburbs, in rural villages, on farms, and in industrial centers throughout the country. They are in all of our communities and churches. They are our children.”

At Wednesday’s third plenary session of the General Board, a resolution was also introduced on first reading to encourage excellence in ministry. Alice B. Greene, a member of the ABCUSA professional ministries team, presented four areas of importance. The resolution addresses the need for spiritual discipline, intellectual imagination, pastoral skills, and the physical and emotional health of pastors.

American Baptist Board Calls for New Anti-Slavery Struggle

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/28/07) -- A call to take the lead in a struggle against modern slavery and sex trafficking was presented to the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA, during its annual meeting here.

“This is not some exotic thing in other parts of the world,” board members were told by Reid S. Trulson, executive director of the denomination’s Board of International Ministries. “It is global, and it is in every one of our states.”

His call came in a report from International Ministries, which traced the history of the slave trade and the role Baptists have played in working for its abolition. The report listed the dates on which various nations outlawed slavery, and then added “but slavery has returned” in the form more often called “human trafficking.” It estimated that some 27 million people “are held today in various forms of slavery, forced prostitution, or bonded labor.”

The report added that between 800,000 and 900,000 people are trafficked across national borders each year, including at least 17,000 “who are trafficked into the United States every year as slaves.”

“Huge profits are driving this,” Trulson told board members. The report noted a CIA calculation that profits from one trafficked woman can average \$250,000.

Trulson added, “We honor the brave men and women who threw themselves into the struggle against slavery in their day. Now it is our day.”

The report estimated that “some 80 percent of trafficked people are women and 50 percent of these are children.... The sale of human beings rivals the sale of illicit drugs and illegal weapons sales as the largest global criminal economy.”

Stating that “slavery is contrary to Christ’s mission and an assault against humanity,” the resolution said International Ministries “reaffirms its historic stand against slavery and renews its struggle to end human trafficking.” It commended groups fighting slavery and listed further steps needed to combat it.

It called for “the appointment of missionaries to disciple-making ministries that address the needs of those who are vulnerable to, or are victims of, human trafficking,” and urged that priority be

given “to ministries of prevention, rescue, and aftercare for people involved in prostitution and who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation.”

But it also added an affirmation “that God’s amazing grace of forgiveness and transformation is offered to oppressor as well as to those whom they oppress.”

American Baptists Give \$50,000 for Relief Work in Iraq

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/28/07) -- The World Relief Committee of American Baptist Churches USA has voted to provide \$50,000 in emergency funds from the denomination’s One Great Hour of Sharing offering to aid Iraqi families, orphans, and women.

The funds will go to Church World Service, which has announced a goal of \$150,000 to help those whose lives have been devastated by turmoil in Iraq. The relief will be carried out by six local non-governmental Iraqi groups that have been undertaking small humanitarian projects within the country. This Church World Service appeal will be part of a larger appeal by Action by Churches Together (ACT).

Funds approved by the World Relief Committee will provide legal help to families with members who have “disappeared,” assistance in caring for orphans, and aid to a group that is providing food and psychological and social support to households headed by women.

The fund request accompanied a report to the committee and to the ABCUSA General Board from the World Relief Officer, Lisa Rothenberger. The report was titled “To Whom May I Be a Neighbor?”

“As we see continued coverage of the war in Iraq today,” Rothenberger said, “do we pause to consider the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis that have been caught in the crossfire of a war that has now entered its fourth year? Are we neighbors to the Iraqi people if we don’t acknowledge the very real needs that the war has caused?”

She noted that Americans have been generous in providing relief for natural disasters around the world, but have contributed only minimally to those suffering because of conflict in the Middle East.

Rothenberger reported that, as of April, American Baptists had donated \$3.83 million for Hurricane Katrina/Rita relief, and \$2.55 million for the victims of the Asian tsunami. About half of the amount for Katrina relief has gone for housing, and the rest for such things as emergency aid, resettlement, and hearings on “justice” issues in the hurricane aftermath. Tsunami aid also has focused on emergency relief and housing, especially in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Thailand.

The World Relief Committee, meeting during the ABCUSA’s General Board annual session, also approved nine new overseas aid projects, totaling \$82,700. The allocations included \$10,000 for a social-ministries center in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo; \$42,000 to two Philippine projects for AIDS/HIV education and improving the nutrition and health of children; \$9,000 for combating domestic violence in Nicaragua; and \$6,000 to complete a skills training center in Burundi.

Nine domestic aid projects totaling \$118,000 were also approved. These included a three-year grant totaling \$50,000 to provide legal services for Hispanic immigrants in Trenton, N.J.; \$15,000 over three years to renovate a building for social services in Welch, W. Va.; \$5,000 to support a Puerto Rican independent-living center for the disabled; \$10,000 for roof repairs at a church social-ministries center in Peoria, Ill.; and \$5,000 to assist a group providing transitional housing in Milwaukee.

