

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

October 14, 2009



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ABCMC NEWS

October Is Pastor Appreciation Month

This information is from Joe Kutter, Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the ABCUSA.

It can be really awkward for pastors to advocate Pastor Appreciation Month. So this paragraph is directed to the rest of us. I want to encourage, even urge, national and regional staff persons to help congregations to do those things that indicate the appreciation that they have for their pastors. Several years ago, the Ministerial Leadership Commission published a brief but excellent paper that offered concrete suggestions for demonstrating appreciation for pastoral leaders. The paper can be found at <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/appreciationmlc08.pdf>

World Mission Offering



Autumn harvest means bountiful crops of fat, orange pumpkins, bushels of crisp, juicy apples and colorful pots of mums heavy with blossoms. Farm stands are overflowing with an abundance of hearty root vegetables and canned goods.

During this season of abundance, we are asked to give to the World Mission Offering (WMO). Our gifts make it possible for dozens of long term missionaries to stay on the field. Our gifts enable hundreds of short term volunteers to participate in construction projects, provide disaster relief, and offer hope to those who think nobody knows what it's like to be in their shoes.

Missionaries rely on us to give generously so that their ministries may give abundant blessings in countries around the world. 100% of your gift to the World Mission Offering goes to the missionaries. It provides support for projects that provide clean water, nourishing crops and medical supplies. The WMO makes it possible for pastors and lay leaders to get vital training for their ministries, and provides scholarships so they can afford to attend.

Your gift can bring healing to an abused child and hope to struggling refugees. Through the WMO branches of peace are extended between warring factions and people are rescued from slavery and despair.

Giving to the World Mission Offering says you care about the needs of other. Giving to the World Mission Offerings means you take serious Jesus' charge that we care for the hungry and thirsty, those who are sick or imprisoned. Giving to the World Mission Offering is how you walk in the shoes of others.

Fall Dinner

The Cook County Jail Ministry's annual fall dinner will take place on Saturday, November 7 at 6 p.m. The event will be at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. Valet parking will be available.

All are invited to come and participate in this evening of fellowship, prayer and music, as well as a delicious meal. All tickets are to be purchased at the door. The cost is \$15 per adult or \$5 per child under 12. A table for 8 will cost \$100.

Be sure to attend this event and support this important ministry with inmates at the Cook County Jail.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Baptist Men's Day Observance

Saint John Church - Baptist's 69th Annual Men's Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2009. Mr. William Mitchell will be the Morning Lay Speaker during the 10:50 a.m. Worship Service, and the afternoon program will be a musical featuring the St. Stephens Men's Chorus and the Men's Chorus of Saint John Church - Baptist.

The church is located 4821 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. The church's phone number is 773-536-3215. Ricky Freeman is pastor.

Lake Street Church to Host Award-Winning Documentary set to

On Sunday, October 18 at 12:00 pm, Lake Street Church of Evanston will host a special screening of the award-winning documentary *Inlaws & Outlaws*. The film, a collection of true stories about love and marriage, will be shown at the church at 607 Lake Street in Evanston. Suggested donation of \$6.00 may be paid at the door, and includes a light lunch. An opportunity for discussion will follow the film.

The film's director and producer, Drew Emery, made *Inlaws & Outlaws* as a way of bridging what he calls the "false divide" between gay and straight people around the contentious topic of love and marriage. "We've shown this film with great success in red states and blue states, urban centers and rural communities," says Emery. "It's played in churches in Oklahoma, small college towns and to sell-out houses from Cleveland to Seattle — and everywhere we go, we find audiences embrace the idea that love is absolutely the thing that connects us as human beings — and not at all the thing that divides us."

Jazz Vespers at Woodside Church

All are invited to Jazz Vespers on Friday, October 16—beginning at 6:00 p.m. This monthly event is designed to be spiritually uplifting with some of the area's best jazz musicians adding their musical interpretation to a selection of readings—classic to contemporary—creating a unique experience. For October, Woodside welcomes Flint's own Sherry Wisda, soprano, who will bring her jazz and blues stylings to enrich this unique worship service.

