

# ABCOPAD

ASSOCIATION  
REPRESENTATIVE'S  
BOARD  
REPORT

## Welcome to the jungle!

### A new world creates new conditions for ministry

This was the message that Executive Minister Frank Frischkorn shared with the ABCOPAD Board at the fall meeting in Breezewood on Nov. 30.

In times past, ministry used to be like a trip to a national park. Pastors and other church leaders



ABCOPAD past president Sue MacDonald at the the fall board meeting.

were like rangers who knew all the answers about how to get around pleasantly in the church/ministry environment.

But the world in which Christians are called to make and be disciples isn't a friendly, domesticated nature zone anymore. It is a jungle—a hostile and unpredictable wilderness.

*(continued on p. 2)*

## Contents

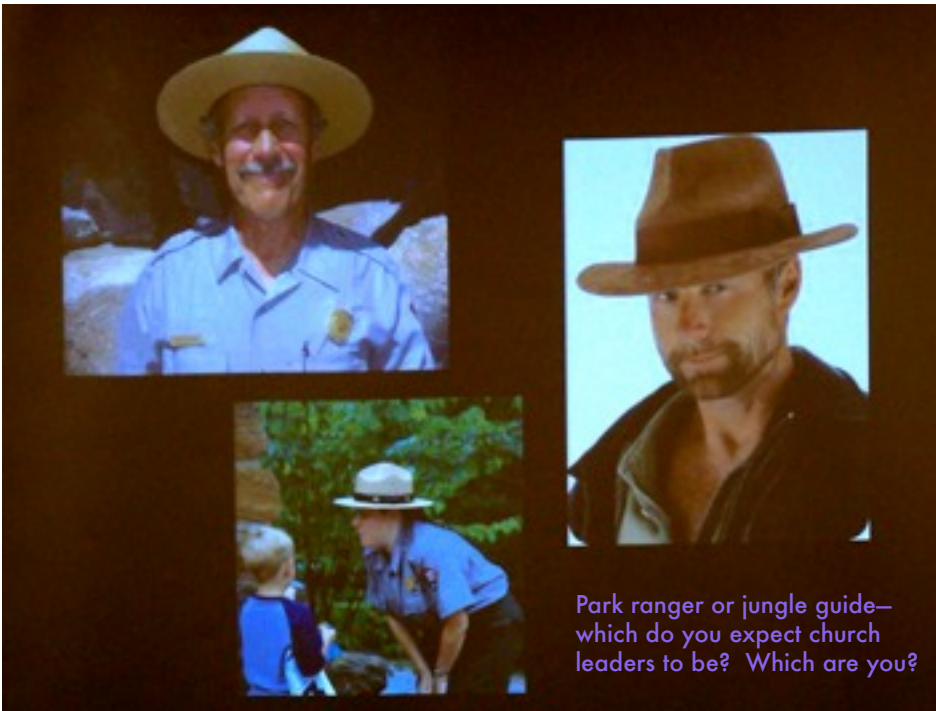
Regional ministry highlights	2
Financial report	3
AB Women's Ministries	4
American Baptist Foundation	5
ABCUSA news	5

fall board meeting



# 2009





Park ranger or jungle guide—  
which do you expect church  
leaders to be? Which are you?

## The jungle

(continued from p. 1)

Quoting from *Doing Ministry in Hard Times*, by Bill Easum and Bill Tenny-Brittian, Pastor Frank said, "In the jungle rock-and-roll is in; the nuclear family is dead; divorce is easy; homosexual marriage is gaining acceptance; the wife is just as likely to be the major breadwinner as the husband; children grow up not knowing the Bible; Grandma doesn't live next door but miles away because the nation is mobile; scripture and the church are no longer the basic authority; abortion is legal and Ozzie Osbourne [instead of Ozzie Nelson] is the role model."

Some of these changes are for the worse and some are neutral, but they all put the church "in a strange land trying to play by rules that no longer exist and they're being eaten alive."

This reality presents the church with terrific opportunities for reaching the lost and caring for the downtrodden. But it also means that the established church is bereft of the benign social environment whose support it has relied on to exist.

ABCOPAD faces exactly this dilemma. The fall board meeting featured testimonies of the great kingdom-work we have come to expect from the region and its constituent churches. But the financial pressure on ABCOPAD to maintain its existence is at an all-time high.

Church leaders can't be park rangers anymore, Pastor Frank said, because the "park" has disappeared. Rather, church leaders need to be jungle guides—adventurers in strange and dangerous territory who seize opportunities, roll with the punches, and adapt to changing times. And

## Forward!

### The Spirit moves in regional ministry

#### Ministry Teams launch

At the spring and fall 2009 board meetings, ABCOPAD officially adopted a Ministry Teams model to release and empower God's people to do what God is leading them to do. Got an idea for a ministry beyond what you can handle alone? Contact your area minister today!

