

MISSION ADVOCATE COMMUNICATOR

American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Mission Advocate
Communicator

May 2008

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The Power of Partnership

As part of the 2008 Biennial, churches will have the opportunity to partner together in ministry by building a home for a needy family through Habitat for Humanity Blair County (HFHBC). HFHBC will supply technical leadership, materials, and most importantly the family. ABCOPAD will supply the funds, ~ \$80,000, and most of the labor ~ approximately 6,000 volunteer hours.

We need to start raising the funds as soon as possible. To date, we have received \$1,799.44 towards our goal. The entire balance will be due by the end of the year.

The Plan: We break ground, Wed., June 4, HFHBC will lay the foundation with walls level to the first floor. In early July, ABCOPAD volunteers will step up and begin our share of the construc-

tion. The first project will be the first-floor deck. Construction should go rather quickly, since it is a panelized house and will be weatherproofed within a few weeks. The goal is to finish the build by December 31.

How Can Your Church Help?

Pray

Please make this a matter of prayer, both personally and in your church. Prayer warriors will be enlisted in every church. Pray for the financial needs, for workers, for all the myriad of details as they are worked through. Also, pray for the family who will ultimately move into this home. Pray for all who will participate, and especially for those who are providing leadership.



Philippians 1:4-6

*Coming together in Ministry and Mission
for the Glory of God*

And above all, pray that God would be glorified through this mission.

Give

Be generous. Give both your dollars and your time.

Start recruiting your volunteers. It will take all of our efforts to achieve the goal of building this house, because we can do more together than we ever could alone. This house will serve as a witness to the community of His Presence and Power in our midst.





3 Ways To Donate Towards the Habitat Project

- ✂ Online;
- ✂ Through Your Local Church Treasurer;
- ✂ Direct Giving to ABCOPAD.

When using the standard remittance form, enter the amount of the gift on the line designated as “One Great Hour of Sharing” and in the memo line to the left write “ABCOPAD Habitat Blair County, PA.”

There are other Habitat Projects, so please make sure you specify Blair Co., PA!

Unfortunately, we cannot accept gifts of building materials because Habitat requires that all houses in a given neighborhood be as near to identical as possible.

Costs For Some Elements of the ABCOPAD Habitat Build House

A fun way to help raise the necessary funds is to select an individual item as a goal, such as the pull-down attic stairs. Breaking it down helps to make it seem a little easier to attain. Perhaps, if there are 10 stairs-every \$9 could purchase one more step till you reach the top of your goal. Below is a list of supplies necessary for the build. Consider using the following items as your Vacation Bible School Projects.

Items	Units	Cost	Items	Units	Cost
Box of Nails	2	\$50	Closet Doors	4	\$50
Shingles	1	880	Interior Doors	9	70
Exterior Door	3	200	Paint	1	270
Siding	1	1,000	Door Hardware	1	120
Window	9	200	Carpet Pad	1	450
Main Electrical Box	1	135	Carpet	2	450
Copper Wire	1	560	Vinyl Flooring	2	300
Bathtub & Fixtures	1	300	Insulation	29	35
Copper Pipe	1	300	Insulation	22	45
Bathroom Fan/Light	1	60	Insulation	16	50
Chandelier	1	100	Sliding Door	1	625
Kitchen Sink	1	70	Pull-Down Attic Stairs	1	90
Vanity Top	1	70	Drywall	100	9
Toilet	2	100	Box of Drywall Screws	2	55
Bathroom Sink	1	65	Land	1	7,000
Kitchen Counter Top	1	350	Truss, Wall & Roof Package	13	1,000
Kitchen Cabinets	1	2,000			



ABCOPAD 2008 Biennial
The Power of Partnership — October 24-26
 Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” —Philippians 1:4-6 (NIV)



Bible Study with Dr. Stanley Slade
 Consultant to the
 Executive Director of the
 Board of International Ministries

NEW: Church Leadership Institute of the SE

Is God calling you to grow deeper in your understanding of your faith and walk with Christ? Have you hungered for something more? Are you seeking God’s leading towards more effective ministry service...than CLI may be God’s answer for you!