Jazz Vespers is presented in a coffee house setting at Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street in Flint, Michigan, right next to Mott Community College. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendars for all of the Jazz Vespers services, all beginning at 6:00 p.m. on November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21 and June 18.

There is no admission fee although donations are welcome. Please call the church at 810-767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net for more information—which will be updated regularly.

Community Festival Day

Woodside Church is holding its annual Woodside Community Festival Day on Sunday, October 18, beginning at the 10 a.m. worship service. This year the event will celebrate "The Magic, Music and Mystery of Worship." It all begins with a special worship service complete with special music including brass, timpani and all of Woodside's choirs—chancel, women's folk and chime. Then, immediately following the service, everyone is invited to dinner, catered by Golden Moon, a long-time Flint favorite for outstanding Chinese food.

During the afternoon, magician Brett Beaudry will perform—continuing the theme. Brett Beaudry has performed professional magic since he was twelve years old. He has amazed, delighted and entertained audiences from 4 - 99 years old and for as many as 600 people in live performances.

Woodside Church is located at 1509 E. Court Street, next to Mott Community College. Everyone is welcome. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of dinner. However, Woodside hopes no one will stay away due to financial difficulties. Please call 810-767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Understanding the Foreclosure Process: Property Research

Neighborhood organizations know that foreclosures are affecting their communities, but that knowledge barely scratches the surface when those organizations want to help. How do I find foreclosed homes? Who owns the buildings? What is its legal status? How many units? What would it cost to acquire? Veteran trainers Teresa Prim of the Prim Lawrence Group and Erica Pascal of Hispanic Housing will tackle these questions and more at this first in a series of Chicago Rehab Network (CRN) trainings that take on the pressing issue of returning foreclosed homes to the market and restoring neighborhoods.

This workshop is sponsored by The Private Bank.

Understanding the Foreclosure Process: Property Research will be held **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th from 9:00 am until Noon**. RSVP below for more details!

Save your seat today! RSVP to Andy: andy@chicagorehab.org or call our office at 312-663-3936.

Black Church and Community Health Symposium, October 17, 2009

Black Church and Community Health Symposium: "Community Health, Spirituality, and African American Pastoral Care" will be held on Saturday, October 17, 8 a.m. - 12 noon, at the Third Baptist Church, 1551 West 95th Street, Chicago. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life and the Institute for Advanced Study of Spirituality & Wellness.

The symposium will be led by Dr. Arthur L. Pressley, Associate Professor of Psychology and Religion, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

Workshops are: Domestic Violence; Community Violence; Diabetes, Hypertension and HIV/AIDS.
Registration: \$10.00 (Students \$5.00)

3 hours of CEU credit will be available for licensees in professional counseling or clinical professional counseling.

For more information, contact: Joslyn DiPasalegne at 312.952.1766 (TAMALAR Consulting)

Academy for the Common Good 2010

The Academy for the Common Good is planning its sessions for 2010. The Academy for the Common Good provides educational programs to aid participants in integrating their faith and their understanding of various areas of public policy, contributing to the development of communication and leadership skills. The program focuses on helping participants to:

- Explore the place of Christian faith in social, economic and political life
- Bring biblical-theological perspectives to bear on evaluating public policy
- Exercise leadership in congregational education and public ministry
- Develop knowledge and abilities to serve as an advocate

Each session is two hours in length, and includes a presentation by an instructor and group interaction in learning activities appropriate for the session's topic. Presentations can also be viewed on DVD or over the Internet. The program is divided into three core units, each with a different focus and set of learning objectives. Participants move from biblical-theological reflection on our civil democracy, to an engagement with particular areas of public policy, and finally to the development of specific skills and strategies for service on behalf of the well-being of others.