#### Legacy Grants

Churches that have closed their doors for the last time have given their assets so that other churches might serve beyond themselves. Apply for a grant for your outside-the-box ministry.

#### Workshops

2009's Congregational Life-Cycle and Small Church Workshops gave the region's churches a new perspective on health and faithfulness.

#### CLI a national leader

ABCOPAD's Church Leadership Institutes were recognized as the flagship lay ministry training program in the ABC at a recent National Ministries-convened meeting.

#### Outflow educational event

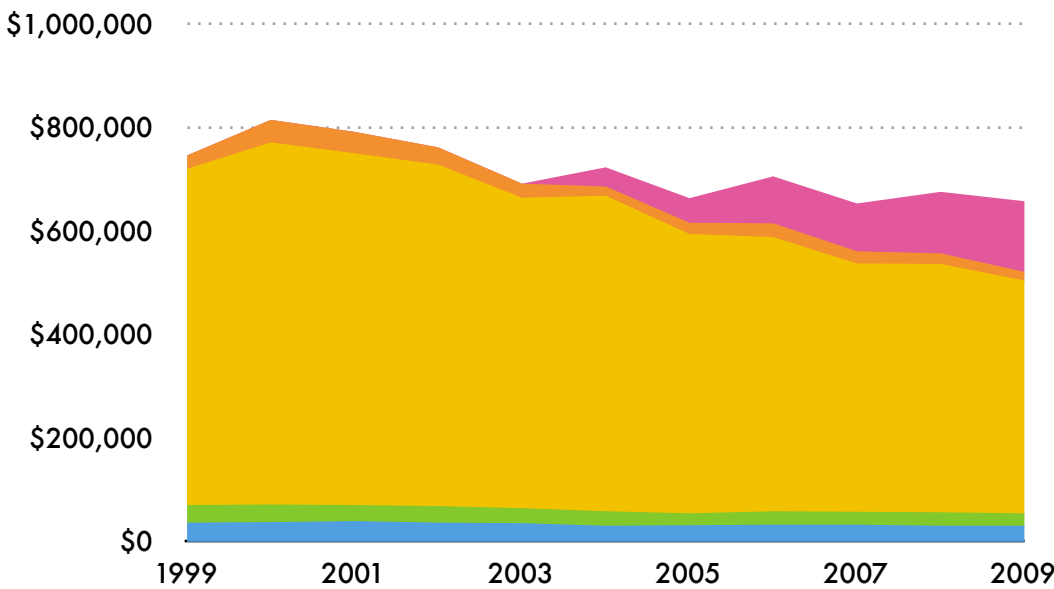
The 2010 ABCOPAD biennial meeting at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona will feature a workshop called Outflow led by Steve Sjogren, a pioneer of "servant evangelism" as a means to equip the church to reach the lost for Christ.

the church needs to support such leaders, even when they take us into scary and unfamiliar terrain.

The jungle is here, and there's no going back. But the Lord of the jungle is leading us to a great destiny.



### ABCOPAD Revenue from Mission Giving 1999-2009



- Partners in Ministry
- Specifics
- United Mission Basics
- ABW Love Gift
- America for Christ

NOTE: Relatively small revenue from United Missions Designations, which are gifts through United Mission to particular American Baptist entities like ABCOPAD, is not included in this chart.

Specifics are donations to specific projects or needs.

2009 figures are estimated from the first ten months of that year.

### Financial peril in the jungle

The streams are drying up and the well is empty. This is one of the most pressing realities of the jungle that ABCOPAD finds itself in.

Like virtually every other American Baptist region and national entity, ABCOPAD is staggering under the drop in giving through United Mission.

United Mission is a means by which individuals and churches can contribute to the entire spectrum of organizations that compose the American Baptist family. Undesignated monies received through United Mission are distributed among these entities according to a fixed formula.

Since its creation in the 1970s, United Mission has been the most popular giving mechanism for American Baptists, and therefore regional and national organizations have relied on it for the lion's share of their revenue.

But for a decade United Mission has been declining

steadily, and with it overall giving has fallen too.

There may be a number of reasons for this, including declining churches with aging members on fixed incomes and dissatisfaction with the national denomination, particularly over homosexuality, that has led some churches to cut back their giving and others to leave the denomination entirely. But whatever the reason, ABCOPAD is feeling the pain.