The first two courses begin Sept. 6, at Upper Merion Baptist Church, over a 12-week Saturday semester: Biblical Interpretation taught by Rev. Robert Stradling and Old Testament Studies by Pastor Christopher Heisey-Terrell.

For more information please contact Rev. Dr. Alan Selig, CLI Southeast Administrator at CLISoutheast@gmail.com or 610-933-4352. Registration deadline is August 23rd.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.”
Hebrews 13:16 A

The AB Men 54th Annual Retreat
 August 1-3, 2008
 Shippensburg University

“Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness”

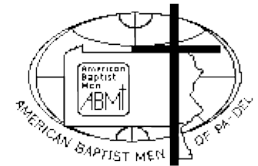
Guest Speaker: **Rev. Robert Santilli**

Bob serves as Special Assistant to the Executive Director, Prayer & Pastoral Care, International Ministries

Cost: Single Room	\$125.00
Double Room	\$110.00
Air Conditioned Apartment	\$135.00
Per Diem Rate	\$85.00

Make your check payable to ABMOPAD and mail it to: Robert McQue, Sr.
 21301 Anns Choice Way
 Warminster, PA 18974

Phone 215-443-5065
 Cell 215-582-5897



FACT: The U.S. spends about \$20.7 billion each year on foreign aid — while Americans spend \$34.7 billion on diet and weight-loss products.
 Church World Service

\$40,000 in Scholarships!

Christian Community Credit Union’s “Focused on the Future” scholarship program is awarding \$40,000 in scholarships! To qualify, applicants need to be members of the Credit Union and enrolled in 12 units or more for undergraduate students; 8 units or more for graduate and post-graduate students at an accredited college, university or seminary. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2,000. Visit mycccu.com/students for details. Applications are due by June 13, 2008.

American Baptist Women's Ministries Conference Come to the Edge...TRUST – June 27–29, 2008, Lewisburg, PA



“But those who trust the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired.” Isaiah 40:31

All ABCOPAD women who wish to renew themselves spiritually and fellowship with other women who are seeking God's direction in their lives are welcome. The Conference will feature dynamic speakers, interesting and informative workshops, and fellowship with other believers. Special recognition will be given for outstanding church support to Love Gift and the Break the Chains mission project.

Come to the Edge...and see what God has planned for you!



Leslie D. Callahan, Bible Study Leader

Having experienced her call to ministry at an early age, Leslie began the public proclamation of the gospel at age 19.

Noted for her preaching and teaching gifts, she was recognized in the June 2005 edition of the African American Pulpit as one of the "20 to Watch," outstanding African American ministers under age 40 who are playing a major role in shaping the future of the African American church.



Lynn Nelson Missionary Speaker DR of the Congo

Lynn taught courses at the Pastoral Training Institute in Kikongo for the students' wives. In

her spare time, she organized a Library Literacy Outreach Project, Sunday Schools and Vacation Bible Camps. The Nelsons are retiring after 10 years in the field.

Workshop Choices

Friday: Session A

Presidents; Church and Community; Love Gift; White Cross; Mission and Service; and How Do I Plan a E.W.E. Retreat?; Hands on Mission Project—Bandage Rolling

Saturday; Session B

Mugs & Muffins; Biblical Storytelling; You Can Do More, So Much More; Memory Impairment—Increasing Quality of Life; Self-Defense Beginners; Open those Shutters; Finding Harmony: Blending Contemporary and Traditional Music in Worship; Over the Edge! Beyond Your Church's Doorstep; How to Support our Missionaries; Mini Birdhouse

Saturday, Session C

Mugs & Muffins; Self-Defense Intermediate; A Pocket Full of Joy; Good Grief; Step by Step: The Spiritual Journey at the Edge of the Promised Land; Come to the Edge of Your Comfort Zone; The Joys and Challenges of a Pastor's Wife; The Gospel According to High School Musical; Conference Choir Rehearsal; Soaring to Financial Freedom In Christ; What Does Healthful Eating Look Like?; Disaster Relief

Participants attend one workshop per session.

