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Please send communications for and about *eWind* to the editor, Lynne Kelley, at
lynne@abcmc.org.

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 the region

July 23, 2008

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Metro Chicago at MtW

Twenty-eight young people from six congregations did Metro Chicago proud at the *More than a Week* youth gathering in Colorado, July 5 – 12.

They were joined by eight adults from Chicago churches at the event sponsored by National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA, held at the YMCA of the Rocky Mountains conference center just outside of Estes Park.

Overall, nearly 1,400 Baptists were in attendance, including 900 young people.

Rev. Jesse Brown and I were privileged to serve as mentors for about sixty kids who were trained to be “peer leaders” at the conference, which meant that he and I literally spent more than a week at the conference center because we arrived early for training, especially for that part of the program devoted to Bible study.

That Bible study concentrated daily, in small groups, on the life of Peter as a disciple of Jesus – his risking discipleship, his learning both the joy and cost of discipleship, and his becoming the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. (I take some pride in the curriculum, since my older daughter Sarah was part of the writing team that developed it.)

But that was just one portion of event-filled days. Each day included as well stirring worship (in both morning and evening), workshops, back-home get-togethers, recreation, concerts, talent shows, and excursions to nearby eye-popping scenes of the Rocky Mountains. Even the food was pretty good! Honestly, we were on-the-go from 6:30 a.m. 'til midnight most days.

It was great seeing our diverse group of Metro Chicago kids join in all this with a sense of abandon. Just in terms of proportional size of the regions, we were near the top in attendance.

Much of the credit – and deep thanks – for making this happening goes to the Rev. Carol Jamison Brown, the Rev. Jesse Brown, and the Rev. Phil Yetter, and to adult leaders in their congregations who made extraordinary efforts to help organize the registration, preparation, transportation, and oversight of the trip.

And thanks, too, for members of ABCMC's Finance and Property Committee who recommended that the region cover the program costs for every young person attending from Chicago. And, in the end, thanks to the wider family of ABCMC – which means all of you – who supported this endeavor.

But, as the theme of the gathering suggests, this is about “more than a week.” We hope the influences and decisions made by the young people at *MtW* will last be life-lasting. To help make that happen, we are using our participation in the gathering as a springboard for more youth programming in Metro Chicago. That suggests that all of us can have a continuing part in *MtW*.

Larry Greenfield
Executive Minister

Annual Reports Due

The statistics from the 2007 Annual Reports must be entered into ABCIS by **July 31, 2008**.

If your church's report has not yet been submitted, you have only 6 working days in which to

submit it. Please make sure that a report is submitted from your church no later than next Thursday. If you need help completing and submitting your report, please contact Maureen Morrissey at 1-800-ABC-3USA (1-800-222-3872).

Golf Outing

This invitation is from Kids Hope United (formerly Central Baptist Children's Home).

You're invited to the Kids Hope United 18th Annual Charity Golf Outing to be held Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Bonnie Brook Golf Course, 2800 N. Lewis Ave., in Waukegan. *This special event is aimed at raising funds to help ensure a safe home for every child.*

Test your game on the rolling, wooded terrain of this 18-hole, 72-par course that boasts a design, feel and maturity of a golfing era gone by. Recently rated a 4-star course by *Golf Digest*, Bonnie Brook is currently ranked 5th in the state for public golf courses and is consistently ranked in the top 50 Chicagoland courses.

The Annual Charity Golf Outing supports programs and services of Kids Hope United—helping ensure a safe home for every child. Kids Hope United works toward the goal of providing a safe home for every child and hope for the future of children and families. The nonprofit organization now serves more than 5,000 children and families across northern Illinois.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000, and we can only do this with your support!

To register or become a sponsor, please complete the enclosed sponsorship form and return it to Kids Hope United along with your donation. For more information, contact Marilee LaMattina at 847-245-6553 or at mlamattina@kidshopeunited.org.

Together, we **can** provide vulnerable children and families a new beginning and hope!

Sincerely,
The Golf Committee

Thinking Theologically

From the feedback I have already received on this article, I realize I probably have failed to make my case. But it was an attempt to treat the 139th Psalm with intellectual, moral and religious integrity. What I am unwilling to do is omit a portion of the Psalm in order to make it palatable. Yet my attempt was to find a way of its still being redeeming. I'd appreciate any thoughts you have about this effort.

Larry Greenfield

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Staying in Touch

Montrose Baptist Church and their pastor, Jason Platt, have found a new way for helping folks stay in touch when they must miss the Sunday morning worship service. In addition to sharing announcements and prayer concerns by email, the church now makes a recording of their entire service available for downloading as an Mp3 file.

