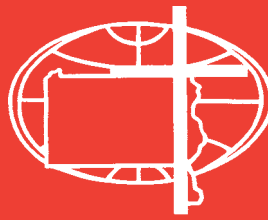


NOTES & NEWS, THOUGHTS & VIEWS



FOR ABCOPAD CHURCHES FROM
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE PASTOR REV. FRANK FRISCHKORN

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2011

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

While in college a number of years ago, a friend of mine called me up, all excited. He said he was going to be in a movie with Robert Redford! The movie was entitled 'The Great Waldo Pepper' and told the story of a biplane pilot from World War II who became a barnstormer in Texas. When I pressed Ken about what his role would be, he said that it wasn't a big part ... in fact, you needed to look very closely to see him just to the left of the barn, to the right side of the large crowd when the bi-plane flew over head in the opening sequence of the movie! What Ken was telling me was that he was an 'extra' ... you know, one of those folks that 'fill out the scenes' in movies. They are the ones in the background, not involved with the main characters, but who still play an important role in the movie to make it 'feel' real.

I've been reading a book entitled, *Right Here – Right Now: Everyday Mission for Everyday People* by Alan Hirsch and Lance Ford, and in it they challenged me to be sure to engage the 'extras' in my life. You know who they are, because you have them in yours, as well: the woman at the bank who knows you without seeing your driver's license; the postal worker from whom you buy your stamps; the elderly neighbor who walks her Irish Corgi down your street the same time each day; ... do you see them?

When asked how she was able to respond to the overwhelming weight of devastation in Calcutta, Mother Teresa said, "I don't see crowds, I see individuals," and as I thought about it, her words really reflect the life of our Savior, don't they? The LORD Jesus was

one who seemed to notice everyone. The tax collector – Matthew – that most wanted to forget, the wisp of a man – Zacchaeus – who awkwardly perched himself up in a tree, a woman plagued by a lifetime of silent suffering who brushed by him in a crowd. Jesus didn't overlook these people, He engaged them. He didn't marginalize them, he honored them as ones created by His Father and for whom He was going to die.

In going to Haiti last month, I knew the shock that our group was going to encounter as we left the airport. Gone were the safe securities of 'life as we know it,' and on the ride from the airport to Grande Goave in the back of a box truck, I watched my friends view the canvas of devastation known as Haiti for the first time, replete with images, smells and sounds that forever would change the way they looked at the world. Like Calcutta, it would be easy to be overwhelmed by the expanse of hopelessness before us, and some in the group did struggle with the sheer weight of the need. Gratefully though, as the week went on, we were able to see this world through the eyes of the Savior — a God who saw His Creation one life at a time. There was Josett, the little boy who brought his own little pail and joined in with us as we filled the wall with rubble; Tiga, the Haitian crew leader who built a bridge for us by his translating skills, but who also shared his heart and life with us in the tragedy of a step brother senselessly murdered during our stay; and dear sister Grace, an 80-year-old who was living in her third tent since the earthquake over a year ago. In meeting these new friends, in engaging them one-on-one, God gave us the privilege of not only building a rubble home but also of something even

more tangible — touching a series of lives with His Love and Grace.

I don't know who the 'extras' are in your life today, but I would pray for you and for me that we would have the courage to lay aside our man-made agendas and take on God's agenda of meeting those precious 'extras' in our lives — the ones that bear His Image, the ones for whom He died.

Grateful for the partnership we share and the difference we can make together,

Frank

TWO IMPORTANT ITEMS!

Please make a note of Carol Bicking's new hours of availability.

Monday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. – noon

Wednesday: 9 a.m. – noon and
6 – 8 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. – noon

Friday: OFF

Also, there is now a new toll-free number for Denise Veselicky. While the old number will continue to function, the new number is 888-687-0883.



REV. MARK MAHSERJIAN-SMITH
REGIONAL PASTOR FOR
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In Isaiah 58:10 – 12, God makes this promise to his people: *If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places — firm muscles, strong bones.*

You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again. (TMSG)

Leaving the Philadelphia Airport early Saturday morning in mid January, a 14-member team from the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware traveled to Grand Goave, Haiti, to assist in earthquake disaster relief. Following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, that claimed the lives of approximately 300,000 people, many survivors have been unable to find permanent housing, reduced to living in tents or temporary structures. The ABCOPAD Mission Team, in cooperation with Conscious International, took on the monumental task of beginning to build permanent homes for Haitians in the Grand Goave Community.

