

*Metro Chicago*

*eWind*

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...  
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

Weekly Electronic Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago  
A patchwork of varied news and announcements  
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,  
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

August 20, 2008

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
so I shall I be saved from my enemies.  
Psalm 18:3

**IN THIS ISSUE**

ABCMC NEWS..... 2  
Junta de los Pastores Hispánicos ..... 2  
Thinking Theologically ..... 2  
ABCMC's Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, pens a fortnightly column for Protestants for the  
Common Good. His most recent column appears at the end of this edition of eWind..... 2  
Family Council Meeting August 23 at Barrington..... 2  
Good Preaching ..... 2  
Stewardship Seminar ..... 3  
NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS..... 3  
Computer Equipment..... 3  
Octogenarians and Ice Cream ..... 4  
Time of Refreshing ..... 4  
Revival at Community Church of Wilmette ..... 4  
Homecoming Sunday at Morgan Park ..... 4  
Rally Day in Flint ..... 4  
Annual Homecoming Celebration ..... 4  
Dr. Hatch's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ..... 5  
Back to School Bash ..... 5  
South Church to Install Pastor ..... 5  
Blessing of the Animals ..... 5  
At 3:30 on the afternoon of Sunday, September 28, the Federated Church of Wauconda will hold a  
brief worship service in the back yard of the parsonage, and thank God for their animal companions.  
Each pet will be introduced and blessed with prayer. Water and treats for cats and dogs will be served.  
..... 5  
175th Anniversary Year Celebrations..... 5  
Morgan Park to Install New Pastor..... 5  
COMMUNITY NEWS..... 6  
Sojourners Resource for Voters..... 6  
Kids Hope United Annual Dinner ..... 6  
Summit for Criminal Justice Reform..... 6  
Charting Self ..... 7  
ABCUSA NEWS For additional articles from the American Baptist News Service, please visit  
<http://www.abc-usa.org/whoweare/newsservice.aspx>..... 7  
Baptist Leaders Urge Prayer for Russia - Georgia Conflict ..... 7  
Walker Takes Issue with Rick Warren's Faith-Based Hiring Question..... 8

Separation of Church and State and Hiring.....	8
HEALTH CARE NEWS.....	9
Health Care Speak-Out September 17 .....	9
PEACE NEWS .....	9
Northwest Suburban Meeting .....	9
Neighborhood Anti-War Protest .....	9
MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS.....	10
PRAYER REQUESTS .....	10
CALENDAR.....	10
POSITION OPENING .....	12
First Institutional Baptist Church, Phoenix.....	12
"Tormented by a Demon" .....	12

## **ABCMC NEWS**

### ***Junta de los Pastores Hispánicos***

Los pastores Hispánicos de ABCMC tendrán junta en la Iglesia Bautista Central, 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago. Ellos se reunirán a las 9 de la mañana el 13 de septiembre.

### ***Thinking Theologically***

ABCMC's Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, pens a fortnightly column for Protestants for the Common Good. His most recent column appears at the end of this edition of *eWind*.

### ***Family Council Meeting August 23 at Barrington***

The quarterly meeting of ABCMC's Family Council will take place on Saturday, August 23 at the Community Church of Barrington, 407 Grove Avenue, Barrington. Please phone Tony Rake as soon as possible at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655, to let him know you are coming, if you have not already communicated with him.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m., and conclude with lunch at noon. Please be sure to let Tony know whether or not you will be staying for lunch. The suggested donation for lunch will be \$5.

Minutes from the previous meeting, as well as directions to the church, and a response form, were included in the materials that were mailed to Family Council members. If you need further directions, please call Lynne Kelley at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655.

This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome. Other materials needed for the meeting will be available at the meeting.

### ***Good Preaching***

This past Sunday, ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield preached at Hyde Park Union Church. Please take the time to read his sermon, "Making the Sabbath Day Holy." It is attached with this issue of *eWind*.