Camp in Waukegan

Jorge Zayasbazan, one of the pastors at the First Baptist Church of Waukegan, reports on the day camp experiences the church has been offering:

A COOL SUMMER EXPERIENCE BEGINS Our 3-week summer camp for 5th graders began this week with the 5-day Starbase Atlantis program sponsored by the Great Lakes Naval Base. The kids are having a blast (pardon the pun) learning about math & science through rocketry, flight simulators and more. Next week: the Ravine!

A COOL SUMMER EXPERIENCE CONTINUES as our camp participants learn about our local ecology through visits to our ravine system, the Lake Michigan shoreline and other areas. Area naturalists visit to teach on different topics bringing different displays and hands on experiences.

See pictures from last week:

http://fbcwaukegan.com/2008/Starbase_Atlantis.htm

175th Anniversary Year Celebrations

This invitation is from the First Baptist Church of Chicago.

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary during 2008. Please join as we celebrate. Dr. Aidsand Wright Riggins will be preaching at FBC on August 10th at the 11:00 a.m. Service.

On Anniversary Sunday, October 12 at 11 a.m. Dr. Michael Thomas, the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary will be our guest speaker. On that Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. our guest speaker will be Rev. Reginald Bachus, Pastor of the historic Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago.

Dr. Roy Medley, the General Secretary of ABCUSA will be our guest speaker on December 14 at 11 a.m.

Unity Revival

Save the dates for Irving Park Baptist's Unity Revival, August 1-3. Our guest preachers include Rev. Ozzie Smith, Rev. Carol Brown, Rev. Zina Jacque; Rev. Ramon Soto, and more! Join on Friday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, August 2 at 2 p.m., and Sunday, August 3 from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. More details to follow soon. You won't want to miss this one!

Community Health and Wellness Fair

Irving Park Baptist Church is holding its 2nd Annual "Community Health and Wellness Fair," on Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come out as we hear from community health agencies, the local "Y" (they taught belly-dancing last year!), financial consultants, and others who will provide vital information for health and wholeness. We'll have good healthy food, too!

ABCUSA NEWS

For additional articles from the American Baptist News Service, please visit <http://www.abc-usa.org/whoweare/newsservice/newsservice.aspx>.

National Ministries Calls for Action Against "Big Tobacco"

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/17/08) — Since 2002, Faith United Against Tobacco, a broad and diverse coalition of more than 20 national faith denominations and organizations, including American Baptists, Southern Baptists, United Methodists, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs, has been working to convince the United States Congress to pass life-saving legislation that would authorize regulation of tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Thanks in large part to the work of this faith community, our nation is now closer than ever to the FDA legislation becoming law. The regulation bills have passed House and Senate Committees and may come up for vote in the next few weeks.

National Ministries' Office of Governmental Relations urges American Baptists to take action now about this issue: contact your senators and representative in the U.S. Congress and ask them to vote for H.R. 1108 and S. 625, the bills that will bring tobacco products within FDA regulation.

This important legislation will establish a comprehensive national tobacco policy and restrict tobacco advertising and promotion, especially to children, along with granting regulation oversight to the FDA. Also, the legislation will grant the FDA authority to require that tobacco companies disclose contents of tobacco products and reduce or remove harmful ingredients; stop tobacco companies from misleading the public about the health risks of their products; and require larger, more effective health warnings on tobacco packaging.

Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, National Ministries' managing director of Resource Development, says, "Our nation's leaders have a moral obligation to do all they can to protect Americans, particularly children, from tobacco addiction and the health consequences of smoking. This legislation would in no small measure move our nation forward in achieving this goal."

Currently, tobacco—one of the most deadly products on the market—is not regulated, while other products, such as macaroni and cheese and lipstick, come under the scrutiny of the FDA.

Recently released by leading public health organizations, "Big Tobacco's Guinea Pigs: How an Unregulated Industry Experiments on America's Kids and Consumers" shows how tobacco manufacturers take advantage of their lack of regulation to find novel ways to entice new users. Tobacco products—once limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco and chewing or spit tobacco—now come in more flavors, forms, shapes and sizes. The tobacco industry has introduced cigarettes, smokeless tobacco products and so-called "little cigars" in an array of candy, fruit and alcohol flavors that mask their harshness, making them more appealing to children. Colorful ads for these products appear in magazines with large youth readerships such as Rolling Stone and Sports Illustrated.

But the industry doesn't stop at marketing products that are enticing to kids. Knowing that first-time users will find smoking unpleasant, manufacturers carefully add sugars and chemicals that numb the throat to make them less harsh. According to "Big Tobacco's" own internal documents, these methods improve "mouth feel" by reducing negative sensations like hotness and dryness.

The faith community needs to take a strong stand about this issue because we spend so much time burying fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers who die terrible, unnecessary, deaths caused by addictions to tobacco. It is long past time for Congress to rectify this by giving the FDA the authority it needs to reduce smoking, particularly among children, and save thousands of lives from the horrors of tobacco addiction.