During the 10-day mission trip, the team completed one rubble home from start to finish, along with beginning work on two

or three additional houses. The work on the completed home included creating rebar wire cages necessary for the walls, setting the cages on the foundation, filling the cages with rubble, building trusses for the roof and installing the steel roof on the house. By the end of the week the rubble house was complete and a dedication service was held. Keys for the new house were handed to the pastor and his wife who will be living in the new structure along with their family.

The ABCOPAD team was the first ever to complete a home from start to finish in a single week. Of course the team did not work alone. Along with the mission team, a dedicated crew of Haitian laborers worked on the projects. This allowed the ABCOPAD work team to spend time developing relationships with the residents of Grand Goave as well as an opportunity to teach the Haitian workers how to build rubble homes.

Throughout the mission trip there was a deep sense of Jesus' presence. Although communication was sometimes a problem, the language of Christian love was easy to both identify and understand. It is hard to imagine how the mission trip could have been more successful.

There has been growing interest in another mission trip to Haiti in 2011. Funding for a second trip, along with volunteer inquiries, have started coming in. Please contact me (Mark Mahserjian-Smith) if you are interested in being part of the next mission team to Haiti. You can learn more about Rubble Homes on our website. Visit the ABCOPAD Haiti Mission Trip Web page. For all those who supported the trip in prayer, financially or by participating, we say "Thank You." It was awesome seeing God keep his promise, as stated in Isaiah 58, through the willing servants of God here in ABCOPAD. ■



REV. KEVIN WALDEN
REGIONAL PASTOR WITH
PASTORAL LEADERS
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One of our favorite verses on the regional pastoral staff is from Proverbs 27:17 – "As

iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." As the current "new guy" I find it an amazing blessing how much Frank and Mark "sharpen me." They do it so humbly and gently, but I can tell I'm being "sharpened." Hopefully, you can tell as well. As we approach March, we are gearing up for the Leadership Learning Communities and Pastoral Retreats, which are aimed at helping to encourage our ABCOPAD pastors. There is an implied "sharpening" that we hope will take place as we gather together. We need each other, so says the Word; and I would add, "We are better together."

Twenty-nine pastors have been asked to consider being an LLC Mentor Pastor. These people represent all 22 associations in ABCOPAD. We have arranged for a Mentor Pastor training to take place March 22 and 23, at Camp Hebron. We are

encouraging all of the Mentor Pastors to use the Pastoral Retreats as a kick-off for their LLC groups. But, I want to be clear, the Pastoral Retreats are open and FREE to all currently serving ABCOPAD pastors. Dr. Lee Spitzer will be presenting at both Retreats, and continuing education units will be available.

Retreat Dates:

Camp Judson – April 26 – 28

Camp Ichthus – May 3 – 5

We have limited space at each of these Camps, so be watching for registration information in March.

Lastly, coming up May 20 – 21, will be the ABCOPAD Clergy Ethics training. This event will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Williamsport, Pa. If you have never been to an ethics training event you need to make this a priority. Did you know that in the pastoral search process one of the items the staff points out to search committees is to look to see if the candidate has completed a current ethics training course? If this is blank on your profile, you might give this consideration, it's important. If it has been more than five years since your last course, it is time to renew. Mark the date ... more information will be coming out from the CLI Northeast Council. ■



REV. ERIC KRAIHANZEL
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2011 HAPPENINGS – SAVE THE DATES!

- Feb. 25 – 26: ABCOPAD Student Ministry Youth Worker Training Overnight (Camp Judson)
- March 25 – 26: ABCOPAD Student Ministry Youth Worker Training Overnight (Camp Ichthus)
- July 15 – 17: ABCOPAD Girl’s House Party (Camp Ichthus)
- July 30 – Aug. 6: ABCOPAD Student Ministry Mission Trip to Puerto Rico
- Nov. 4 – 6: ABCOPAD Youth Gathering — Reunion West
- Nov. 11 – 13: ABCOPAD Youth Gathering — Reunion East

PROTECT MY MINISTRY®

We have an exciting resource coming real soon that will help your church in creating a safe and secure environment for young and old. Starting this January, ABCOPAD is contracting with a Christian-based company called Protect My Ministry. The Protect My Ministry program will help provide training and screening for people working with children and teens in our churches. Sign up today at www.abcopadym.com. ■

3D CHRIST FOLLOWERS

Join us as we discuss ways to help teens grow into well rounded – breathing – life changing Christ Followers. There are four training sessions, along with plenty of fellowship time to relax and share. Bring yourself and other adults who would love to grow deeper and stronger in their ability to inspire teens to become more like Christ. ■