## **Stewardship Seminar**

CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP  
in  
DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

Third Annual Stewardship Seminar  
American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

Saturday, September 20, 2008  
9:00 a.m. – Noon  
Heritage Plaza Center  
1500 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60643

How can the ministries of Christ's church *not* suffer when members of congregations are themselves hurting financially in tough economic times?

Attend the Third Annual Stewardship Seminar of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago to be equipped for:

Church Budgeting in Lean Years  
The Annual Stewardship Campaign  
Stewardship Education for the Whole Year  
Benefiting by Becoming Congregationally Green  
Gift Planning and Planned Giving  
Giving to Those Who Need Our Help  
Preaching and Teaching Stewardship

A free seminar designed for church leaders who accept the challenge of securing resources to support the opportunities for ministries and missions of congregations.

Make reservations by calling (773-804-1655), faxing (773-804-1656), or e-mailing ([office@abcmc.org](mailto:office@abcmc.org)) the ABCMC office.

(Free parking at Third Baptist Church, 1551 W. 95<sup>th</sup>, east end of the parking lot.)

A flier is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Please print, distribute and display the flier. Above all, please come to the event.

## **NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS**

### ***Computer Equipment***

The Community Baptist Church of Warrenville has some computer equipment they are willing to donate to a church with an after school program. They have 2 -12" Dell monitors with 1 hard drive and 1 key board. Please phone Karyn DeBoer at 393-9609 for more information.

## ***Octogenarians and Ice Cream***

On August 24, the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 Barrington Road, Wauconda, will observe Octogenarian Sunday. They will celebrate church members who are in their 80s. In the morning service, several of them will speak about their lives at the church.

In conjunction with this celebration, the church will host a Sundaes Sunday at 3 p.m. that afternoon. The special guests at this event will be the seniors of the congregation.

## ***Time of Refreshing***

This fall will be a season of refreshing for North Shore Baptist Church. Two of the church's pastors, Doug Harris and Carol McVetty, will take a sabbatical, during which they will engage in study and travel. When they return in late November, they will no doubt have new insights and ideas with which to bless the congregation.

In the meantime, the congregation will also have a different sort of season. The church's leaders have made careful plans to ensure that the ministry continues in the absence of Doug and Carol. David Andersen, a retired American Baptist pastor who served most recently in Ohio, will be the Sabbatical Interim English Pastor. The church's Hispanic pastor, Rony Reyes, will carry out his customary duties, and will also be a resource for the English congregation.

## ***Revival at Community Church of Wilmette***

The Community Church of Wilmette invites us to be revived in God's justice and mercy at a three-day revival, September 5-7. On Friday evening, September 5, at 7:30 p.m., ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield will be the preacher. On Saturday evening, following a pot-luck supper at 6 p.m., Alice Greene, pastor of Irving Park Baptist Church, will be the guest preacher. On Sunday morning, the church's pastor Tripp Hudgins will be the preacher at the 10:30 a.m. service. Attached with this issue of *eWind* is a flier to print and share.

## ***Homecoming Sunday at Morgan Park***

Homecoming Sunday at Morgan Park Baptist Church will be September 7. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School for all ages. The worship service will be at 11 a.m. After worship, everyone is invited to stay for a fried chicken dinner. Please make dinner reservations by calling the church office at 773-445-9443. The church is at 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago.

## ***Rally Day in Flint***

Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan will begin their fall programs with Rally Day. This event will take place at the church on Sunday, September 7. All are welcome.

## ***Annual Homecoming Celebration***

Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, will host their Annual Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 14. Festivities will begin with breakfast at 9 a.m. Jim Byrne will be the chef. The worship service will follow at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Please contact the church at 773-286-6800 to make breakfast reservations.

## ***Dr. Hatch's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***



New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch, Sr. as their pastor. Marshall Hatch is the 2008 recipient of ABCMC's Esther Davis Award in Ministries of Social Justice. The celebration will take place September 9-16. On Sunday, September 14, the church will have a special anniversary Sunday service. ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield will be the guest preacher. The service will begin at 11 a.m. Congratulations to congregation and pastor!

