



Penn-Del Tips

The official newsletter of the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Visit us on the web at www.abmopad.org

The PREZ SEZ . . .

A Message from our President, Bob McQue, Sr.

As I felt God leading me toward the presidency of our ABMOPAD Brotherhood, I was concerned that we were becoming a group that did nothing but hold an Annual Retreat. Don't misunderstand me. The Annual Retreat gives us a golden opportunity to enjoy the mission of American Baptist Men. We can participate in Inspiration, Education, and Fellowship; the purpose of which is to lead men to Christ. This effort, however, should not be pursued for only one weekend per year. I trust that the theme that I have chosen for my term, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness", is one that each one of us can make a goal in all that we do. I have previously

stated that one of our greatest weaknesses has been communication. God has blessed us during this past year in calling several men to assume the responsibilities of Area Vice Presidents. These men are our local "communicators". At this time we still have three Area Vice President vacancies: Southeast Area, Northwest Area, and Pittsburgh Area.

One of the primary tasks of the Area Vice Presidents is to ensure that your address is correct. In future issues of the Penn-Del Tips, I would like to see articles describing successful activities of the men in your church. By sharing the wealth, we may be able to inspire other men in the region

to undertake similar activities.

I hope to see all of you at our 54th Annual Retreat, 1 – 3 August, 2008, at Shippensburg University.

We are implementing a plan to communicate by e-mail. If you wish to receive information electronically, send your e-mail address to:

webmaster@abmopad.org

Visit our WEB Site for various information, and forms to submit Layman of the Year Nominations, ABMOPAD Officer Nominations, Scholarship Applications, Retreat Registrations, and Parental Permission Authorizations at www.abmopad.org.

Help Buy Computers for Seminary in Cameroon, Africa!

Booster Call Number 52 was issued to purchase computer systems for the Baptist Seminary in Cameroon, Africa. Since we are all in the computer age, we know how access to computer equipment can enhance education. Our donation will help provide ministers to carry the Gospel of Christ to the people of Africa. The Board of Managers anticipated a donation totaling \$5,000. Our receipts to date are over \$3300. Our current request asks for a donation minimum of \$10.00. Many are donating more. If you would like to contribute to this cause, send your donation by check or money order made payable to:

ABMOPAD Booster

And mail to:

Robert R. McQue, Jr.
216 Brenton Circle
Harleysville, PA 19438



If you would like to be included in future Booster Mailings, include a note with your name and mailing address.

Mark Your Calendar for the 54th Annual Retreat - August 1 - 3, 2008

Our annual retreats are a mountaintop experience to enjoy Inspiration, Education, and Fellowship, through our Speaker, Workshops, meeting old friends, and making new ones. Our sole purpose is to bring men to Christ, with the additional goal to equip Christian Men to be more effective Disciples of Christ.

For about the same price as a single night in a hotel, you get **TWO** nights lodging, **FIVE** meals, **TWO** workshops, **THREE** great worship meetings with incredible music and speakers, recreational facilities (including an indoor pool, softball fields, a walking track, basketball courts and tennis) and fellowship with your brothers in Christ.

Make it a mission to bring youth under 18 years old. Their cost is a bargain at ½ the price of the rest of the attendees. We once again have a youth program planned, so that they may be led closer to Christian Discipleship.

Advertise the 54th Annual Retreat at your church by downloading posters and bulletin inserts from www.abmopad.org

ABMOPAD Disaster Relief Update

2007 was a calm year for this ministry, which has given us the time to develop our first Rapid Response Trailer. Our new 16 foot box trailer has been outfitted through gifts from various churches and men's groups throughout the region. We still have need for the following items for the small trailer:

- Power Washer
- Respirators & protective clothing for working with Mold
- Portable Electric Drills
- Portable 20ft X 40ft Shelter
- Portable Electric Saws
- Ladders

If your men's group or church would like to support this mission, please contact:

Bob Swan at 215-674-1935 or email him at swantown@aol.com.