For more information, please contact:

PROTESTANTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD
77 W. Washington Street, Suite 1124, Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 223-9544, ext 223; Fax: (312) 223-9540
www.thecommongood.org

The Third Annual C. Shelby Rooks Lecture

The Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life Presents The Third Annual C. Shelby Rooks Lecture on Thursday, October 15 at Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue in Chicago. This year's lecture topic, "Community Health, Spirituality, and African American Pastoral Care," will be presented by Dr. Arthur L. Pressley, Associate Professor of Psychology and Religion, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. There will also be an art show and a reception.

Schedule of Events:

4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Art Show--Room 133
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Reception-Cloisters
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Lecture-Graham Taylor Hall

The event will be free and open to the public. Valet parking will be available.

For information contact: Joslyn DiPasalegne at 312-952-1766.

Vigil for Financial Justice

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) is organizing a prayer vigil and then participating in a larger coalition march for bank accountability when the American Bankers Association comes to Chicago for their national convention October 27 (more info below, and flier attached). Those of us who are free at 10 a.m. on the 27th are invited to participate.

Information about the rally says,

Banks crashed the economy and then used public bailout money to pay executive bonuses.

What do our faith traditions have to say about that?

- God will bring this charge against the elders and princes of his people: "It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing
- My people, by grinding the face of the poor?" (Isaiah 3:14)
- And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. (Matthew 21:12)

Banks took **\$15,000 for every man, woman and child** in the U.S.

The top six banks **raked in \$30 billion in profits** in the first half of 2009.

*Yet ordinary Americans are **still struggling to stay afloat...***

Unemployment is at its highest rate in 26 years.

Every thirteen seconds another American home goes into **foreclosure**.

Tell the Big Banks to Fix What They Broke!

Prayer Vigil and Rally

Tuesday, October 27, 10:00 a.m.

Michigan and Wacker, Chicago

For more information or to RSVP contact Will Tanzman at (312) 402-0572 or tanzman@soulinchicago.org

Religion and Violence

2009 McCormick Days will take place at McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 S. University Avenue, Chicago, on the grounds of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. The dates are October 29-30. McCormick Days are not only a reunion for Alumni, but also an excellent opportunity for continuing education for all of us. Featuring excellent speakers such as Rita Nakashima Brock, Thomas Mockaitis and Daniel Little, the conference will explore contemporary impact of Christianity on world-wide violence—as well as the impact of world-violence on contemporary Christianity. To register online with a credit card, and for more information, please go to www.mccormick.edu/mcdays.

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

International Ministries Responds to Asian Tragedies

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/8/09)—American Baptist International Ministries is responding to the needs in Asia following this past week's series of devastating tsunamis, typhoons, earthquakes, flooding and mudslides.

A \$25,000 One Great Hour of Sharing emergency disaster grant has been distributed to partners working throughout the region to meet immediate needs faced by the victims. The initial funds will provide clean drinking water, non-perishable food, health and baby kits, tarps and blankets.

The death toll in the storm that lashed the Philippines has risen sharply to 240, according to government figures, with threats of worse weather later this week. Tropical Storm Ketsana tore across the Philippines six days ago, demolishing or flooding thousands of homes and leaving 80 percent of Manila under water.

The Philippine Government's national disaster coordinating council says a total of 1.87 million people were affected by the storm and flooding. Up to 375,000 people are staying in 600 evacuation centers. Remnants of this storm also caused damage in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Three days after the 7.6 Richter Scale (RS) earthquake struck West Sumatra, Church World Service (CWS) was in the affected areas and continues to deliver assistance. The most badly affected areas include Padang Pariaman district (387,500 people) and Pariaman city (77,500 people) located north of Padang city.

The death toll has reached over 1,000 people in West Sumatra, and is expected to rise further. Thousands of people are still trapped in several buildings in Padang city.

An initial \$5,000 has been sent to Central Philippines Baptist Churches (CPBC) and \$10,000 to CWS for its relief efforts in both the Philippines and Indonesia.