American Baptists Address "Mission Center" Location Concerns

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/28/07) -- The General Board of American Baptist Churches USA and the denomination's two major program boards have given the go-ahead to a "business plan" that would address both the group's financial needs and short-term concerns about preserving its Valley Forge "Mission Center" headquarters location.

The plan is a two-part one. Under the first part, the headquarters property would be offered to the present leaseholder of adjacent property, which has the right of first offer, on terms favorable to the denomination. If those terms are rejected, the plan's second part calls for the property to be offered to others, including to a proposed partnership comprised of the ABCUSA's corporation, the Boards of National and International Ministries, and the denomination's Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB). The MMBB's board of managers is expected to consider the business plan in the near future.

"An important part of the plan is to ensure one of our core values—that of remaining together and securing a solid future for American Baptist Churches USA," said Dr. A. Roy Medley, the ABCUSA general secretary. "It's a signal that all our American Baptist organizations are going forward together in continued service and ministry."

The denomination's headquarters offices and those of the National and International Ministries boards would continue to be housed, at least for the next few years, in the large circular building at Valley Forge that has been a symbol of American Baptist Churches USA for more than half a century. However, those offices now use only about half the building's space. The remaining space would continue to be rented on terms that would help meet the financial needs of the church's general administration.

"This is really a win-win proposal," said Lloyd D. Hamblin Jr., acting ABCUSA treasurer and associate general secretary for finance. He added that whether the sale is to the leaseholder or to a partnership of American Baptist-related organizations, "ABCUSA will aggressively pursue a plan for an eventual permanent location housing the offices of its headquarters and program boards in the area."

This week's votes, by the two program boards and the General Board representing the denomination's corporate headquarters, followed extensive discussions in recent months about the future of the Valley Forge property, located in a prime development area.

Denominational leaders explained that, should the sale proposal to the present leaseholder be accepted, the church organizations would be able to remain where they are for as long as 22 years. If, on the other hand, there is a purchase by the American Baptist mission partners, the property would be administered through a limited partnership of the church agencies involved, until such time as a move to a new headquarters might be considered.

The votes for the plan in this week's meetings of the General Board and program boards were strongly favorable, with more than 90 percent approval. The leaders of the various organizations involved also expressed strong support.

After the vote, Dr. Arlee Griffin Jr., president of the General Board, observed to the board members that they were meeting in Washington's Calvary Baptist Church where the denomination was founded a century ago. Speaking of the founders, he said, "You have honored their hopes, their dreams, and their commitment. You have made another historical decision to affirm our American Baptist unity and our future as a family."

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of the Board of National Ministries, said the vote "represents our commitment to a unified denomination and our belief that American Baptists

have a future and a hope.”

Reid S. Trulson, executive director of the Board of International Ministries, said, “I’m very encouraged.... The proposal makes a lot of sense for International Ministries and helps us focus on our primary task of mission.”

Baptist Leaders Inaugurate “A New Era of Baptist Cooperation”

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/28/07) -- In what one called “a convergence of Baptists,” leaders from a range of Baptist groups told a joint press conference today they are seeking new ways to cooperate in mission work and in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The press conference, in the Washington Convention Center, took place under a banner proclaiming “A New Era of Baptist Cooperation.”

“We’re seeking genuine ways of collaboration and cooperation,” Dr. Daniel Vestal, coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said. “We’ll let what we do be a voice for Christ, the gospel, and justice.”

Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, stressed the importance of addressing poverty and other economic issues together. “Unless we do that, we’re ignoring a major part of our gospel commitment,” he said.

Asked if groups like CBF and ABCUSA might be hampered in their cooperation by doctrinal differences, Medley said, “We both have a commitment to soul liberty. We’ll be able to work together.”

Referring to houses the groups built in Louisiana for hurricane Katrina victims, he added, “When we were down there hammering, we were just focusing on those people.”

Dr. Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven, executive director of the American Baptist Historical Society, noted that the society, although part of ABCUSA, “has always worked with all kinds of Baptists. Our traditions are interwoven.”

Both speakers and questioners called attention to a New Baptist Covenant growing out of a meeting called in April 2006 by former President Jimmy Carter to discuss opportunities for fellowship and cooperation. In a statement, the leaders present at the meeting in the Carter Center in Atlanta affirmed their desire “to speak and work together to create an authentic and genuine prophetic Baptist voice in these complex times.”

Some of those leaders were asked at today’s press conference for their reaction to criticism of their statement.

“By and large, we’ve just gone on about our business,” Dr. William D. Underwood, president of Mercer University, said. “We’re focusing on common ground. That’s what the New Baptist Covenant is all about.”