ABCOPAD TEEN PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

Join about 25 teens and youth leaders from across our Region as we go to serve in Puerto Rico at Campamento del Caribe. We will also be serving some of our sister churches with painting, minor fixes and general clean-up. ■

ONLINE YOUTH MINISTRY TRACK

Restarting in August, the Online Youth Ministry Track is run through and by the Church Leadership Institute of Western, Pa. This is a ministry of ABCOPAD in conjunction with Eastern University’s Youth Ministries Department, St. Davids, Pa. ■



REV. DR. JEFFREY JOHNSON
REGIONAL PASTOR WITH
CONGREGATIONS
888-687-0883
PGHBAPTIST@AOL.COM

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson will be joining our staff officially on Tuesday, March 1. As Jeff begins his ministry in our midst, we would ask you to be remembering him in prayer, especially as he and his family continue to look for a home in western Pa. ■

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGION

ABINGTON ASSOCIATION

The Abington Baptist Association held its first meeting of 2011 on Jan. 20. The new Officers are Deborah A. Loessy, moderator; Rev. Earl O. Cassel, vice moderator; Bob Davis, treasurer; and Rev. Margie McCarty, secretary. The Association has a good year planned with new learning experiences each meeting. Rev. Kevin Walden will present information to pastors on Thursday, March 17, at our Board of Managers meeting. The Spring Meeting will be Sunday, April 10, at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with a presentation by Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith, regional pastor for mission and community, on the recent mission trip to Haiti. Musical entertainment will also highlight the dinner meeting along with a communion service. We look forward to a very rewarding year in the new life of ABCOPAD. ■

Rev. Fela Barrueto, ABHMS National Coordinataor for Prison Re-entry and After Care Ministry, will be speaking at **Mt. Bethel, Clarks Summit** (*Donald Hasselman*) on Sunday, March 20, to help promote the America For Christ offering. If your church would also like to host Rev. Barrueto sometime that weekend, please contact the ABCOPAD Western Office at 888-687-0883. ■

January 2011 marks the 13th Anniversary of **FBC, Factoryville's** (*Paul Fields*) "Pretzel Project." What could be better than hand-dipped sourdough pretzels coated with the best chocolate ever! There is a job for everyone who wants to help — from dipping to packing to selling to eating. It is a good money maker, too. In 1999, the Hughsville ABW helped the church to get started by sharing their "how-to" information. Now it is Factoryville's turn to help. If your church would like to try this fun project, contact Kay Stencil at forest6@ptd.net for instructions on how you, too, can begin a Pretzel Project.

The annual Chicken 'n' Biscuit dinner will be held on Saturday, April 9. The men do all the shopping and cooking. The ladies take care of the dining room and serving. Everyone helps with the

clean-up. What's different? Pastor Paul heads up the cooking. It is two long days for the men. Folks from the area wait for this meal. Don't miss it.

And as if April weren't full enough, the church will also hold its 26th-consecutive Rummage Sale on Sunday, April 24. That entails at least three days of set up, as well as Sale Day. Crowds line up at the door for the 10 a.m. opening. Shopping is fast and furious. The end-of-the day bag sale is also extremely popular. Folks on the clean-up crew have to work fast to get everything cleared up, cleaned out and ready for Sunday School the next morning. ■

Shiloh, Scranton (*Deacon J.D. Watson*) hosted a full house for the Scranton Area Ministers Annual Martin Luther King Jr. service which featured a Community Choir and speakers that represented every religion and denomination.

On Sunday, Jan. 30, the 2011 officers were installed by Associate Pastor Gloria Watson during the Sunday Morning service. ■

BRADFORD ASSOCIATION

The Bradford and Tioga Baptist Associations will co-sponsor an ABW Ministries Retreat, April 29 – 30, at the Mt. Zion Retreat Center; RR 1; Roaring Branch, PA 17765. Thelma Schaller will be the guest speaker and her topic will be, "Ruth and Naomi." Save the date! ■

HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION

GriefShare, a grief recovery support group and seminar open to anyone who grieves the death of a loved one, will meet at the **West Shore Baptist Church**, 2025 Market St., Camp Hill, Pa., on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m., March 2 through June 1. Pastors and church leaders interested in learning more about this grief recovery ministry should visit www.griefshare.org. ■

FBC, York (*Tim Munson*) will be working through the book, *Outflow*, by David Ping and Steve Sjogren, in their small group ministry during February and March. ■

MONONGAHELA ASSOCIATION

MBA Pastor and Spouse Dinner/Meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 21, at Great Bethel Baptist Church, Uniontown, at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Scott Hoppe and his wife, Jackie, will be the hosts for the evening. ■

Members and friends of **Olive Branch, Belle Vernon** (*Ken Sommerfeldt*) gathered together for a fun evening of bowling, soda and pizza. Everyone enjoyed getting together and spending time together.