Baptist World Aid, which is supporting a BWAid Rescue 24 international team now on the ground in the Philippines working with local Baptists, received \$10,000. Another BWAid Rescue 24 team is en route to Padang, Indonesia. Baptist World Aid will also work with New Zealand Baptists to provide relief in Samoa.

Baptists throughout the world are showing their concern by their prayers and donations. "It is through International Ministries' extensive network of ecumenical and national partners that we as American Baptists are able to provide this relief in areas where we don't have a missionary presence," shares Lisa Rothenberger, American Baptist World Relief Officer. "Your financial support is critical, as this week's events have brought devastation to millions."

American Baptists wishing to support relief efforts can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support. Those wishing to support needs of the area in general should designate their contributions "OGHS-Asian Disaster Relief." Those wishing to support specific relief in the Philippines should designate their contributions "OGHS-Philippines Relief."

Checks for this relief should be made payable to "One Great Hour of Sharing" and sent to:

One Great Hour of Sharing
Attention: World Relief Officer
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482

India Latest Disaster Area to Receive OGHS Emergency Funds

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/14/09)—Torrential rains triggered massive flooding in the Indian states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh this past week leaving hundreds dead and more than a million and a half people displaced. In Andhra Pradesh, where a sizable Baptist population lives, the death toll is at least 63 with over 550,000 displaced persons.

To support the relief work of our Baptist partners in the area, the American Baptist World Relief Office has released \$5000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief funds through International Ministries' partners.

Three dams along the Krishna River were in danger of washing out in Andhra Pradesh and some towns and villages were entirely submerged.

A preaching tour, led by Rev. A. John Prabhakar, Dean of External Studies at the Andhra Christian Theological College, was canceled due to the flooding and, instead, Prabhakar is attempting to coordinate relief efforts among other Christian groups in the area. IM supports 25 Telugu Baptists at the college.

The destruction has not only claimed lives and property but also livelihood as hundreds of miles of crops in the fields, which were near harvest, were completely wiped out.

Prior to the floods, many states in India had suffered severe droughts, leading to already increased food prices. The loss of this year's crops will drive those food prices even higher making recovery in the region that much more difficult.

The flooding in southern India is the latest in a string of natural disasters that has rocked this region of the world. The Samoan earthquake and tsunami, Typhoon Ketsana and resultant flooding in the Philippines and the Indonesian earthquake have created a series of urgent needs in the western Pacific and Southern Asia.

This release of funds through the American Baptist World Relief Office joins the \$25,000 already on its way to the Philippines, Indonesia, and Samoa to support ongoing relief efforts in those places. American Baptists wishing to support ongoing flood relief efforts can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support, designating contributions "OGHS-India Relief."

Cuban Baptist Leaders in Custody; Charges Unclear

Thank you to Wendy Morris for sharing this article.

By Bob Allen

DELTONA, Fla. (ABP) -- Two Cuban Baptist leaders arrested Oct. 3 in the city of Santiago de Cuba remain in jail, reportedly without formal charge and with few details of why they are being held.

Rubén Ortiz-Columbié, coordinator for special projects of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention, and Francisco "Pancho" Garcia, director of the convention's teen department, were reportedly carrying out church work when nabbed by authorities.

Ortiz' son, also named Ruben, is a pastor in Florida. He said the two men were on their way to distribute money donated for Baptist work. He said his church, Primera Iglesia Bautista in Deltona, Fla., regularly sends funds to the convention for mission projects in Cuba.

Observers in the United States familiar with the situation said they don't know why police targeted Ortiz and Garcia. Ortiz is a well known Baptist leader in Cuba and worldwide. He served as executive director of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention until his retirement. Since then he has continued to visit churches to determine project needs and help them to secure necessary funds and labor to get the jobs done in a volunteer capacity.

In 2008 the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida entered into a partnership with the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention to support the work of Ortiz and Garcia. As of mid-September, the Florida CBF had received and transferred a total of \$7,000 to help restore and repair structures used for religious services, camps and education.