Monetary donations can be sent by check made payable to ABMOPAD, with Disaster Ministry in the memo line, and mailed to:

Robert H. Swan, Sr.
21201 Ann's Choice Way
Warminster, PA 18974-3343

On March 2nd, 2008, two ABMOPAD representatives attended the American Baptist Men USA National Disaster

Conference at Parchment Valley, West Virginia. This is a time that all of the disaster relief ministries nation wide join together for training and education in Federal Emergency Management (FEMA), and Homeland Security policies and changes, as well as updates.

Our Kingdom Builders program is looking for projects in local churches for repairs, expansions, roofing, etc. Contact Bob Swan for more information.



2008 Retreat Speaker: Reverend Robert Santilli

Bob has been an American Baptist Pastor since his ordination in 1965. After serving congregations in Brooklyn and Queens, he served the First Baptist Church of Mount Holly, NJ as Senior Pastor from 1975 to 2002

Since taking an "early retirement" in

2002, he has been working as a full time volunteer on the staff of International Ministries, ABCUSA, as a "Special Assistant to the Executive Director for Prayer and Pastoral Care

He had served as Interim Pastor of the Hatboro Baptist Church from October 2004 to February 2006. He is currently serving as Interim Pastor of the First

Baptist Church of Collingswood, New Jersey.

Bob married the former Barbara Jean Eckart on July 1st, 2006. They live in Mount Holly. The each brought the blessings of children and grandchildren to the union, for a total of three children and eight grandchildren.

Welcome Reverend Santilli!

LAYMAN OF THE YEAR

The Layman of the Year program was started to recognize men who have shown extraordinary dedication to the missions of Jesus Christ. The selection is accomplished by the last three Laymen of the Year. They base their judgment on nominations from laymen and pastors of our region. The input to selection committee is solely from the nomination sheets. This means that the nominations should be well written and in detail. Nominations have been received that say no more than the nominee loves God, and is a "nice guy". I hope this would apply to everyone reading this article. You will help your nominee to be selected by showing how he stands out by his unique service to our Lord and his neighbors.

From the Editor

In the Gospel of John, chapter 20, Mary Magdalene makes an amazing discovery. Jesus' body is NOT in the tomb! She runs to find the disciples and makes the first of two reports in this passage. She was very distraught and told them, "They've taken his body away! I don't know where it is!" Of course, later that same day after the disciples have seen the empty tomb for themselves, she encounters Jesus in the garden. She doesn't realize it is him at first, but ultimately, her eyes are opened and she sees him – ALIVE and standing before her in the garden. So she runs back to the disciples again and provides the first recorded testimony of the risen Savior. "I have seen the Lord".

Well, we don't all get to have a close up, corporeal encounter with our risen Lord. That would probably freak a few of us out, myself included. But just because I haven't seen the living body of my Lord Jesus Christ, doesn't mean that I haven't "seen the Lord". Look around you. I see the Lord in so many ways. He is there when someone says a kind word to another person who is in need. He is there when we feed the hungry. He is there when we visit the sick. Any person who reaches out and touches another in

the name of the Lord is showing Jesus to all mankind. He is there for us when we are so wounded and broken inside that at last we call out to him saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord!" He is there to lead us home at the time of our death as well.

I'm a big fan of personal testimony. It's always moving when a person can stand up and say, "I have seen the Lord! This is what MY Jesus has done for me. Let me tell you about him." Some testimonies come from people who've been bashed around on the rocks of life. Some testimonies come from folks who have led very affluent lives, yet they give Jesus all of the glory as it should be. And testimonies come from everyone in between.

You may be hurting. You may have such terrible burdens that you cannot bear them. You may not have a care in the world. No matter what, the Lord is here, now, with you wherever you are reading this. He sits at the door of each and every heart knocking, pounding saying, "Let me in and I will dwell in your heart forever." Open the door. Then tell the world, "I have seen the Lord!"