Cost: \$135

After May 31: \$145

AB Girls: \$100

To Register:

Make check payable to: ABWMOPAD and send to: Barbara Diefenderfer, 140 Lizard Creek Road, Andreas, PA 18211

Call: 570-386-2457
or email:

bbkcdief@ptd.net
for more information.

Visit the ABCOPAD website for more information and downloadable registration forms
www.abcopad.org



National Ministries Special Interest Missionaries 2008 – 2011

Robert (3/23) & Lori (12/5) Bishop

Sarah 6/19/89; Carter 6/17/91;
Bobby 2/3/96; Abby 1/10/97

Neighborhood Action/Christian Ctr
Dayton Christian Center
1352 W. Riverview Avenue
Dayton, OH 45407

937-275-7174 (center)
937-275-7306 (office)
E-mail: Labc2@juno.com

Lisa Harris (5/2)

Neighborhood Action/Christian Ctr
Bethel Neighborhood Center
14 S. Seventh Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

913-371-8218
E-mail: lrharris@bethelcenter.org
www.bethelcenter.org

Mark (3/9) and Liz (3/30) Samuel

Annalese 6/2/98; Michaela 12/8/99

Neighborhood Action/Christian Ctr
Neighborhood Ministries
75 Jackson Drive
Campbell, OH 44405

330-755-8696
E-mail: OhioNM@aol.com
www.ohionm.org

International Ministries Special Interest Missionaries 2008 – 2011

Barbara (2/29) & Dwight (9/25) Bolick

Jackson 5/31/99; William 10/21/99
Casilla 9; Temuco, CHILE
E-mail: ddbolick95@yahoo.com

Host Partner Organizations

Convencion de Iglesias Bautistas de la
Mision Chilena, Chile

Ann (1/11) & Bruce (9/11) Borquist

Elena (Adult) Asa 12/10/92
Jami; Rua Alecrim 100, Bairro
Jaqueline; Belo Horizonte/MG
31787-150, BRAZIL
E-Mail: borquist4all@gmail.com

Host Partner Organizations

Convencao Batista Nacional, Brazil

Susan (4/8) Hegarty

Kathryn Susana 12/5/2000
International Ministries; PO Box 851;
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Host Partner Organizations

Convención Bautista de Cuba
Oriental, Cuba

Nancy (2/17) & Stephen (4/11) James

Adults: Kirstin Sasha, Miriam Rachel,
Carrie Eileen, Andrew, Asia,
Micah 5/20/1994
DMG-8780; 100 Airport Avenue;
Venice, FL 34285
E-Mail: snjames8@yahoo.com

Patricia (10/8) & Tim (3/18) Long

Adults: Rebekah Grace, Anna
Kathleen, Aaron, Daniel 2/25/89
1374 Los Coches St;
Chula Vista, CA 91910
E-Mail: TLong16168@aol.com

Host Partner Organizations

Convención Regional Bautista
"Dios con Nosotros," United States

David (12/25) Reed and Joyce (4/29)

Anderson-Reed
Ian Elden 7/13/1991; Aaron
Christopher Lewis 2/9/1994
c/o Casabuena, 3065 Belisario
Dominguez; E/Sonora Y Sinaloa;
Col. Pueblo Nuevo; La Paz, BCS 23060,
MEXICO
E-Mail: mexicoreeds@gmail.com

Host Partner Organizations

Convención Regional de Iglesias Bautis-
tas de Baja California Sur, Mexico

Adalia (6/29) and Raymond (12/2)

Schellinger
Michelle 12/28/1992, Melissa 7/15/1996
PO Box 777; Chula Vista, CA 91912
E-mail: schellingergutierrez@yahoo.com

Host Partner Organizations

Convención Regional Bautista
"Dios con Nosotros," United States

Stanley (11/16) Slade

Adults: David, Jonathan
2 Lenape Circle; Royersford, PA 19468
E-Mail: stan.slade@abc-usa.org
Global Consultant