That's why National Ministries recommends that American Baptists join the Campaign For Tobacco Free Kids, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association and other public health leaders in support of the FDA legislation.

As American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, who has signed several letters about this issue to members of Congress, says, "No other issue has united faith leaders of all different political stripes like reducing smoking by authorizing the FDA to regulate tobacco products. We all know this is a moral issue whose time has come." Get more details about the pending FDA legislation at www.tobaccofreekids.org.

Colorado's Mountains Rock With National Gathering of American Baptist Youth

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/21/08) — Close to 1400 youth and adults attended "**MtW: More Than a Week**," the National Gathering of American Baptist Youth sponsored by National Ministries, in Estes Park, Colo., July 5 – 11.

Rev. Jackie Saxon, "**MtW**" co-director, and Rev. Reginald Fletcher, National Ministries' national coordinator for Youth and Campus Ministries, welcomed youth with the hope that God would speak to their hearts in a special way, calling them to be "agents of change" in their personal lives, their homes, schools and their communities. Saxon and Fletcher underscored the gathering's theme that "each of us is on a journey that neither begins or ends at this conference, but that continues for a lifetime."

Associate Executive Director for Program Ministries Rev. Marilyn Turner emphasizes National Ministries' commitment to assuring the spirit of "**MtW**" continues long after the conference. "The vision for '**MtW**' began more than two years ago when a core group of National Ministries staff and American Baptist volunteers from around the nation first came together in the mountains of Estes Park to pray and work. Now that the gathering is over, we plan to make use of the '**MtW**' Web pages to maintain connections and exchange and share stories about the ministries and mission in which our young American Baptists are involved."

"**More Than a Week**" included daily morning and evening worship that featured: Duffy Robbins, associate professor of Youth Ministries at Eastern University, St. Davids, Pa.; Rev. Emmett Dunn, director of the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department; Rev. Yamina Apolinaris, who serves Puerto Rico's Corporacion Milagros del Amor, a community ministry; Rev. Eboni Marshall, assistant minister for Youth at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City; and Shane Claiborne, founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia.

During calls to commitment at two worship services, close to 150 youth gave their lives over to Jesus Christ—89 answering calls to ministry, 31 making first-time decisions and 27 making rededication commitments.

Youth also assured that the love of God, so clearly present, will continue to be felt for "more than a week" by supporting two organizations dedicated to working for justice at home and across the globe: La Puente and "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century."

For La Puente—a ministry that provides food, clothing, shelter and more to marginalized families and individuals in Colorado's San Luis Valley—youth donated 187 backpacks filled with school supplies.

And youth contributed more than \$5,500 to the worship offering for American Baptist Women's Ministries' "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century" mission project, a national effort that reaches out to victims of human trafficking in the United States and around the world.

In morning discipleship and small groups, both youth and adults participated in Bible study based on a curriculum specially developed for “**MtW**” by Rev. Wallace Smith, church planter, Journey Community Church, Shawnee, Kan.; Rev. Lauren Ng, associate pastor, First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, Calif.; Rev. Sarah Greenfield Culp, coordinator, Youth Ministries, American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region, Rochester, N.Y.; and Rev. Trevor Beauford, youth pastor, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Close to two dozen afternoon youth workshops ranged from “Hip Hop and the Church” to “Got Gifts? Unlocking Your Potential and Purpose;” the dozen and a half workshops designed for adults included “Reading the Bible with the Right Brain” and “Relational Youth Ministry.”

Whitney Bohnenblust, 16, a member of First Baptist Church of Clay Center in Kansas, says she grew in her faith at “MtW,” because she was surrounded by people who wanted to live the same life as she does. “I gained tools on how to share my faith. I want to read the Bible more. Being here feels great. I just want to take it back home and put it into my life every day.”

“**MtW: More Than a Week**” was the ninth national youth gathering; the first was sponsored by Educational Ministries in 1972.

National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, equips individuals and builds networks to develop Christ-centered leaders and transform persons, congregations, communities and cultures.

National Ministries Launches Web-Based Missional Church Transformation Resource

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/22/08) — National Ministries announces the launch of a new Internet-based resource focused on missional church transformation aimed at congregational leaders.

According to National Ministries’ Missional Church Strategist Dr. Ron Carlson, “The missional church transformation web pages address a growing concern that the North American church is in serious decline and out of touch with its rapidly changing contexts, with few resources capable of turning the tide. The basic thrust of these pages is to share discoveries that will help equip and mobilize a new kind of church for a new, challenging and constantly changing world.”

The “missional church” is an authentic community of faith that directs its ministry outward toward the neighborhood where it is located, as well as to the world beyond. National Ministries’ new web pages provide valuable information and resources for congregational leaders and others who want to form missional churches or engage in mission-oriented work.