With 320 churches, the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention is the largest of four Baptist groups in Cuba. It has a long-standing fraternal relationship with American Baptist Churches USA.

Jose Norat-Rodriguez, area director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean for ABCUSA International Ministries, said Ortiz and Garcia were allowed to see their wives Oct. 9, but the women were not told why their husbands were being detained. He compared the two Baptists to Paul and Silas, two missionaries delivered from prison though the power of prayer in the Book of Acts, and asked fellow Baptists to pray both for their release and for their families.

The Spanish conquistadors brought Catholicism to Cuba, imposing their culture and beliefs, and it was the only official religion in Cuba and other Spanish colonies for 400 years. The first permanent Protestants in Cuba were repatriated refugees converted to Protestant faiths during exile in the United States.

After the Spanish-American War, however, missionaries poured into Cuba. With so many entering at the same time, denominations sat down together to give order to their missionary ventures. Some, like Baptists, zeroed in on geographical areas.

In 1898 the home mission boards of the American and Southern Baptist denominations met in Washington and agreed to divide Cuba between east and west for the purposes of missionary work.

In addition to the smaller Western Cuba Baptist Convention, historically tied to the Southern Baptist Convention, there is also a Free Will Baptist convention. And the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba, which broke off from the western convention in 1989 over theological and administrative differences, has a partnership with the Alliance of Baptists.

In recent years the four groups have worked more closely together than in the past. All are members of the Baptist World Alliance, the global umbrella group for Baptists. In 2000 the BWA General Council met in Havana -- the first-ever international Baptist gathering held in the communist nation. During that meeting a Baptist delegation met with Cuban President Fidel Castro. The meeting opened doors for projects including Bible distribution and open-air services in 1999, allowed for the first time in four decades.

Though difficult, Baptist work in Cuba has exploded in recent years. In 2004, Denton Lotz, who has since retired as BWA general secretary, reported that more than 2,500 house churches had been started in the previous eight years. That more than doubled the number of churches, and the number of worshipers had grown from 80,000 to 200,000.

The eastern convention is involved in an evangelistic push with a goal of reaching 500,000 people by 2010. The western convention aims to plant 1,000 new house churches during the same period.

Christians in Cuba endured hardships after Castro took power in 1959, but he relaxed restrictions in the 1990s, saying it was a mistake to make atheism the official religion of the Cuban Revolution. In 1994 he opened membership in the Communist Party to Christians. Pope John Paul II visited Cuba in 1998.

Jeffrey Haggray Called as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C.

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/14/09)—Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, executive director of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention (DCBC), has been called as senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Washington D.C.

Haggray was voted in by the church during a business meeting on October 11. He will leave DCBC after over eight years of service after its annual meeting ending October 27. He will begin preaching at First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., on November 15.

“I am honored to have been extended a call to pastor the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. I am humbled and grateful for this opportunity to serve such an historic congregation with its rich heritage in this great city that I love,” Haggray said in a statement.

“The past eight years have been a wonderful time serving our congregations, taking on new challenges in missions, and working with our congregations,” Haggray said. “I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve as executive director/minister of the convention.”

Jeffrey Haggray is brother of Dennis Haggray, pastor of the First Baptist Church of La Grange.

Founded in 1801, DCBC is triply aligned with American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

While working with DCBC, Haggray navigated through financial troubles and initiated a new marketing communications plan which changed the Convention's visual identity including a new logo, re-vitalized website and slogan, "One Faith. Many Cultures. Endless Possibilities."

"The DCBC has benefited greatly from Jeffrey's visionary approach and results-oriented leadership style," said C. Jeff Woods, associate general secretary for regional ministries with ABCUSA. "We will miss his contributions to the wider American Baptist family, but we know that God will continue to bless his efforts in this next chapter of ministry."