To compensate for the drop in United Mission, ABCOPAD rolled out Partners in Ministry, an offering that goes entirely to the region. This has been very popular with donors,

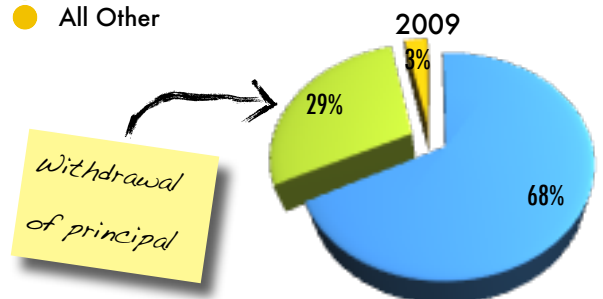
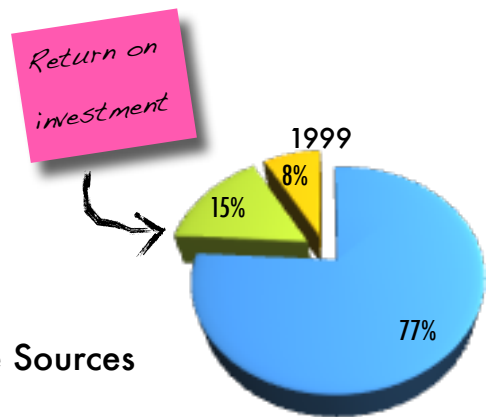
and each year shows a substantial increase over the year before. As a result, ABCOPAD's financial picture actually looks much better than many other regions. But as the chart above shows,

it still is not enough to keep to up with expenses. Not only is total revenue far from its 2000 level, but expenses have steadily risen since then. (Consider health insurance inflation, for example.)

(continued on p. 4)

### Income Sources

- Missions Giving
- Investments
- All Other





(continued from p. 3)

## Addressing the gap

As revenue from mission giving has sagged over the last decade, ABCOPAD has withdrawn the principal of its investments year by year to stay afloat. 2010 is the last year that this will happen, because by the end of this year's withdrawal, all of ABCOPAD's remaining savings will be in restricted funds whose principal may not be withdrawn. As a result, in 2011 expenditures will not be able to rise above actual income, and in 2010 things will be a lot tighter.

To break even this year, ABCOPAD is cutting costs in the short term (see chart), including staff compensation reductions, a measure initiated by the staff themselves, particularly Pastor Frank.

But budgetary challenges mount this year with the prospect of two new full-time, permanent area ministers in the Southeast and Southwest/Pittsburgh. Unless mission giving rises dramatically over the next year, staff downsizing in 2011 is a very real possibility.

Meanwhile, over the long term, ABCOPAD will explore a variety of approaches to fund kingdom work in this ministry jungle.

## AB Women's Ministries

God is using American Baptist Women in Pennsylvania and Delaware to touch the world. According to ABWOPAD president Sue Fitzgerald, our region raised \$40,000 for the Break the Chains project to combat global human trafficking, and AB Women have been engaged in the effort to resettle Karen refugees from Myanmar in our region. Glory to God!



ABCOPAD treasurer Caryl Casey with executive minister Frank Frischkorn.

strategies	short-term (FY 2010)	long-term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Southeast Area Minister's salary and travel expense for 9 months</li> <li>• Budget Southwest Area/Pittsburgh Baptist Association Minister's salary and travel expense for 3 months</li> <li>• Roll back staff salaries to 2008 levels</li> <li>• Require staff to contribute to health insurance premiums proportionate to number covered (insured, spouse, family)</li> <li>• Explore corporate-rate auto rentals for long staff trips</li> <li>• Withhold contribution to the American Baptist Foundation (see "long-term" at right and p. 5)</li> <li>• Do not contribute to PA Council of Churches or Christian Council of DE/MD</li> <li>• Utilize the White Deer Fund for Youth/Student Ministries (this will deplete this fund)</li> <li>• Increase endowment management fees from 1% to 1.75%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get ABCOPAD Foundation working on donor development</li> <li>• Withhold contributions to the American Baptist Foundation until ABCOPAD determines its future relationship with the ABF (see p. 5)</li> <li>• Make a "case for ABCOPAD" and ways for churches to connect to the region and their associations</li> <li>• Promote Partners in Ministry Offering through the work of Ministry Teams</li> <li>• Develop profiles of "1975"- and "2015"-era donors and strategize how to reach each</li> <li>• Restructure staff and redraw areas in light of ABCOPAD's vision (proposal to be completed April 30, 2010)</li> <li>• Develop a Finance and Property Committee</li> <li>• Determine a maximum principal withdrawal policy (suggested 5%)</li> <li>• Consider fee-for-service model for staff visits to churches</li> </ul>



## ABCUSA General Board News

from Eleanor Siegrist, General Board Representative

### 1. Staff cuts

All national American Baptist entities are struggling under the decline of United Mission giving (see p. 3). The Office of the General Secretary and National Ministries have each eliminated staff positions recently.