Karen Rachael (3/17) Smith

PO Box 29; Chiang Mai 50000
THAILAND
E-Mail: newlife@pobox.com

Host Partner Organizations

Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship,
Thailand

Carole (9/7) and Charles (2/18) Sydnor

Adults: Bryan Joseph, Jyoti Dawn,
Valerie Jane
HDCS: P.O. Box 8975 EPC 1461
Kathmandu, NEPAL
E-Mail: sydnors@wlink.com.no

Host Partner Organizations

Human Development & Community
Services, Nepal



The Special Interest Missionaries listed above have been assigned to ABCOPAD. Let's support and encourage them!

Myanmar Baptists on Front Lines of Cyclone Relief, Housing Thousands



On Friday, May 2, along the Irrawaddy Delta to the south of Yangon, Nargis had pushed a 12-ft. tidal wave an estimated 45

miles into the heavily populated region. At least 100,000 persons perished with many more left homeless without access to food or clean water.

Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) was faced with the challenge of providing an urgent response to hundreds of thousands of people affected by the storm.

The MBC -- which traces its roots directly to the mission work of Adoniram and Ann Judson in 1813 -- is made up of approximately 2 million members who speak 20 languages in as many regional conventions. Myanmar is home to one of the largest Baptist populations in the world.



Among an array of diverse ministries, the MBC operates the Christian Social Service and Development Department (CSSDD). The

CSSDD, the relief arm, coordinates and equips various holistic ministry throughout Myanmar.

Even through Sunday, the streets of Yangon were blocked with downed trees, power lines and other debris. The first meeting of the convention staff after the storm took place around noon on Monday, May 5, although many staffers were still not able to reach the office compound.

On Tuesday, the MBC decided to form a central response committee in coordination with the lead-

ership of affected Baptist conventions. As the affected region lacks infrastructure and because fuel for rescue and relief efforts was in short supply, the MBC coordinated the purchase of diesel for relief boats to ship emergency food rations, such as rice, noodles, biscuits, and bottled water, throughout the delta. It was also determined that an enormous area of farmland in Myanmar's major rice production region had been inundated with salt water, currently leaving only one third of the crop area still capable of producing the staple.

The convention staff met again on Friday, May 9 to plan the establishment of refugee camps. By May 12, 20 facilities were set up, and by May 16, roughly 31 camps

had been established serving 10,000 to 12,000 people. All of the camps are managed in conjunction with the Karen and Pwo Karen Baptist



Conventions and the Myanmar Baptist Churches Union.

The current focus of the MBC and its partners is on immediate relief response. The entire church has turned its focus and full energy to assisting the victims of this devastating event. With very little outside help, they have risen to the challenge in a remarkable way.

The convention and its partners are also planning long-term assistance to enable affected persons to begin rebuilding their lives. The convention is also faced with its own recovery process, as the heavily damaged MBC office and compound requires extensive repairs.

American Baptists wishing to support ongoing Myanmar efforts can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support, designating contributions "OGHS-Myanmar Cyclone."



International Ministries Responds to Chinese Earthquake with \$5,000 Relief Grant

International Ministries has sent a \$5,000 grant to our partner, the Amity Foundation, for immediate relief efforts, after one of the strongest earthquakes to strike China in decades happened on May 12, leaving

thousands dead and more missing.

More than 15,000 people are estimated to have died when the earthquake, which measured 7.9 in magnitude, struck in Sichuan Province, an area in Southwestern China. The Province is very near a border with

Myanmar, which has been devastated recently with a cyclone. The grant was provided through the American Baptist World Relief Office with One Great Hour of Sharing funds. Ben Chan, Area Director for East Asia for International Ministries, said that much more will be needed.

Amity Foundation, is providing more than \$140,000 in immediate aid, such as clean water, food, medicine and shelter on the ground for those affected. Amity is a trusted partner, with good relationships with the churches and the government. They are playing a crucial role in helping victims and will need our continued financial support to be most effective.

