

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

January 28, 2010



“You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off’;
do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Isaiah 41:9-10

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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Friends, I want to alert you to my being away from the city from Tuesday, February 2 through Monday, February 8 (although I will be back for the Family Council meeting on Saturday, February 6). My wife, Barbara, is having surgery this coming week to have both knees replaced, and I, of course, need to be available to her and mind our farm home in central Illinois.)

But I will be available by cell phone (312-497-0688) and on our land line (217-867-2608) and by e-mail (larry@abcmc.org). Do not hesitate to be in communication about any matter that needs my attention.

Your thoughts and prayers will be appreciated.

Larry

APOLOGIES FROM LARRY AND VERONICA

Both of us regret very much that not all clergy received the mailing about the ABCMC Minister’s Council Retreat on February 22-23. We do not want this to happen again and are working to improve our systems to prevent similar problems in the future. It would be especially helpful if you would contact Veronica via email IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE a snail-mail about the retreat so that she can diagnose and fix the problem. Veronica’s email address is veronica@abcmc.org.

One additional word: We are preparing to contact churches, clergy and church leaders, and related institutions to request updated information for our 2010 ABCMC Directory. Once you receive the directory update forms, please take the relatively brief amount of time to complete and return them so that the 2010 directory can be as complete and accurate as possible. Thank you!

Larry Greenfield and Veronica Johnson

ABCMC NEWS

Notice of the February Meeting of the ABCMC Family Council

If you have not registered for the February 6th meeting of the Family Council of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, please contact Veronica Johnson via email @ veronica@abcmc.org to register your attendance. The meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6th, from 9:00 a.m. through lunch at the Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

A Request from Mayor Daley

ABCMC received a letter from Mayor Daley asking us to share information about the city's Property Tax Relief Program. It is especially important this year because the Illinois law that capped annual increases at 7% has expired and the exemptions will drop from \$26,000 to \$20,000. The Property Tax Relief Program helps people most hard-hit by these developments with relief from \$25 to \$200.

Applications, instructions, and helpful tools can be secured in English and Spanish on the program's website: <http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/> or by calling the office that administers the program: 312-744-1000. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2010.

Cook County Sheriff Set to Hire Hundreds of Correctional Officers

Clergy, consider sharing or posting this announcement for those in your churches looking for work:

Sheriff Tom Dart said last Wednesday that his department is prepared to hire more than 500 correctional officers next year. The first class of recruits is to come in January. Dart's office says the jobs pay about \$45,000 a year and include health, dental and vision insurance and pension. The sheriff's office says the jobs are available because of a federal mandate that more officers be added at the Cook County Jail.

Sheriff Dart says the department has noticed "not only the increase in quantity but also the increase in quality of applicants." To pick up an application go to 69 W. Washington in Chicago, 11th floor, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm or go to www.cookcountysheriff.org to download an application.

Thinking Theologically

Check back next week for *Thinking Theologically*.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Please submit news from your congregations for *eWind*!

ABCUSA NEWS

Visit the American Baptist News Service for current ABC-USA news at <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

International Ministries Missionaries Provide Emergency Medical Care

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 1/28/10)—American Baptist International Ministries (IM) missionaries have responded to the immediate medical needs resulting from the January 12 Haiti earthquake. Dr. Steve James, IM missionary in Haiti, and Kristy Engel, IM missionary in the Dominican Republic, have created response teams and ministered to earthquake victims in Christianville and Port-au-Prince.

(More specific information on the efforts of Dr. James and Ms. Engel are included in the full report @ <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>)

International Ministries is closely coordinating earthquake response activities with the Haitian Baptist Convention and the Christian University of Northern Haiti. IM partners in the north of Haiti are providing medical care and relief supplies at the partially finished hospital at Quartier Morin as Haitians leave Port-au-Prince for safer locations. The United Nations estimates 235,000 people have departed from the Haitian capital using the free transportation being provided by the government. The additional number of people leaving Port-au-Prince by private means cannot be determined.

To date IM has released a total of \$65,000 of One Great Hour of Sharing funds in response to the needs in Haiti. **Emergency donations are desperately needed and can be made on the IM website: www.internationalministries.org/items/80.** Donors can also write a check made payable to “One Great Hour of Sharing – Haiti Earthquake Relief” and mail to: International Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482, or make a check payable to their American Baptist church and write “Haiti Earthquake Relief” in the memo section.

A new tax relief law allows people who contribute to Haiti earthquake relief by March 1, 2010 to take a tax deduction for the contribution on their 2009 tax return. This means donors can receive an immediate tax benefit, rather than having to wait until they file next year’s return. Donors may deduct these contributions on either their 2009 or 2010 returns, but not both. See: www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=218645,00.html?portlet=7

2010 National Women's Conference - "Women...Destined for God's Purpose: Mission Possible!"



"Women...Destined for God's Purpose: Mission Possible!" is a national conference for women sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABCUSA), **July 10-15, 2010**, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

"Come and learn what it means to live with purpose and to accept the life that God dreams for you. Together we can face our struggles, find our strengths, and grow in Jesus. Together we can encourage one another to be the women God has called us to be," (Crystal Newton, conference coordinator).

Christ-centered experiences include Bible studies on the conference theme with Rev. Christine Roush, worship and singing with Christian performing artist Pam Noah, inspiring Sunday morning preaching by Rev. Marilyn Turner, morning "Java & Jesus" devotions, and a memorable closing communion service on Wednesday evening. Workshops, off-site tours, special meal events, and activities with the National Gathering for Girls offer great opportunities to build new intergenerational friendships and grow closer to God.