## ***Back to School Bash***

On Sunday, September 14, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, will say to the neighborhood, "Hey! We're here!" All around the church grounds that day from 1 to 3 p.m. the church will host a "Back to School Bash" with music, ice cream, information about the church, and carnival type games with school supplies as prizes. All are welcome.

## ***South Church to Install Pastor***

The South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, will install Rick Kesler as pastor on Sunday September 21 at their regular worship service time, 10:30 a.m. At this meeting the group will finalize fall plans for District 214 high schools. All are invited to attend.

## ***Blessing of the Animals***

At 3:30 on the afternoon of Sunday, September 28, the Federated Church of Wauconda will hold a brief worship service in the back yard of the parsonage, and thank God for their animal companions. Each pet will be introduced and blessed with prayer. Water and treats for cats and dogs will be served.

## ***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.

Our 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 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.

## ***Morgan Park to Install New Pastor***

Thomas Aldworth will be installed as pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago on Sunday, October 26. The service will take place at the church at 3 p.m.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ***Sojourners Resource for Voters***

Due to overwhelming interest and demand, Sojourners has updated and re-issued "**Vote All Your Values**" voter issues guide for the 2008 election.

This is a non-partisan resource that endorses no candidates. It simply raises issues that we as Christians may choose to consider as we prepare to exercise our right to vote.

[Download your FREE copy of the 2008 issues guide today.](#)

(The URL is [http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=action.VOP&item=VOP\\_download\\_form](http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=action.VOP&item=VOP_download_form)) The document is a PDF file that you may want to print and share. You might use it to prompt conversation with others.

As part of Sojourners' "Vote Out Poverty" campaign this election season, the guide helps Christians examine seven core biblical themes before heading to the ballot box in November. During the last election, nearly half a million copies of the guide were distributed across the country, to expand the Christian voter dialogue to issues like poverty, the environment, and a comprehensive foreign policy.

## ***Kids Hope United Annual Dinner***

Get to know Kids Hope better. Save the date: November 12, 2008, for the Kids Hope United Annual Dinner. There will be dinner, program and keynote speaker. The event is at 6 p.m. at the law firm of Drinker Biddle, 191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 3700, Chicago (in the Loop). There is no charge for this event. More details will follow. Contact Kristy Cechini at 847-245-6505 for more information or if you are interested in attending.

## ***Summit for Criminal Justice Reform***

Community Renewal survey data that indicates a solid majority of Illinois voters believe the best criminal justice policies are those that seek to reduce and prevent crime through education and rehabilitation, such as job training and treatment for substance abuse.

Conducted by political scientist Tari Renner, Ph.D., for Community Renewal, the survey mirrors results of recent national surveys that indicate overwhelming public support for rehabilitation and other options for prisoners both during and after release from prison.

In October there will be a faith summit for criminal justice reform in Illinois. The Community Renewal Society urges you to attend.

The purpose of the Faith Summit is to more fully engage Illinois' religious community in a strong show of support for significant reform of our criminal justice system.

At the event we will:

- Unveil a statement of shared values as a blue-print for ongoing criminal justice reform
- Demonstrate broad and deep support and a growing constituency for change
- Secure commitments from policy-makers and leaders to advance specific criminal justice reforms

**TAKE ACTION!**

Call for a Criminal Justice System Based on Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Healing!  
Sign the Statement of People of Faith on the Transformation of the Illinois Criminal Justice System.  
People of faith in Illinois are calling for a justice system rooted in the principles of restoration, rehabilitation, and healing. Your voice is needed. On October 5th, Illinois faith communities and the Community Renewal Society will convene the first ever Faith Summit for Criminal Justice Reform to lay out a new vision for our broken criminal justice system. Take action now to call for our state to turn away

from vengeance and take a stand for restoration, rehabilitation, and healing:

- 1) Sign the statement
- 2) Register to attend the Faith Summit
- 3) Spread the Word

HERE IS THE BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUMMIT:

Faith Summit for Criminal Justice Reform  
Sunday, October 5th, 2008  
Resource Fair – 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.  
Summit Event – 3 to 4:30P p.m.  
The Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago  
725 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608

Ample parking located two blocks west of the UIC Forum at 1135 S. Morgan St., Lot 5.