A “New Baptist Covenant Celebration,” sponsors hope, will draw 20,000 Baptists from diverse organizations to Atlanta in late January, 2008.

Vestal and Medley listed a variety of ways in which the ABCUSA and CBF are cooperating, ranging from church plantings to Hurricane Katrina aid, conferences, and joint participation in the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. Dr. Sumner Grant, MMBB executive director, said that since 2001 the board has been able to extend the number of groups it serves and “we’re very proud to be in this mix.”

Dr. Robert Nash, coordinator of global missions for CBF, said the cooperating Baptist organizations are seeking “a partnership across lines that have traditionally divided us.” He also commented that churches will increasingly “be doing missions in networks.”

Dr. Reid S. Trulson, director of the Board of International Ministries for ABCUSA, said such partnerships “are not terribly new. What we’re seeing is a new permutation of a long-standing pattern.”

Describing the “Baptist Build” in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of the ABCUSA Board of National Ministries, noted that Baptists “do not just respond to disasters, but also to issues of justice and speaking truth to power.”

Also among those addressing the press conference was Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, executive minister for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

The press conference, sponsored by Baptists Today magazine and ABCUSA’s Communication Office, preceded an evening gathering with worship and communion among American Baptist Churches USA, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

For the first time, ABCUSA and CBF are holding their national meetings at the same time and place. For ABCUSA, its current Biennial meeting has special significance because it marks the 100th anniversary of the denomination’s founding in Washington in 1907.

At 100, American Baptists Worship, Sing, and Have a Birthday Party

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/01/07) -- It was a day of joy, and maybe a few tears, of recalling the past and looking toward the future.

It was also a day of worship, prayer and stories of preaching and singing—and shouting (more about that later).

And it was a birthday party, with ice cream and cake for 2,500.

The 100th anniversary celebration of American Baptist Churches USA took place in the Washington Convention Center, in the city where the denomination was founded in 1907 as the Northern Baptist Convention.

Saturday, July 30, was “Centennial Day,” part of the denomination’s four-day Biennial convention, which was historic in its own way—it included, on Friday night, the first combined worship service of American Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which began in the early 1990s as a break-off from the Southern Baptist Convention.

There were other glimpses of history when Edwin Tuller described the challenges of his time as the church’s General Secretary in 1959-1970, including the Civil Rights struggle and building a new denomination headquarters in Valley Forge. And James E. Merlin told of his “Colporter” days, spreading the gospel and Baptist literature in the mountains of Idaho half a century ago.

But the centennial celebrants also looked toward the future, as four younger speakers—introduced as “emerging voices” of the church—spoke of evangelism, justice and mercy, global mission, and unity in diversity. The speaker on that last theme, Lauren Ng, repeated one phrase throughout her remarks: “Boy, are we different!” Ng, who is assistant pastor of San Francisco’s

First Chinese Baptist Church, then put the phrase in context: "We are unified because being different is what makes us what we are We scatter light over the world like salt from a shaker."

Centennial Day opened with Bible study led by Tony Campolo, and it ended 13 hours later, after three concerts, including a hymn sing at Calvary Baptist Church where the denomination began. There was also a concert by Washington, D.C., choirs and a presentation of Handel's "Messiah" by the senior choir at Shiloh Baptist Church.

In between were a morning worship service featuring the "emerging leaders" and a group photo in the convention center's vast Hall D, recalling a Biennial photo taken outside the White House in the 1920s. There were also forums on Baptist history and about restructuring the church for the future, as well as that ice cream and cake party in a convention center lobby, sponsored in part by the Christian Community Credit Union.

At the history forum, Dr. Beverly Mitchell of the American Baptist Historical Society read from 1907 newspaper accounts of the denomination's founding. Other topics of the day, she said, were President Theodore Roosevelt, two attempted lynchings, a sale of men's suits for \$20 each, and a "psychic cat." Issues facing the 1907 convention, according to the articles, included "the danger of interdenominationalism," training Sunday School teachers, and the chronic need for money to support ministry.

Today's American Baptist Churches USA traces its origins to a split with churches in the South before the Civil War. Northern churches continued in an informal association for more than 50 years through their societies for publication and for home and foreign missions. A call in 1906 by the Chicago Baptist Association "for more denominational unity" led to the formation of the Northern Baptist Convention on May 16-17, 1907.

The denomination's first president was New York Gov. Charles Evans Hughes, who later became chief justice of the United States. The Northern Baptists eventually renamed themselves the American Baptist Convention and then American Baptist Churches USA.

No convention of Baptists—certainly not a centennial one—could pass without preaching. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith, pastor of Shiloh Baptist, addressed the centennial luncheon on the theme "For Sure," using as his text Jesus' "great commission" to his disciples in Matthew 28:18.