### 2. Restructuring, take two

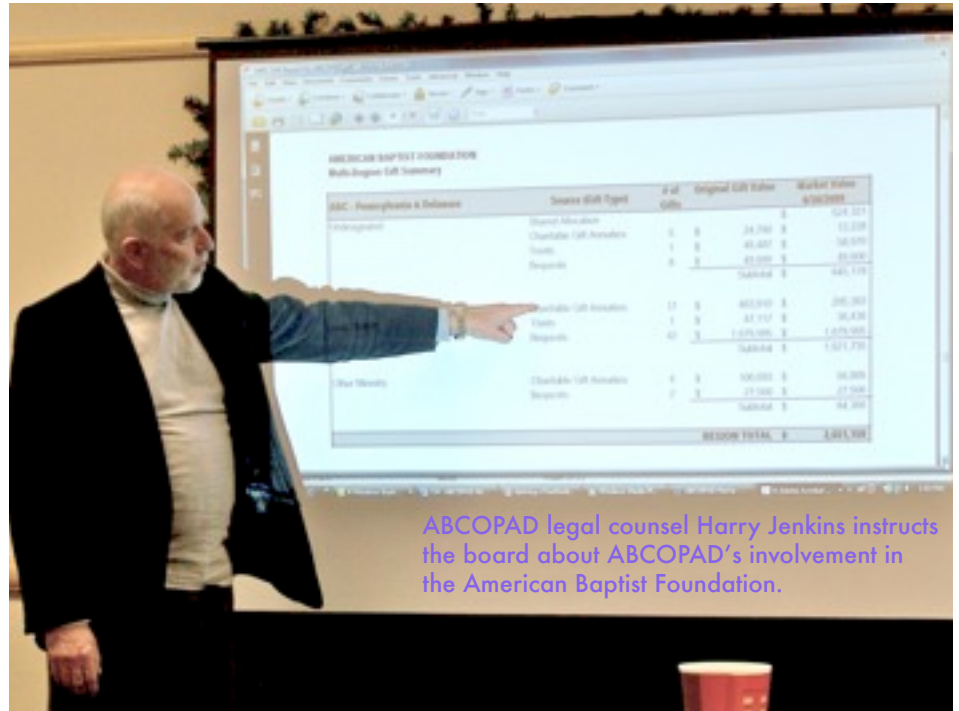
With the restructuring proposal defeated by the delegates at the Biennial Meeting in Pasadena, work proceeds on a new proposal for Puerto Rico in 2011.

### 3. New program board bylaws

One reason for the defeat of the Pasadena proposal was that it required new bylaws for the program boards that hadn't been written yet. There was some fear that when the bylaws would be written, they would enable the boards to detach from the American Baptist Churches. International Ministries has completed its bylaws to show the 2011 delegates their loyalty to the denomination, and National Ministries is at work on theirs.

## A scramble

As you've seen from this report, a drop in United Mission means that American Baptist entities are united in financial misery. But the crisis severely strains the agreements that keep the American Baptist family together. As each group looks out for itself and scrambles for a greater share of the American Baptist dollar, the ties that bind us are coming apart.



ABCOPAD legal counsel Harry Jenkins instructs the board about ABCOPAD's involvement in the American Baptist Foundation.

## ABCOPAD and the American Baptist Foundation

The American Baptist Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that helps people handle their assets by preparing wills, setting up trusts, and arranging bequests. The Foundation encourages clients to dispose of their assets to be a blessing to others and fund the work of the kingdom, particularly as carried out by American Baptist entities—churches, program boards, and regions like ABCOPAD.

Each ABF-member region makes an annual contribution to the Foundation to enable its work. The contribution is considered an investment, because some of the Foundation's clients in each region are expected to make end-of-life gifts to that region.

However, although local churches within ABCOPAD have benefitted greatly from the Foundation's work, few gifts have gone to the region itself. So far, ABCOPAD is far from recouping its \$23,000-a-year investment.

So with ABCOPAD's short-term financial forecast so daunting, the question arises, do we stay in?

The board recently approved the creation of ABCOPAD's own foundation in part with the hope that it may develop donors to the region. Whether it operates alongside the American Baptist Foundation or in place of it remains to be seen.

## Thanks for reading!

Want to know more? Want to be heard? Please contact your association's representative to answer your questions about ABCOPAD and help ABCOPAD make decisions in light of your needs.