## ***Charting Self***

***Charting Self***, a monthly series grounded in Bowen Family Systems Theory and focusing on the *Beliefs Chart*, will be held at First Presbyterian Church in La Grange beginning in September. Sessions will continue through May. Registrations are limited to 15.

Through the construction of their own *Beliefs Chart*, participants will explore how emotional process may have influenced the shaping of their beliefs. Upon completion of the series, participants will also be able to use the ***Charting Self*** curriculum in their own teaching.

For a fuller description of the series, click [here](#) to open and print a registration brochure.

## **ABCUSA NEWS**

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

### ***Baptist Leaders Urge Prayer for Russia - Georgia Conflict***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/13/08)** — American Baptists are urged to respond with prayer to the conflict between Russia and Georgia. While a ceasefire agreement was made Tuesday, there are widespread reports of continued violence occurring around the eastern side of Gori, a key town in central Georgia, and in the neighboring province of South Ossetia. International Ministries is sending a \$7,500 emergency grant from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds to help the Georgian Baptists in their work with refugees and people who are displaced within Georgia because of the conflict.

Malkhaz Songulashvili, the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia, has had a close working relationship with American Baptist Churches USA for many years. He has denounced “injustice, aggression and conflict at the cost of civilian lives.” In an email report to Ethics Daily prior to the accord, the Bishop said, “we pray that the conflict is peacefully resolved and opposing sides reconciled, mutual forgiveness and acceptance exercised. We mourn the death of soldiers, children, men, women, and elderly from both sides.”

Said ABCUSA General Secretary Dr. A. Roy Medley, “We are deeply concerned with the situation in Georgia. We pray for restraint on the part of the Russian government and call for a cessation of hostilities permanently. Both sides need to abide by the ceasefire agreement.”

Former Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries and current Baptist World Alliance leader John Sundquist recently accompanied BWA General Secretary Neville Callam to Georgia for a

pastoral visit. Both have expressed their concern about the situation and called for lasting peace in the region.

Reid Trulson, current Executive Director of International Ministries, and Charles Jones, Area Director for Europe, Middle East and North Africa, have both been in contact with Georgian Baptist leaders. Trulson said, "We are deeply concerned about the destruction taking place in Georgia and are praying fervently for the people of Georgia as well as for those who are causing this chaos."

Jones said, "Our hearts are broken and our spirits saddened by the escalation of conflict and the use of military force in Georgia. We grieve and agonize with all those who have lost loved ones, with those who are suffering from injuries, and with those who now live in fear and anxiety. We are praying that the Lordship of our Prince of Peace will transform this tragedy into occasion for rejoicing and hope."

Trulson received an email from Merab Gaprindashvili, a Bishop in the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia, who had to flee from his own home. Gaprindashvili reflected that as he tried to help refugees of the conflict, he became a refugee himself. He reported:

There are a lot of destroyed houses and many dead and wounded people in the villages. We do not know yet what has happened with our brothers and sisters. There are 35 baptized members living in the hottest spots in the conflict zone, and about 100 members in the neighbourhood of Gori. Before the war broke out, we had started raising money for the Cathedral. Of course, we have changed our mind and this collection will be used for the refugees. There are many things to be done. I have just received a call from a regional secretary of the Kartli region, who said, "there are already six refugees from our church in my house and we are coming to Beteli Center." We are expecting more refugees to come to the center. We will be more than happy if you can contribute something for the benefit of the refugees.

Donations to support ongoing relief efforts can be made through any American Baptist church's monthly report of mission support (designating contributions "OGHS-Georgia (Republic of) Relief") or online at [www.internationalministries.org/read/give\\_to\\_georgia\\_\(republic\\_of\)\\_relief](http://www.internationalministries.org/read/give_to_georgia_(republic_of)_relief).