International Ministries Launches Global Food Crisis Fund

American Baptists wishing to support ongoing relief efforts in China or to confront the global food crisis can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support, designating contributions "OGHS-China Earthquake or OGHS-Global Food Crisis."



IM has launched a \$100,000 Global Food Crisis Fund (\$50,000 from IM and \$50,000 from OGHS) which will provide desperately needed help in dealing with the rising costs of basic foods.

\$50,000 will go to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium, to help them with the rising cost of rice, which is the primary staple food given to hundreds of thousands of displaced people living in the refugee camps. The Thailand Burma Border Consortium supplies all the food in nine camps. They still need about \$7 million to avoid having to severely cut

the food ration.

The remaining \$50,000 is being made available to our Partners through grants from the fund.

A \$5,000 grant has already been approved for Jean Rabel, a region on the northwestern tip of Haiti, where missionaries Kihomi and Madubiga Nzunga serve. Madubiga told International Ministries, "The situation there is critical." He said families are reportedly selling their children in hopes that where they are taken they will be able to eat and survive.



Partners in the Philippines and North Korea have also applied for support during this critical period.

The food crisis is caused by many factors including: the rising cost of oil, which makes food more expensive to transport, government subsidies that have made staple food more expensive, and ongoing poverty, where people simply cannot afford to pay the cost of the food that is available.

Support the Home Mission You Care About Most



Are you passionate about the number of children in the United States today who don't get a fair shake at life? Or concerned about youth hearing the message of God's redeeming love in the midst of our cacophonous culture of violence, materialism and self interest?

Now you can support those parts of National Ministries' mission you care most deeply about. NM new online giving page allows you to direct your dollars to programs such as the ABCUSA Children in Poverty initiative, the upcoming national gathering of American Baptist youth, and more.

Share the Love of Jesus!

Children in your Vacation Bible School can help meet the needs of children in the United States and around the world! Adopting a special VBS project is a great way to help kids learn about mission. The 2008 project list is available on the Nat'l Min. website.

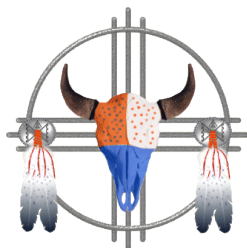


NM Workshops for Church Life and Leadership

Available free online in PDF format. Titles include AB Heritage, Teaching & Relating to Children, Deacons as Servant Leaders and more. Visit the Nat'l Min website.

www.nationalministries.org

Great Needs, Great Blessings: New Hope for Murrow Indian Children's Home



The Murrow Indian Children's Home was founded in 1902 by an enterprising missionary and educator who began taking in orphan and homeless Native American children soon after the Civil War. The American Baptist Home Mission Society assumed full responsibility for the school in the early 1900s, and the orphanage was moved to the campus of Bacone College in 1910. Over the years, the Murrow Home has been committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with disadvantaged Native American children by providing loving care for hundreds of abused, neglected or abandoned children. The home offers residential and crisis care as well as daycare for children of teen mothers. Children are also encouraged to learn about their Native American background and culture.

The Murrow Home depends heavily on church donations. During the last few years, a lack of funds had become a critical issue. "Our children need stability and consistency, and at times we had to decide whether to pay staff or buy groceries," says Director Joan Brown, a commissioned American Baptist national missionary. In 2007, members of the Creek Tribe made a one-time gift of \$100,000. The tribe is also considering funding construction of a much-needed community facility. Tallgrass Broadcasting sponsored a "Radiothon" on eight area stations to publicize the home's needs. People prayed, made financial gifts, and contributed volunteer services as well as much-needed practical items which helped to alleviate the immediate need. American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries, a program of National Ministries, has also committed resources and training assistance to the Murrow Home in the area of development and long-range planning.

You can help by donating urgently needed supplies through NM Mission Service Projects, including baby care kits, Bibles, books, games, knitted items, quilts. In addition, White Cross provides school supplies, and personal care items. You can also consider sponsoring a Volunteers In Mission trip, contact Victoria Goff, for more information 1-800-ABC-3USA X 2449.