National Ministries’ missional church web pages feature:

1. an introductory page;
2. a page with information about resources and skills essential to forming missionally-oriented churches, along with contributions from resource partners such as teaching churches, regional experts, professors, pastors and ecumenical sources; and
3. a contact page for National Ministries’ missional church transformation team, so visitors can access the expertise and experience these professionals bring to the missional church transformation process.

For more information about missional church transformation or the new web pages, call 800-ABC-3USA for Dr. Ron Carlson, ext. 2416, or Transformation Strategist Rev. Glynis LaBarre, ext. 2412.

To access the new pages, visit National Ministries' home page, www.nationalministries.org, and click on "[Missional Church Transformation](#)" in the left hand column.

National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, equips individuals through resources such as the missional church transformation web pages and builds networks to develop Christ-centered leaders who transform persons, congregations, communities and cultures. America for Christ contributions supported the development of this resource.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Health Care Sabbath

The Health Care Sabbath this year will be the weekend of October 17-19. If possible, please plan to include this theme in your church's worship service on October 19. A "save the date" flier is attached for you to print and share. Please contact Eric Quamme (equamme@ilmaternal.org) for more information.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Ministers Council Cookout at McVetty- Harris Home

This invitation is from Doug Harris and Carol McVetty, pastors at North Shore Baptist Church. Doug is president of the Ministers Council of ABCMC.

ALL MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED.

Join us for a potluck cookout on Saturday, August 9th at 4:30pm
Bring your favorite picnic cookout dish to share with others
We live at 5232 North Lakewood Ave. just south of the North Shore Baptist Church
RSVP to dharris@northshorebaptist.org or by phone 773-728-4200
We will provide the drinks and stuff for the grill, so come and let's have a good time!

ABCMC Ministers Council September Meeting

The Ministers Council of ABCMC will have an afternoon meeting at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, on September 25, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. The program for the meeting will include discussing with Bob Thompson, pastor of Lake Street Church, his recently published book, *A Voluptuous God*.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please hold in prayer those who are dealing with hurricanes in this season.

Please lift up in prayer Charles and Patricia Streeter. Charles was recently diagnosed with cancer. Patricia is the Family Council representative from the First Baptist Church of Park Forest, and also serves on the Family Cabinet.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Charles and Sarah West. Charles serves with the Baptist Convention of Zambia in the areas of educational ministries and leadership development.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Mike and Becky Mann ministering among hill tribes in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Please hold in prayer ABC missionary Stan Slade. Stan is global consultant for theological education. In this role Stan joins American Baptist missionaries and partners around the world to strengthen their work of preparing church leaders, specifically in theological formation and reflection, both formal and informal.

Though they are officially "retired" from full time missionary service in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as of June 30th, please keep Lynn and Virgil Nelson in your prayers as they continue traveling this summer.

Please hold in prayer the local heavy metal band Velnias, traveling out west on tour for the first time. The band's bass guitarist, Carter Page, is a member of Grace Baptist Church, and he is occasionally a technology consultant for ABCMC.

Please pray for sanitation workers and other laborers seeking to improve their working conditions.

Please pray for all ABCMC churches and pastors.

CALENDAR

July 27--Larry Greenfield preaches at Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington.

August 1-3--Unity Revival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Dates and times: Friday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, August 2 at 2 p.m., and Sunday, August 3 from 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 9—Ministers Council cobbout at McVetty-Harris Home, 5232 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 4:30 p.m. RSVP to dharris@northshorebaptist.org or by phone 773-728-4200. ALL MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED.

August 11—Foreclosure and Domestic Relations workshop for clergy, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

August 17-22—Christian Writers Conference, Green Lake Conference Center. Visit www.glcc.org and click on "conferences" for complete information.

August 19—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

August 23—Family Council meeting, Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington, 9 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch. Registration open at 8:30 a.m. Suggested donation for lunch: \$5.

September 4-7--Many Stories One Voice conference, New Orleans. Please visit web site, www.manystoriesonevoice.org.

September 14--ABCMC Sunday, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago; Larry Greenfield preaching, 11 a.m.

September 16—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

October 17-19--Health Care Sabbath. Please contact Eric Quamme (equamme@ilmaternal.org) for more information. The flyer is attached in a PDF format. Please feel free to distribute it.

October 21—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

September 28—ABCMC Sunday, First Baptist Church, 80 N. Orchard, Park Forest; Larry Greenfield preaching.

November 8—ABCMC Annual Meeting.

November 18—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

December 16—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

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 email the newsletter each Wednesday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to lynne@abcmc.org. If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655. The ABCMC office is at 7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102, Chicago, Illinois 60707