## ***Walker Takes Issue with Rick Warren's Faith-Based Hiring Question***

TO: Baptist Colleagues

FROM: Larry Greenfield

Many of us watch the Saddleback Presidential Forum on TV last Saturday evening, featuring our Baptist brother, Rick Warren. I don't know if you were troubled, as I was, by the way Brother Rick posed the question about discriminatory employment when using federal funds, but our colleague Brent Walker at the Baptist Joint Committee has stated the concern well in the essay below (reprinted with permission).



**J. BRENT WALKER**

### **Separation of Church and State and Hiring**

It is good to hear a prominent, evangelical pastor profess his belief in the separation of church and state. I also applaud Rev. Rick Warren's suggestion that separation of church and state does not require a separation of faith and politics. Clearly, there was nothing wrong, as some have suggested, with holding the forum in a church.

Separation of church and state is simply a shorthand expression for the rights guaranteed by Article VI of the Constitution (no religious test for public office) and the First Amendment (no establishment of religion, and no prohibition on the free exercise of religion). What the separation of church and state does not mean is that Americans must - or even should - segregate faith from politics. Nothing in the Constitution or our political culture compels Americans to divorce the moral values born of their religious faith from their decision on which political candidates and policies to support. Answers to questions about a candidate's faith should always be followed up by questions about how that faith will influence governance. Rev. Warren did a pretty good job of doing this throughout the evening.

It is unfortunate that, despite his stated support for the separation of church and state, the one question directly related to the topic was framed in a leading and biased manner that brushed aside serious religious liberty concerns. Rev. Warren asked: "The Civil Rights Act of 1964 says that faith-based organizations have a right to hire people who believe like they do. Would you insist that faith-based organizations forfeit that right to access federal funds?"

Federal law does permit faith-based organizations, when using their own funds, to engage in preferential hiring practices for fellow adherents of their faith. But historically Congress has not permitted faith-based organizations to do so in programs subsidized with federal money. Until recently, this was not a controversial principle: receipt of federal tax dollars obligates the recipient to administer a nondiscriminatory hiring process in the projects so funded. If a church wants to promote religion in its social service programs, it should use its own money. If it does not want to (and, therefore, qualify for federal funding), why does it need to impose a religious test in hiring? Simply stated, tax dollars should not be used to subsidize religious discrimination. Proponents of church-state separation do not gloss over this point.

Our Constitution and the Bill of Rights provide a counter-majoritarian system that disallows establishments of religion and protects the rights of religious minorities. To give these principles short shrift by glossing over complicated questions does not evince a genuine belief in, or commitment to, religious liberty and the separation of church and state that protects it. Christians who support church-state separation must walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

## HEALTH CARE NEWS

### *Health Care Speak-Out September 17*

The Commonwealth Fund recently released a study reporting more than two in five adults report problems paying medical bills in 2007. 61% of these individuals were insured. As our health care crisis deepens its impact on individuals and families, we need to come together to create an American solution that protects both the health and financial well-being of everyone. Come be a part of our grassroots movement for Healthcare for America NOW! at a Health Care Speak-Out on September 17th. The event will take place at the Waukegan Public Library, 126 N. County Street, Waukegan at 6 p.m. A flier is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Please print it out and share it, and come to the event in Waukegan.

## PEACE NEWS

### *Northwest Suburban Meeting*

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 10. The meeting will take place at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, at 7 p.m.

### *Neighborhood Anti-War Protest*

A weekly neighborhood anti-war protest will take place this **Saturday at noon at Lawrence and Kimball**. Leaflets and placards, including one that says, "Honk to Bring All the Troops Home Now," will be available. Many drivers, and passersby, enthusiastically sound off. For information, please phone 773-250-3335.

## MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

### ***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 pray for Community Baptist Church and Linda Tossey as they prepare to begin their ministry together as congregation and pastor.

Please lift up in prayer Marshall Hatch and New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 15 years of ministry together.

Please hold in prayer Doug Harris and Carol McVetty, pastors of North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, as they prepare for their sabbatical. Please pray for the church as well.