A Call to Prayer: A Call to Greater Works

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/6/09)—National Ministries, sponsor of the upcoming black church conference, "Power Connection: A Call to Greater Works" (November 3-7, Chicago, Ill.), encourages American Baptists to support this vital ministry—before, during and after the event—through "30 Days of Prayer for Greater Works."

Hundreds of pastors, teachers, preachers and existing and emerging church leaders who minister in the African American context are expected at the conference.

The prayer effort launches Wednesday, October 7, and concludes Saturday, November 7. Prayers for the planning team and leadership, as well as guest speakers and workshop leaders, are encouraged. More specifically, pray:

- For wisdom and diligence for those preparing the event.
- That those who attend will experience the presence of God and answer the Spirit's call to do even "greater works" when they return home.

At the close of his public ministry, Jesus reminds the disciples that they must continue to believe in him and the one who sent him. He tells them that their impact, as those who will continue to do the work he began and as representatives of the awesomeness of God's love, will be greater than his (John 14:12). The same reminder is given to us as disciples of Jesus Christ today: You will do even greater works! As disciples ministering in the midst of challenges faced in black communities—violence, educational disparities, poor housing and the health care crisis—the lived experience of our Christian witness through works has never been more critical.

Encourage support of "30 Days of Prayer for Greater Works" in your congregation by visiting www.ABCPowerConnection.org and downloading and posting the prayer flyer.

2009 Black Church Conference

"Power Connection: A Call to Greater Works" will be the theme of this year's American Baptist Black Church Conference. The conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Chicago Matteson, 500 Holiday Plaza Drive, Chicago November 3-7. The Third Baptist Church of Chicago will be the host church, and ABCMC along with the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, will be the host regions.

A pre-conference event will be a Ministers Summit November 2-3. The Ministers Summit is designed to provide dialogue, networking and resource sharing for those ministering in the African-American Community.

Speakers for the Black Church Conference will include ABCMC's own Brenda Little, Alan Ragland, Marshall Hatch, Carol Jamieson Brown, Alice Greene and Francine Stark. ABCMC's own John Sundquist and Rick Barlow will represent the American Baptist Foundation to talk about estate planning.

The conference will end with a Super Saturday Extravaganza including a Hip Hop Intergenerational Summit. This will be a great event, and a good investment of a pastor's time.

For registration and more information, please visit www.ABCPowerConnection.org.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Come to Orlando

All ABC clergy are encouraged to attend the ministry renewal convergence **Together in the Lord** January 4-7, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to rest, relax and renew. It will also be an unbeatable learning opportunity.

Workshop leaders will include Alan Bearman exploring "Core Baptist Principles in the Twenty First Century," Shane Claiborne on "Creating Christian Community in the Church Today," Mayra Castañeda speaking of "Today's Christian Education: Its Challenging Possibilities" and Trinette McCray with "Lift Every Voice: Vocation and Calling as Discipleship Ministry."

The event will take place at the newly renovated Wyndham Orlando Resort. The resort offers a lush, tropical setting as well as shuttle service to area theme parks.

For more information, a downloadable brochure and online registration, please go to <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfo.aspx> The deadline for registration is November 2, 2009.

Together in Ministry Application Deadline Approaching

All applications for 2010 covenant group grants are due in the national Ministers Council office by October 31, 2009. If you have not yet submitted your applications to your constituent Ministers Council officers please do so TODAY! Applications to the national office must come from constituent Councils and be postmarked by October 31, 2009. Application forms may be found on www.ministerscouncil.org under the Together in Ministry link. In order to be considered, please complete the form online and print it out. Applications must be received by mail and NOT by email or FAX. For applications click on this link: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/TIMApplication.aspx>

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Health Care Sabbath

This invitation is from Linda Hanna Welling, Executive Director of the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.

This weekend the Campaign for Better Health Care (CBHC) Faith Caucus is sponsoring **Health Care Sabbaths** in hundreds of congregations throughout Illinois to raise awareness about the moral perspectives that support public discourse about health care reform. From dedicating an entire service to health care reform to simply writing postcards in adult education, people of faith in Illinois will be raising their voices in this important moral witness.

