

*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 28, 2009



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## **ABCMC NEWS**

### ***Call to Meeting***

TO: American Baptists in Metro Chicago

FROM: Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister, ABCMC

RE: **2009 Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 14**  
**8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m**  
**North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago**

There’s hardly any debate about what will be the next big debate in our nation – that is, after the debate about health care gets settled one way or another in the coming weeks.

Virtually everyone agrees that the next big debate will be on **immigration policy**. It might begin yet this

year, but surely will be the dominant public issue in 2010.

As a democratic nation (now mostly) of immigrants built (at least in stated ideals) on the rights and dignity of each and every human being, much is at stake in this forthcoming debate.

Christians have even more at stake, given what the whole Bible and Jesus in particular teaches about welcoming and caring for the stranger, the alien, the foreigner (although in some cases those so-called have an ancestry that is native to this continent).

And that's even more the case for American Baptists in this metropolitan area – in city and suburbs often originally constituted by immigrant communities. Our history as American Baptists here is filled with stories of immigrant churches, of ministries directed toward helping immigrants, of refugee resettlement.

This matter of immigration is in our genetic make-up. So we can't skirt this issue without denying who we have been, and are, and will become. And that's why the theme of our Annual Meeting this year is:

### **A HISTORIC MISSION RENEWED: THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE CHALLENGE**

We can't escape the public policy dimensions of this issue that will be swirling around us in the coming year. We need to have voice – and voices – in that public debate. But, for us, this isn't just about public policy. It's also about all the other dimensions of our Christian ministry.

The Annual Meeting will get us started.

We have outstanding resources lined up. Many of them, of course, are our sisters and brothers in the Region who can and will give personal testimony about what refugees and immigrants face today. And our own Dr. Alvaro Nieves of the Community Baptist Church of Warrenton (and the Department of Sociology of Wheaton College) will be bringing us a understanding of the immigration "context" in the metro Chicago region.

And then we have the incredible good fortune of the Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, Professor and Director of the Justice and Peace Institute at Iliff Seminary in Denver, being a featured presenter.

Dr. De La Torre is an ordained Southern Baptist minister who gives a lot of Southern Baptists fits because of his creative and courageous insights about living the Christian life in today's world. But in the world beyond the SBC he is recognized as one of the most important voices in theology and ethics in the country today.



**Miguel A. De La Torre**

He is the author of more than a dozen groundbreaking books – groundbreaking because he admittedly thinks and writes "from the margins" as once an undocumented immigrant and one who can speak out of his own experience and deep learning.

His most recent book (released just this last week in October) is exactly on our theme: "Trails of Hope and Terror: Testimonies on Immigration" – a simply terrific book that has tremendous relevance for the churches.

We build the morning program in such a way that all of us can learn from and engage him directly. And toward the end of the morning session we'll devote time to thinking about what we can do distinctively in our various congregations and together as a region.

I urge – that's the word, *urge* – you to be a part of this Annual Meeting because of it's biblical, theological, and ministerial substance and it's relevance to the world in which God has placed us.

We will be treated to Burmese cuisine for lunch, prepared by our relative recent arrived Karen sisters and brothers. And at the lunch we do some recognitions and celebratory things that will be fun and fulfilling (the “filling” part, obviously relates also to the meal!)

The annual business meeting will take place immediately after lunch.

Please share this news and invitation with other members of your congregation. And please make reservations by faxing or emailing the office (fax: 773-804-1656; email: [office@abcmc.org](mailto:office@abcmc.org)).

## ***ABCMC Annual Reports***

The deadline for turning in annual reports for the annual meeting booklet is **Tuesday, November 3**. Please email reports to [lynne@abcmc.org](mailto:lynne@abcmc.org) if you have not already done so.

## ***New ABCMC Pastors***

In recent weeks two ABCMC congregations have called new pastors.