Please hold in prayer refugees from Burma, as well as congregations and institutions ministering with them. Please especially pray for these ministries at Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Missouri, as well as North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Annie and Jeff Dieselberg as they minister in the name of Jesus to women caught up in the sex trade in Bangkok, Thailand. Pray for God's continuous infilling and for wisdom, strength and boldness.

Please remember in prayer David and Leslie Turley, ABC missionaries in Okinawa, Japan.

Please pray God's blessing on retired pastors and their families.

## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY! August 23**--Family Council meeting, Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington, 9 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch. Registration opens 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](http://www.manystoriesonevoice.org).

**September 5**—Larry Greenfield preaches at revival service, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 7:30 p.m.

**September 6**—Alice Greene preaches at revival service, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, following pot-luck supper at 6 p.m.

**September 7**—Homecoming Sunday, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship, 12:15 p.m. fried chicken dinner.

**September 7**—Tripp Hudgins preaches at revival and communion service, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 10:30 a.m.

**September 10**—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

**13 de septiembre**--Junta de los pastores hispánicos, Iglesia Bautista Central, 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago, 9 a.m.

**September 14**—Homecoming Celebration, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 9 a.m. breakfast, 11 a.m. worship service.

**September 14**—Celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marshall Hatch as pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church; Larry Greenfield preaches at New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 5301 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, 11 a.m.

**September 14**—Back to School Bash, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

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

**September 20**—Third Annual ABCMC Stewardship Seminar, Third Baptist Church of Chicago, Heritage Plaza Center, 1500 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, 9 a.m.-Noon.

**September 21**--ABCMC Sunday, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago; Larry Greenfield preaching, 11 a.m.

**September 25**--Ministers Council meeting, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, 4:30-6 p.m.

**September 28**—ABCMC Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Park Forest, 80 N. Orchard, Park Forest; Larry Greenfield preaches, 11 a.m.

**October 5**—Faith Summit for Criminal Justice Reform: Resource Fair – 1:30-2:45 p.m.; Summit Event – 3-4:30 p.m.; The Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago, 725 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago.

**October 12**—ABCMC Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Berwyn, 6916 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Berwyn; Larry Greenfield preaches.

**October 17-19**--Health Care Sabbath. Please contact Eric Quamme ([equamme@ilmaternal.org](mailto:equamme@ilmaternal.org)) for more information.

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

**October 21-22**—Conference of Baptist Leaders from Burma, October 21-22, at the Chin Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

**October 26**—Installation of Thomas Aldworth as pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11025 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 3 p.m.

**November 1**—Workshop with Ken Medema, Rockford. For more information, please contact Mark Vincent by e-mail: [marklv@DesignForMinistry.com](mailto:marklv@DesignForMinistry.com) or [marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com](mailto:marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com) or phone: 877-771-3330 or 888-463-9995.

**November 8**--ABCMC Annual Meeting.

**November 12**—Kids Hope United Annual Dinner, law firm of Drinker Biddle, 191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 3700, Chicago (in the Loop), 6 p.m.

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

**December 20**--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

## POSITION OPENING

### *First Institutional Baptist Church, Phoenix*

First Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix, AZ, is looking for an executive minister.

[http://www.crcds.edu/content/images/Executive\\_Minister\\_Hiring\\_Profile\\_rev.pdf](http://www.crcds.edu/content/images/Executive_Minister_Hiring_Profile_rev.pdf)

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 the editor, Lynne Kelley, at [lynne@abcmc.org](mailto: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



Vol VII no. 17, August 15, 2008

## Thinking Theologically About the Common Good

*Reflections on theology, scripture, and public life  
from the Rev. Larry Greenfield.*

### "Tormented by a Demon"

Right at the beginning let's agree that, literally, the nature of the "torment" that comes from the work of a "demon" in the daughter of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15: 21-28 is either physical or psychological.

But can we also allow that this "torment" could, figuratively, represent another kind of torture or agony — a different kind of child abuse? And agree, then, that the "demon" that torments the child might also be of a different character?