Steelers and Packers fans gathered together to watch the Super Bowl. Two televisions were set up and lots of snack foods were consumed. Pastor Ken and his wife, Paula, left the evening happy while all others went home a little on the sad side. Everyone enjoyed themselves and made plans for a rematch next year.

Couples from Olive Branch Baptist attended a Sweet Heart Banquet. Our fellowship hall was decorated in colors of pink and red with twinkling lights. The evening began with a catered meal and ended with fun and festive games. Prizes were given to the winners and everyone went home with a full stomach and a smile. ■

Star Junction (*Donald Bowser*) will participate in the local Lenten Services organized by the Perryopolis Community Ministerial Association. SJBC will host the services on Wednesday, March 23, the second Wednesday of Lent, at noon. Rev. Glen Hart from Harmony Presbyterian Church will offer the message. A light luncheon will be served after the service to those attending. The offering will benefit the local missions and food bank supported by the congregations within the Perryopolis Community Ministerial Association. ■

PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION

Save the Date! Dr. Gary McIntosh, president of Church Growth Network and author of the included "Growth Points" newsletter will be the guest speaker at the Fall Continuing Education event on Saturday, Sept. 24. (Location to be announced.) Dr. McIntosh has served as a consultant for over 27 years,

written 18 books on church growth and six manuals on pastoral ministry, served as a pastor and CE director for over 15 years, and is the recipient of the Donald A. McGavran award from the American Society for Church Growth, the Distinguished Alumni award from Colorado Christian University, The Donald A. McGavran award from the Fuller School of Intercultural Studies, and the Robert B. Fisher award for Faculty Excellence at Biola University. Don't miss it! Everyone is welcome! ■

North Hills Community (*Tim Spring*) is participating in a community-wide food drive. The weeks following the holidays are usually a time when the food pantry experiences a low number of donations. For the month of February, churches across the North Hills are joining together to help feed hungry neighbors in need. In addition to our usual monthly support of the food pantry, extra donations are being collected and will be taken to the North Hills Community Outreach. This is the second year that North Hills Community Baptist Church has participated in the collection. ■

Camp Carmel Ski Day at Hidden Valley, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 10:30 a.m. The plan is to have a short lesson and then hit the slopes for either skiing, boarding or tubing. Learn more by visiting info@CampCarmel.com or www.facebook.com/pages/Camp-Carmel/126257974584. ■

The Church Leadership Institute of Northeastern PA will offer a course on Clergy Ethics, Friday, May 20 (6:30 – 10 p.m.) and Saturday, May 21 (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at the Calvary Baptist Church; 42 Washington Blvd; Williamsport, PA 17701. Contact Eleanor Siegrist, administrator, at 814-944-1468 or ewsiegrist@gmail.com for more information. ■

A new shorter version of the **2010 Cooperating Church Annual Reports** has been sent to each church. It's only three pages and most of the first page is pre-printed with your church information. Please take a few minutes and fill out this report. You can file your report two ways: online at <http://annualreport.abcis.org>, or by filling out the hard copy. Either way, what you are able to share concerning

your church and pastor is important information, enabling us to better partner with your congregation in ministry. If you have questions or need the forms, please call 888-687-0883 or visit pghbaptist@aol.com. Thank you! ■

Men With a Mission will be held Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Olive Branch Baptist Church; 296 State Route 981; Belle Vernon, PA 15012. It will be a fun-filled day for men. Highlights include presentations on how to reach out to men and welcome them into the church, developing youth ministries, mission presentations, information on the 57th ABMOPAD Annual Retreat, and a hands-on building project to benefit Camp Carmel. Special music will be provided by *Bond Servant* and more.

The ABMOPAD Disaster Relief Trailer will be on site. The goal is to have three Disaster Relief Trailers located across the Region that would be equipped and ready to go, should disaster strike. In support of that goal, each man is asked to bring a box of nails (6, 8, 10, or 12 penny) or dry wall screws (3/4" and up) to help equip the trailer. Let's help to provide what they need to help others.