Logan Street Baptist Church in Batavia has a new pastor, Denard D. Newell. As of October 3, Original Providence Baptist Church in Chicago also has a new Pastor. His name is Cleophus J. Lee. We welcome both of these pastors to ABCMC. We look forward to knowing them and engaging in ministry with them.

## ***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 the event and support this important ministry with inmates at the Cook County Jail.

## ***Thinking Theologically***

ABCMC’s Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a biweekly column for the electronic newsletter of Protestants for the Common Good (PCG). Larry’s latest column, “The Stench” appears at the end of this issue of *eWind*. Larry’s columns are always biblical and insightful. The other items in PCG’s enewsletter are also well worth reading. For more information about subscribing to PCG’s enewsletter, *The Common Good Network*, visit PCG’s web site, [www.thecommongood.org](http://www.thecommongood.org).

## NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

### ***Guest Speaker at Lake Street Church***

On Sunday, November 8 Joan Borysenko be Lake Street Church's guest speaker at the 10:30 am service at 607 W. Lake Street, Evanston. Borysenko will sign copies of her most recent book, *It's Not the End of the World: Developing Resilience in Times of Change*, following worship.

A distinguished pioneer in integrative medicine, Borysenko is a world-renowned expert in the mind/body connection. Her work has been foundational in an international health-care revolution that recognizes the role of meaning, and the spiritual dimensions of life, as an integral part of health and healing. Eloquent and inspiring in settings that range from hospitals to hospices, from theaters to conference venues, and from boardrooms to houses of worship, she is a credible bridge between faith and reason. Her brilliance, humor, and authenticity—in combination with the latest research—make her a compelling and inspiring speaker and writer.

Her web address is [www.joanborysenko.com](http://www.joanborysenko.com).

For more information, contact Lake Street Church at 847-864-2181.

### ***New Vision Statement***

Morgan Park Baptist recently completed a new vision statement for the church:

We are an American Baptist congregation living our lives rooted in Jesus Christ. As such, we embrace all people while proclaiming joyfully the life-changing message of God's love and eagerly accepting the commission of Jesus Christ to bring compassion and healing to all creation.

If you would like to share your church's vision statement in *eWind*, please send it to [office@abcmc.org](mailto:office@abcmc.org).

### ***South Church Craft Fair***

Find great gifts for friends, family and yourself. Crafts, jewelry, food and more will be available.. The 2nd Annual South Church Craft & Vendor Fair is Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 847-253-0501 or email [mciske@earthlink.net](mailto:mciske@earthlink.net) for details. The South Church is at 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ***Ecumenical Advocacy Days in 2010***

We are all invited to participate next spring in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 19-22, 2010 in Washington D.C. The theme for this conference will be:

#### **"A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples"**

It is particularly appropriate for ABCMC folks to participate in this event, considering the focus of this year's annual meeting and our plans for ministry in 2010. This will be an opportunity to connect many of 8th Day's issues from Immigration, War, and Climate Change to name a few. 8th Day friends and members will gather. Time and day of 8th Day gathering is TBD.

For more information on EAD go to <http://advocacydays.org/>

## **Roman Catholic Assistance Ministries**

*This information is from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.*

**ARE YOU A VICTIM-SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY A MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? IF SO, WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU IN YOUR HEALING JOURNEY...**

### **Office of Assistance Ministry**

Archdiocese of Chicago  
Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979  
1866/517-4528 (toll free)  
[assistmin@archchicago.org](mailto:assistmin@archchicago.org)  
<http://www.archchicago.org/departments/assistance>

Matthew Hunnicutt, MA, LCSW  
Director  
312/534-8267  
[mhunnicutt@archchicago.org](mailto:mhunnicutt@archchicago.org)

Mayra Flores  
Assistant Director  
312/534-8256  
[mflores@archchicago.org](mailto:mflores@archchicago.org)

The primary objective of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Assistance Ministry is to promote healing for all those affected by the sexually abusive behavior of Catholic Church personnel. The Office of Assistance Ministry provides pastoral care, referrals and supportive services to assist clerical sexual abuse victims-survivors and their loved ones in their efforts to achieve psychological, emotional and spiritual healing. The aim is to provide outreach within a climate of compassion, acceptance, privacy and respect.