If you are already participating in a Health Care Sabbath observance, I hope your experience will be blessed with new passion and energy around this issue. If you are not aware of this important opportunity, please visit <http://www.cbhconline.org> to get the information you need to get your congregation involved. If you are not on their email list, I invite you to become part of their network. The CBHC and its Faith Caucus are true leaders among state groups across the country!

Faith Witness for Health Care

This invitation is from the faith community caucus of Health Care for America Now.

For decades, faith leaders have pressured policy makers to fix our broken health care system and make us a truly healed and whole people. Now, in 2009, we are closer than we have ever been to making that dream a reality.

On Monday, October 19, we will be raising our voices to make sure that this opportunity is not lost.

Join Health Care for America Now as we:

- Remember those who have been victimized by an unjust health care system and call the faith community to action.
- March to deliver letters from people of faith to our Senators and let them know that we will not tolerate this betrayal of human dignity any longer.

When: Monday, October 19 at 12 noon

Where: The Chicago Temple, Dixon Chapel, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago

Contact Angie Colletta at angela@citizenaction-il.org or phone her at 267-474-6065.

Campaign for Better Health Care 20th Anniversary and Annual Meeting

The Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care is observing its 20th anniversary with special events at its annual meeting November 18-20. The entire program will take place at Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago.

[Sponsorship](#) and [ad book opportunities](#) are available for all these events! Combined [tickets](#) (both Wednesday's Illinois Gubernatorial Candidate Debate and Thursday's Illinois Health Care Forum) are available for \$65. [Order yours today](#), or contact [Kathleen Duffy](#) at (312) 913-9449. Tickets will cost \$65. Separate \$25 tickets for the debate may be purchased for \$25 if you can't attend the whole program.

Illinois Gubernatorial Candidate Debate

On Wednesday, November 18 from 3-5 p.m. there will be a debate among candidates for the governor of Illinois. Elizabeth Brackett (NewsHour, PBS) will moderate a debate focused on health care in Illinois with Gov. Quinn (confirmed), Dan Hynes (confirmed), State Sen. Bill Brady (invited), State Sen. Kirk Dillard (invited), and Andy McKenna (invited). Candidates will discuss how to implement federal reforms in Illinois, how to address the gaps in federal reform plans, how to protect existing programs, and how to manage revenue needs.

The event will take place at Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago. Tickets will cost \$25. Seats are limited.

CBHC's Illinois Health Care Roundtable Reception

From 6 to 7:30 p.m. on November 18, following the gubernatorial candidate debate, there will be a reception. This event will be at the same location with a national health care reform leader as special guest.

Illinois Health Care Forum

CBHC's annual meeting will include a Health Care Forum on Thursday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. National health care leaders and representatives from a diverse group of state and national organizations come together for a morning forum to discuss the status of federal health care reform, what still needs to happen to carry us to victory, and what needs to happen in Illinois in 2010.

The forum will take place at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago. Tickets for this event only will cost \$50, or admission to the forum will be covered with the purchase of a ticket for the whole two days of events.

Health Care Sabbath

The Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care invites all ABCMC congregations to participate in this year's Health Care Sabbath on October 18. We can join congregations across the state in focusing on justice and health care disparity during the Health Care Sabbath. Resources for the event are available for free download from <http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcj/sabbath.html>

PEACE NEWS

Drugs and Death at Bagram

The film *Drugs and Death at Bagram* tells the story of a young American military man in Afghanistan. On July 12, 2004 Army Specialist John Torres was found dead in a latrine at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. He had a single gunshot wound in his head. His death was ruled a suicide, but members of his unit and family believed he was murdered. Initial information received by the family led them to believe that U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan may have killed John for talking openly about heroin use among his fellow soldiers. Shortly before his death he had called his father, Juan Torres, from Afghanistan, and he was overwhelmed with fear. He was distraught because of rampant drug abuse, drug dealing and trafficking inside the army base. Since the day in 2004 when the young man was found dead, his father has been fighting to uncover the truth. This documentary film presents part of the discovery.