Visit www.abwministries.org and click on "Events" for more information and registration forms.

2010 National Events for Girls: "Young Women of Action"



In the summer of 2010, the National Gathering for Girls will be joined with a mission opportunity, both with the same theme of "Young Women of Action." Girls and their adult leaders may come to either or both of these events!

The 2010 National Gathering for Girls is **July 10-15, 2010** at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme is "Young Women of Action." The week will be

filled with mission opportunities as well as Bible study, worship, and lots of fun fellowship.

And speaking of action...the national leadership team of AB GIRLS is joining with National Ministries in forming an *AB GIRLS Home Mission Action Team* that will be part of the "Ecumenical Work Week VI: Worship, Witness, & Work" build in New Orleans, **July 31-August 7, 2010**. (We're having AB GIRLS come a day early for special girls' time!) AB GIRLS from across the country will come together in New Orleans, Louisiana, to help to rebuild the city.

Visit www.abwministries.org and click on "Events" for more information and registration forms for both events. The National Gathering for Girls and the AB GIRLS Home Mission Action Team are sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABCUSA).

NEWS FROM ABC INSTITUTIONS

News from One Hope United



Effective Jan. 20, 2010, Kids Hope United has changed its name to "**One Hope United.**" This name reinforces our mission of *protecting children and strengthening families*. Your support of our work is highly valued, and we wanted you to be among the first to know.

While our new name better conveys our growing array of services within our communities, we did not initiate this change. There are many organizations with the words "kids" and "hope" in their name, and another organization approached us about infringing upon its trademark. Although we worked diligently to reach an agreement for the continued use of our name, we were unable to do so. Rather than spend our limited resources on uncertain litigation, our Board chose to voluntarily change our name and focus on our mission of protecting children and strengthening families.

Your continued support of our work is deeply important—now more than ever—as we continue our shared dedication to serving children and families in need. As "One Hope United," we will continue to serve nearly 15,000 children and families each year, and we look forward to sharing these stories of hope with you.

Please visit our new Web site, located at www.onehopeunited.org, to learn more.

NOTE: Please change your e-mail settings to allow e-mails from **onehopeunited.org**.

News From Judson University



The recent earthquake tragedy in Haiti has personally affected one of Judson University's international students, Sanon Eustache, who is a senior majoring in Business Administration and a member of Judson's soccer team. Sanon has learned that his immediate family is well; however, one of his cousins has died and he still does not know about the remainder of his extended family. Due to the national banking financial breakdown following the earthquake, Sanon's personal financial situation has become an acute problem.

Students at Judson gather regularly to pray for Sanon and Haiti. The Judson community has rallied behind efforts to raise money through the American Baptist Board of International Ministries, Judson alum Kristi Engle who is a missionary in neighboring Dominican Republic, and Apparent Project which is the focus of our previously scheduled May mission trip. As members of Christ's body we encourage you to pray for Sanon Eustache, Judson mission efforts and Haiti as well.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Announcements from Worship Alive!

Worship Alive! friends:

The Rev. John L. Bell, arguably our most popular past workshop leader, returns on February 13th and 14th to lead "Celebrating the Unsung Jesus." This interactive workshop will explore how song, worship and physical depiction can enlarge or diminish our understanding of Jesus.

Bell is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community. He now resources music and worship as part of the Wild Goose Resource Group.

Bell will present this workshop on Saturday, February 13th, at the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs and again on Sunday, February 14th, at the United Church of Rogers Park. The workshop is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. either day.

Registration is \$35 paid in advance; \$45 at the door. Note that you get a discount of 20% for group of three or more persons from a congregation.

You can print a registration form here: <http://www.ucrogerspark.org/WorshipAlive/Register.htm>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for Rev. Jacobo Tohme and his wife Doris. Rev. Tohme is the Pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Latinoamericana in Chicago south side. (health related concerns)



Please pray for the people of Haiti.

Please pray for Haitian American Baptist churches throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Please pray for Haitian Americans waiting for word about loved ones.

Please pray for first responders from around the world as they arrive in Haiti to face the huge humanitarian recovery effort.

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for our troops and our government.

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

Please pray for all persons facing job loss and job searches in the current economy.

Please pray for all children who are homeless and/or hungry.

Please pray for ABCMC staff and all ABCMC churches for effective Christian witness and service in 2010.

CALENDAR

February 4 – One Hope United (formerly Kids Hope United) Winter Celebration, 5:30 p.m. at the Mid-America Club

February 6 - Family Council Meeting, 9 a.m. through lunch, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

February 9 and 10 - "Inch by Inch: Growing a Green Congregation," @ the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (1100 E. 55th Street)

February 22 and 23 – Minister's Council Retreat @ The Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, 513 Fullerton, Chicago.

March 1 - Deadline for entries for BJC's essay contest.

March 7 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Anne and Howard Gottlieb Hall, 38 S. Prairie, Chicago, 4 p.m.

March 13 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Chicago Music Institute, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

April 18 – One Hope United (formerly Kids Hope United) Mad Hatters Tea Party, The Lehmann Mansion, 485 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois

May 15 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Chicago Music Institute, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

May 16 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, 4 p.m.

The Metro Chicago *eWind* is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessarily express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. We email the newsletter each Thursday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please send them to office@abcmc.org. If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know via email at office@abcmc.org.