***The services of the Office of Assistance Ministry are not extended with the intention to persuade the person to return to the Catholic Church.***

Since its inception, the Office of Assistance Ministry has provided services and support to victims-survivors and their family members. Staff members from the office:

- *assist* those who come to the Catholic Church to report incidents of child sexual abuse by Catholic Church personnel
- *refer* victims-survivors for psychological counseling. Spiritual direction is also available to those who request it
- *provide* opportunities for support groups for the victims-survivors, and educational support groups for family members
- *provide* financial support for clinical services during the archdiocesan process
- *arrange* a meeting with the Cardinal and/or other church leadership at the appropriate time in the person's healing and the overall process.

## ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

### ***Are You Going to the Black Church Conference?***

Are you and/or others from your congregation planning to attend the Black Church Conference on November 3-7? Information about the event has been in *eWind* for a number of weeks. If you need the information still, please visit [www.ABCPowerConnection.org](http://www.ABCPowerConnection.org). You don't have to be African-American to attend. Scholarships are available for American Baptist pastors. Call 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2446.

If your church's youth are planning to attend the Saturday program (November 7), please be in touch with Pastor Jesse Brown of the First Baptist Church of Chicago. His email address is [pastordude60304@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordude60304@yahoo.com), and his cell phone number is 773-213-3274.

Pastor Jesse has an electronic version of the Youth Leader's Pre-registration form that he can send you. On that form, please list each youth and adult attendee. Please make your check or money order payable to National Ministries.

Here are the pick-up sites for folks coming to the Saturday program on November 7:

- North Side—Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road
- West Side—New Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, 4301 W. Washington Boulevard
- South Side—Third Baptist Church, 1551 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street

Pastor Jesse will need the head count from your church, to ensure that he has arranged for enough buses at each pick-up site. Please call to let him know the number.

If members of your church want to be Conference Volunteers, Pastor Jesse can provide information for staffing needs. Each volunteer must fill out the Registration Form. Volunteer Orientation will be on Sunday, November 1 at 6 p.m. and Monday at 7 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, 500 Holiday Inn Plaza Drive, Matteson. If you need brochures, please contact Jesse.

### ***2010-2011 Planning Calendar***

The 2010-2011 American Baptist Directory & Planning Calendar is now available on the web! To download the document and use this valuable resource, please go to <http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=tqiCOP7Hqfl%3d&tabid=36>

## 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 Trinetta 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/TITLinpage.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](http://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**

### ***Campaign for Better Health Care 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Annual Meeting***

The Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care is observing its 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PEACE NEWS

### *Community Forum*

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 that the family received 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. 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.

We are invited to attend a showing (the Chicago area premier) of the film hosted by the Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project ([www.nwsbpep.org](http://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 will 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>. A flier for the event is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Please print, post, and share this flier. There will be no charge for this event.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Anita and Rick Gutierrez, serving in South Africa. They help people dealing with health challenges.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Jorge and Hermelinda Damasceno, who minister in the United Kingdom. They are assisting churches of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in reaching out to the communities of Portuguese-speaking migrant workers in the region.

Please remember in prayer ABC missionaries Ramona and Chuck Shawver and their family. Chuck and Ramona serve in Mexico, but right now they are in Illinois. Their son-in-law, Vince Godfrey, is being ordained on Nov. 1 in the Sunday morning worship service of First Baptist Church of Belvidere (near Rockford). Vince is Minister of Youth and Music at the church.

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

Please hold in prayer those individuals and families dealing with loss of employment.

Please pray for our denomination, region and congregations who are trying to do more with less in the current economic situation.