"There's a kind of holy craziness about our work," Smith said, observing that the 11 remaining disciples ("not even at full strength") were sent out "by this discredited carpenter" to change the world. And they had been called for that assignment to a mountain "without even knowing where the mountain was."

The one thing they knew "for sure," Smith said, was their leader's final words, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Smith went down a list of other things Christians know "for sure," until his audience was shouting that refrain back to him.

That was not the only noise on this centennial day. Earlier, the centennial's co-chair, Dr. Robert Roberts, led the morning worship audience through a "festal shout" of verses from Psalm 150.

But there were moments of quiet and beauty, too—a liturgical dance to the old hymn, "Let us Gather at the River," and the convention center's great hall in motionless silence as the panoramic picture of the centennial delegates was taken.

And after the evening's majestic performance of "The Messiah" in Shiloh Baptist, which is largely African-American, a young man, white, was called forward to give the benediction. He began, "I just want to say, if I can get this out without weeping again, that I was baptized in this church, and I'm so happy to be back. And I think what I've been seeing here tonight was the smile of God."

International Ministries Promotes Mission Partnership with Cooperative Baptists at ABCUSA Biennial

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/02/07) -- During an afternoon press conference on Friday, June 29, 2007, and later that evening through an historic worship service, American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) said each organization is committed to partnering with the other, as evidenced by the two Baptist groups jointly appointing two missionary couples. The announcement and worship service were a part of the biennial session of ABCUSA, which is celebrating its centennial from June 29 through July 2, 2007 in Washington, DC.

Duane and Marcia Binkley, who have served in Thailand with International Ministries (IM), American Baptist Churches will now serve in the United States and Thailand through a joint appointment with CBF. Nancy and Steve James, who also had previously served with IM as medical missionaries in Haiti, will also return to that country through a joint appointment.

Dr. Rob Nash, the coordinator of global mission for CBF, was enthusiastic about what the joint appointments mean for mission. "It's truly an exciting kind of venture," said Nash. "We'll be doing mission in networks ... across lines that have historically divided." IM Executive Director, Dr. Reid Trulson, agreed. "It's a wonderful opportunity to cooperate this way, through mission, which is what brought Baptists together in America nearly 200 years ago."

The Binkleys spent recent years in Thailand working with ethnic Karen from Burma living in refugee camps in Thailand. They will continue to work with these refugees, but now in America. The U.S. government has announced it will allow an expected 19,000 Karen and other ethnic Burmese to leave the camps in 2007 for the U.S. The Binkleys note many of the refugees are Christian and more specifically Baptist. This is a result of the historic Baptist 1813 mission started by missionaries Adoniram and Ann Judson in Burma. The Binkleys, who will cooperate with National Ministries, American Baptist regions, local churches and even Canadian Baptists, are working hard to prepare Baptist churches to receive these refugees when they come.

"Duane and Marcia are uniquely equipped to give preparation to people in the camps," said Trulson, adding the Binkleys will also "prepare the churches to understand who these people are and how we can welcome them and minister to their needs."

Nancy and Steve wanted the opportunity to serve with IM again, after leaving IM in 1999. Now, after joining a CBF church in North Carolina, the ability of the two Baptist groups to work together helped their desire become a reality.

"It's a wonderful blessing to be back with IM," said Steve James. "We feel the Lord has brought us into a new ministry to empower communities through holistic healthcare. It fits with IM's mission statements, and it fits with the Cooperative Baptist vision."

IM is a Baptist mission agency, established in 1814, which serves the more than 5,800 churches of the American Baptist Churches USA. Globally, IM relates to more than 500 educational institutions and 125 hospitals and medical facilities. Missionaries work in partnership with some 15,000 trained national workers, who serve about 22,000 congregations and nearly 3,000,000 baptized members.

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 the staff and clients of APCN as programming ends July 26.

Please pray for ABCUSA's XTREME TEAMS to Mexico and the Czech Republic as they adventure in missions. The Xtreme Team is designed to connect young adults with the global mission of American Baptists. Our purpose is to grow a passion and interest in mission for the here and now as well as to cultivate global mission leadership for the future.

Please pray for persons who do not have adequate health insurance in this country.

Calendar

July 15—Lynne Kelley preaches at Grace Baptist Church.

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

July 21—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

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.

September 22—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

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

October 19-21—Sojourners gathering, "Reviving our Souls, Restoring our Politics"; Cleveland, OH. For more information about the conference and housing, please visit www.cacradicalgrace.org/conferences/ros or call 1-800-714-7474.

October 20—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

November 10—ABCMC Annual Meeting

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

December 15—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

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 lynne@abcmc.org. 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 lynne@abcmc.org.