The registration deadline is Friday, March 11. The cost is \$10 prepaid and \$12 at the door. Churches with groups of 10 or more will receive a \$2 discount per person if prepaid. The first 96 people to register will receive a free Men with a Mission baseball hat. Please make your check payable to the Pittsburgh Baptist Association and mail it to PBA; 159 N. Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Further information can be obtained by calling 412-687-3940 or visiting pghbaptist@aol.com. All net proceeds will benefit the Camp Carmel Mess Hall Fund. ■

Paul Sandusky, executive minister of *Rankin Christian Center*, is asking for some assistance with their Pitcairn site; 428 Highland Avenue; Pitcairn, PA 15140. They are looking for a team of volunteers who would be willing to clean the building. Currently, the Pitcairn site is only using the lower floor as a food pantry. They would like to explore the possibility of utilizing more of the building for ministry. Rankin will supply

all the cleaning products. They are hoping to have a team scheduled for early March. If your church would like to help, please contact the ABCOPAD Western Office at 412-687-3940 or pghbaptist@aol.com. ■

READING ASSOCIATION

FBC, Reading (*Mike Hall*) lead a Mission Team to the Dominican Republic, Jan. 29 to Feb. 12. There were nine team members each week, representing FBC, Reading; FBC, Jeanette; FBC, Monroeville; and Great Bethel Baptist, Uniontown.

Week 1 – Iglesia Riviera del Caribe
New construction and ground breaking for a worship and education facility began with excavation, pouring footer, laying foundation block and building the skeletal support structures needed for walls and roofing.

Week 2 – San Cristobal
El Redil Baptist Church owns a former orphanage. They have a vision to transform it into a Retreat, Conference Center and Christian Youth Camp. A new roof was a priority and many facility updates are planned. Daily VBS was led by mission team members each week for the children. ■

RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION

Media, Middletown (*Jeff Evans*) would like to share another testimony of healing from their outreach ministry, The Healing Rooms of Del. Co. A lady came in for prayer for cancer. She testifies that "God has put his healing touch on the lymph node on the left side of my neck for the first time in three years. The test showed that the lymph node has shrunk. Also, there was a question regarding my right kidney. The MRI on that came back negative. Praise and Glory be all His." As the Word of God says; "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sins and live for righteousness: by his wounds you have been healed." (I Peter 2:24) ■

TIOGA ASSOCIATION

The Bradford and Tioga Baptist Associations will co-sponsor an ABW Ministries Retreat, April 29 – 30, at the Mt. Zion Retreat Center; RR 1; Roaring

Branch, PA 17765. Thelma Schaller will be the guest speaker and her topic will be, "Ruth and Naomi." Save the date! ■

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Don't forget to check out our website often at www.abcopad.org! ■

THE WALDENS

We are so excited for Kevin and Melody Walden, who finally have all of their furniture and belongings in their new home! We also rejoice with Melody in her call to become the Family Life Pastor at the Hatboro Baptist Church. ■

REGIONAL ADJUNCTS' TRAINING

Training for our Regional Adjuncts will be happening in a variety of settings over the coming month. Please be in prayer for the Conflict Mediation Team, the Search Committee Adjuncts and the Leadership Learning Community Mentors as they begin their ministries ... it's an exciting new day of ministry in our midst! ■

Celebration of Mission Giving

This single month compared to the same single month last year.

| | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| United Mission Basics | \$39,007 | \$36,171 |
| Love Gift | \$2,547 | \$2,781 |
| Partners in Ministry | \$15,023 | \$10,513 |
| Annual Offerings: | | |
| A.F.C. | \$869 | \$207 |
| O.G.H.S. | \$45,581 | \$1,185 |
| R.M.M.O. | \$18,396 | \$20,926 |
| W.M.O. | \$7,626 | \$9,969 |

To view your own church's current giving amounts, visit our website and on the home page click on *World Mission Reports*.

The cumulative comparison figures

- United Mission Basics is behind in by \$2,836. The increase in United Missions (includes UMB, Love Gift and Designations) amounts to \$391 more in actual dollars that ABCOPAD received this year.
- A.F.C. is behind by \$662. The decrease amounts to \$194 less in actual dollars that ABCOPAD received this year.
- Partners in Ministry is behind by \$4,510.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR NEW MINISTRY DESIGN:
WWW.ABCOPAD.ORG/ABOUT_US/REGIONAL-MINISTRY-DESIGN.ASPX

FOR MORE WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US:
OUR STAFF DIRECTORY:
WWW.ABCOPAD.ORG/ABOUT_US/STAFFDIRECTORY.ASPX

OUR PRIMARY CONTACT PAGE:
WWW.ABCOPAD.ORG/ABOUT_US/CONTACTUS.ASPX

MARCH 2011 DEADLINE

Items to be included in the March issue of Notes & News need to arrive by **noon, Thursday, March 10.**

Please send all material to Carol Bicking.

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Thank you!

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