## CALENDAR

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

**November 1**—Ordination of Vince Godfrey, 1255 W Jackson Street, Belvidere, 10 a.m.

**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](http://www.ctu.edu)

**November 14**—ABCMC 174<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. See above article for more information.

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

**December 18**—Community Forum hosted by Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, 7 p.m. Special guest: Juan Torres, father of an American soldier who died in Afghanistan in 2004.

**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](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

# THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT THE COMMON GOOD

*by the Rev. Larry Greenfield*

## ***“The Stench”***

When Jesus threatens to open up the tomb where his beloved friend Lazarus had been placed, the dead man’s sister, Martha, objects.

She had pleaded for Jesus to come to their home in Bethany while brother Lazarus still clung to life, but Jesus had dithered away his time and arrived four days late – four days after Lazarus had died.

Now Jesus, seeing the sorrow of all who had gathered, and deeply saddened himself, proposes to roll the stone of the tomb away and revive his dead friend.

No way, the sister insists, since after the four days the stench would be overwhelming. Better, she seems to think, that whatever life might yet be in store for his brother be assigned to the resurrection promised for the end of time.

But Jesus proceeds over the objections and risks raising a real stink.

So they roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb. Jesus appeals to God for assistance, not just for the sake of raising his friend but also for persuading the gathered crowd that he, Jesus, is sent from God. And then he shouts into the cavern: “Lazarus, come out!”

Nothing in the text records anything about Lazarus’ body odor. It simply says that “the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.”

Then Jesus said, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Democracy in my home state, Illinois, is a lot like Lazarus.

It’s been ill in Illinois for a long time. And almost all of it has to do with what, in Illinois, we call “pay to play” – or buying political influence (and elections) with campaign contributions.

Various emergency remedies have been tried, particularly when it was gasping for breath earlier this year.

Previously, a number of former governors and other elected officials around the state had been sent to prison for diseasing our body politic with “pay to play.” But that didn’t seem to have any long lasting effect.

The appalling actions of the then current governor led to his criminal indictment and impeachment from office and to still more calls for reform. But the legislature – in Illinois it’s called the General Assembly – thought it could fake a revived democracy by passing only half measures of political reform. That didn’t work either, as the new governor vetoed the measure.

Valiantly, a group of citizens rallied together to push still one more time: it demanded that, across the board, the direct influence of money on political elections and decision-making (the disease causing democracy’s death) be eradicated. The virus, it stated, had to be eliminated if the patient was to survive.

It almost worked.

But one single strain of the disease persisted. It didn’t mind that limits on money in politics be placed on other parts of the system. But it refused those limits on itself. That virus went by the name of the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representative and Chairman of the Democratic Party in the state, Michael Madigan, who believed there should be no limits on how much a political party’s leadership should be able to “transfer” to any one of its officeholders or candidates. None.

So the patient became a victim of that unrestrained disease, that uncontrolled strain of the virus. Democracy died in Illinois.

Most everyone is sad. Those closest to the patient are particularly sorrowful. They wished a savior had come in time. But they recognize it’s too late. The victim, they realize, is beyond revival. Better to wait for its reincarnation in some idealized time of the future.

Besides, if anyone opened up the tomb, it would cause a terrible stench.

\* \* \* \* \*

But who knows what would happen if some chosen – even anointed – people in Illinois and in other states where the strain is virulent were to insist that something so sacred about our life as a free people was at stake that they would call for divine assistance and order the stone to be rolled away from the tomb – even if it caused a stink?

Who knows what would happen if those chosen and anointed people yelled into the tomb: “Democracy, emerge from that tomb of death here in Illinois and across the nation!”

Surely the body of democracy would struggle at first, having had its hands and feet and even its head bound for a while with the cloths of death still in evidence.

But maybe those same people who demanded the stone be removed and risked the stench would also be the ones who to say: “Unbind democracy, let it get back to life, and even more importantly, to work.”

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