John Torres was right to be concerned about the substance abuse he witnessed all around him, even though military officials deny that it is taking place. Soldiers who come home addicted are reluctant to talk about it, even after they have been discharged from their military duties. The effects of using opiates while at war are lasting effects for individuals and their loved ones, and ultimately for American society. For more information about use of heroin by U.S. military personnel serving (or formerly having served) in Afghanistan, you may wish to read some online articles such as http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/07/afghan_heroin/

John did not use opiates, however. His death was, in all likelihood, related to another matter that the military does not want us to know about. The film will be an eye-opener.

We are invited to attend a showing of the film hosted by the Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project (www.nwsbpep.org). It will be shown on **Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights**. A discussion will follow the viewing of the film (<http://drugsanddeathatbagram.com/index.html>). Juan Torres, father of John Torres, will be at this event and participate in conversation with us. Juan suggests that we read an article from a recent issue of the *Chicago Reader*. The article, "Lost to Lariam," can be viewed at <http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/lost-to-lariam/Content?oid=1201006>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for Cuban Baptist leaders Rubén Ortiz-Columbié and Francisco "Pancho" Garcia who are being held in prison without charges. Please lift up in prayer all Baptists and other Christians in Cuba, in light of what this may mean for their futures. Let's hold in prayer all persons living under regimes that do not support freedom of religion.

Please pray and take action for real reform of the health care system in the United States.

Please pray for American young people who are being pressured against their will, or contrary to their convictions, to enlist in the armed forces.

Please pray for college and university students struggling to find financial resources to pay for their educations.

Please pray for families, individuals and organizations suffering because of cuts in our state budget.

Please pray for Governor Quinn and other elected leaders as the work to eliminate corruption in our state government.

CALENDAR

October 14—Health Care Rally and Delivering Letters to Senator Durbin, Federal Plaza, noon.

October 15— Third Annual C. Shelby Rooks Lecture, Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago. Art show and reception, 4:30 p.m.; lecture, 6:30 p.m.

October 16—Jazz Vespers, Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan, 6 p.m.

October 17— Black Church and Community Health Symposium, Third Baptist Church, 1551 West 95th Street, Chicago, 8 a.m.-noon.

October 18—Health Care Sabbath.

October 18—ABCMC Sunday at Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago, Larry Greenfield preaching, 11 a.m.

October 18—Community Festival Day, Woodside Church, 1504 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan, beginning with 10 a.m. worship service.

October 18—ABCMC Sunday with Larry Greenfield preaching, Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago.

October 18—Showing of documentary film *Inlaws and Outlaws*, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, 12 noon. Luncheon included with suggested donation of \$6.

October 19—Faith Witness for Health Care, The Chicago Temple, Dixon Chapel, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago, 12 noon.

October 20—National Day of Remembrance and Hope, sponsored by Faithful Reform in Health Care.

October 27—Prayer Vigil and Rally for Financial Justice, Michigan and Wacker, 10 a.m.

October 31—Deadline for Together in Ministry applications to be received in the national office.

November 3-7—2009 Black Church Conference, Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 500 Holiday Plaza Drive, Matteson, Illinois.

November 8—Cook County Jail Ministry fall dinner, First Baptist Church, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, 6 p.m.

November 8-9—Hidden Treasures: Spiritual Wisdom through the Voices of Women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Catholic Theological Union, 5416 S. Cornell, Chicago. For more information and registration, please call the Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union, 773-371-5432, or visit www.ctu.edu

November 14—ABCMC Annual Meeting

December 12—ABCMC's 3rd annual Advent and Christmas Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 3 p.m.

January 4-7—Together in the Lord ministry renewal conference, Orlando, Florida. Please go to <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfopage.aspx> for online registration and more information.

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. 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