The story (which appears also in Mark 7: 24-30) has this mother coming to a xenophobic Jesus pleading for relief of the daughter's torment caused by the demon.

As a Canaanite mom she doesn't have any standing with Jesus or the wider family of

Israel. Yes, she and the daughter were native Palestinians but, not being of the chosen race, were to be not just overlooked but to some degree deserving of ethnic cleansing.

So even though the mom respectfully addresses Jesus as the Jewish Messiah ("Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David"), Jesus himself finds no reason whatsoever to even acknowledge her presence or consider her loud cries for help. She is, to Jesus, a non-person, even a non-reality.

It is the disciples of Jesus — not Jesus himself — who reluctantly recognize her and ask that Jesus find some way of dealing with her. But the disciples do this only because the mom is such an irritant, such a pest, with her noisy and unrelenting pleas on behalf of her tormented little girl.

Jesus reprimands the disciples for allowing themselves to get off-message, reminding them that: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." In other words, don't let your personal stuff (being irritated by the mom) cause you to distract me from what I'm supposed to be about exclusively — that is, working to reclaim the lost sheep of our own kind.

The disciples get the point — the reprimand — and don't appear in the story again.

But the mom does reappear, kneeling as this non-person before the Jewish Messiah, daring to ask for some help. She has stopped Jesus in his tracks; it's clear that he can't get around her. But this time he verbally dismisses her with his narrow and distorted understanding of fairness and justice: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

The translation of that would go something like: It would be an injustice if I, who have been called to bring the lost sheep of Israel back into the fold, used up my valuable time, my measured energy, and my precious resources to feed scavenging mutts — that is, those worthless creatures outside the fold of Israel.

That should take care of it, he must have thought, now let me get on with my business.

But knowing how desperately her tormented daughter needs relief from the demon, the Canaanite mom shoots back at Jesus: "Yes, Messiah, but don't even the dogs get the crumbs that fall from the master's table."

Jesus recognizes that he has met his match, and concedes the argument: "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the text says the little girl was healed of her torment instantly.

The demon is defeated.

\* \* \* \* \*

Suppose the demon was not some physical or psychological reality, but could figuratively be taken as a social or even political reality causing the torment of children who were outside the chosen race, the chosen class, the chosen geographic boundaries.

What lesson would this story from the life of Jesus teach us?

Suppose the demon was a system of taxation in a state that was deliberately designed to favor the chosen race, the chosen class, the chosen geographic boundaries.

What lesson would this story from the life of Jesus teach us?

Suppose the demonic tax system in the state had the consequence of giving the

children of the chosen race, the chosen class, the chosen geographic boundaries with excellent educational resources but the children of other races and other classes and other geographic boundaries with inferior educational resources. Suppose that demonic tax system had the consequence of tormenting those un-chosen kids not just now but for the rest of their lives.

What lesson would this story from the life of Jesus teach us?

\* \* \* \* \*

One lesson might be an authorization of those un-chosen parents of those un-chosen children — those un-chosen kids tormented by the demon of political and taxation systems that deny them the kind of education that would prepare them for life — to confront the chosen ones and unrelentingly demand that the demon be decisively defeated.

That just might involve those un-chosen parents taking those un-chosen children out of their demon-infected and tormenting schools, and bringing un-chosen kids to the schools of the chosen race, and chosen class, and chosen geographic districts, and standing their ground until the demon is defeated.

It would be saying that we will no longer let our children be tormented by a demon — not a physical or psychological demon, but a social and political one engaged in flagrant child abuse.

The participants in this challenge to xenophobic public policies, of course, need not be limited to parents. It can and should include anyone who believes that every child is created and loved by God.

It can and should include anyone who believes that every child deserves an equal opportunity to become a full participant in a community where there is zero tolerance for being tormented by a demon.

© 2008 [Protestants for the Common Good](#)  
77 W. Washington St., Suite 1124 • Chicago, IL 60602  
TEL: 312-223-9544 • FAX: 312-223-9540 • [cgn@thecommongood.org](mailto:cgn@thecommongood.org)  
[Contact Us](#)