ABCUSA New Stewardship Webpage

The ABCUSA Office of Mission Resource Development announced a new content-rich stewardship website, with lots of information of practical use to local church pastors, stewardship committees, stewardship consultants and anybody interested in the topic of stewardship. The site includes inspirational pieces, real life stories of how our United Mission dollars are at work, and links to helpful resources. A section of success stories, where congregations can share ideas that have worked for them in stewardship promotion is under construction. Sections of the website include:

- ✦ Available Resources – containing articles, bulletin inserts for download and materials to purchase.
- ✦ UM and You – a source for monthly giving statistics and for the new UM brochure coming soon.
- ✦ Mission Support/Offerings – details of our four special offerings along with links to their sites.
- ✦ Links – an easy, direct link to a number of general stewardship websites
- ✦ Stewardship Moments – brief inspirational pieces, which could serve as the basis for a sermon or motivational lesson, or can stand alone.

http://www.abc-usa.org/leadership/stewardship/stewardship_page/slices/stewardship_page.htm



Ministers Council – <http://www.ministerscouncil.com>

Together in Ministry

Applications are being received for 2009 covenant group grants. Groups may be comprised of pastoral leaders or groups may be a combination of pastoral and lay leaders focused on faith practices. All information on group formation options may be found on the Ministers Council website.

Together in Ministry study groups help to promote positive relationships, improved communication, improved mutual respect, increased faith, improved collegiality and fellowship, and increased sharing of thoughts and perspectives.

Interim Ministry Training Conference

September 29-
October 1

Parchment Valley
Conference Center

American Baptist serving as hands and feet of Christ “...see my hands. ...Stop doubting and believe.” (John 20:27)



National Gathering of AB Youth
July 5-11, Estes Park, CO

Ralph Garfield Schell Presidential Award: Do you know a local Ministers Council member deserving of this award? Nominations are due by June 15. For more information, visit the Ministers Council website.

Criteria: a pastoral leader who is extraordinarily faithful in carrying out the principles of the Ministers Council Code of Ethics, as well as unusually effective in fulfilling the objectives of the five committees of our structure: Communication, Denominational Relationships, Membership & Constituency, Professional Effectiveness, and Spiritual and Personal Wholeness. The award is announced annually at the closing banquet of the American Baptist Ministers Council Senate.



AB Historical Society Valley Forge Archives and Rochester Library Closed

At the American Baptist Historical Society Annual Meeting, in September 2006, the Board of Managers voted to

consolidate its collections in Atlanta, GA, on the campus of Mercer University. The Mercer proposal will enable the Historical Society to continue services to its ABC partners, as well as to other users of the collections. The campus provides ample housing for growing collections and facilities for hosting programs and creating publications that reach out to the next generation. This will be the fifth home for the Society in its 153-year history.

Today both the Valley Forge Archives and the Rochester Library locations of the American Baptist Historical Society are now closed. The staff and volunteers are now totally involved in organizing, preparing and packing the various records, collections and books for the relocation to Atlanta. The Society hopes to be in a position to begin processing some research requests in July 2008. Please watch the AB Historical Society website for updates on the relocation ~ www.baptisthistory.us.



Narrative Budget

A team of ABCOPAD officers and staff members have worked hard to create a "Narrative Budget."

The hope is that the budget will be a useful tool in better understanding how the Region operates. By design, it is short and hopefully uses language easy to understand. The Narrative Budget is an attempt to share the story of ABCOPAD's ministry with our partners throughout the Region.

It is available on the ABCOPAD website. Check it out.

Baptist History Course

A course on Baptist History is being offered by Pastor Robert Berger *free of charge* at the Hughesville Baptist Church; 37 N 3rd St; Hughesville, PA 17737, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 3 Saturdays, June 14, 28 and July 12. Participants are asked to attend all 3 days to experience the full benefit of the class.

The textbook that will be required is *The Baptist Heritage, Four Centuries of Baptist Witness* by H. Leon McBeth. There will be lectures, discussion, video presentations and reading assignments.



For more information, or to register, please contact Pastor Berger at 570-584-2280 or E-Mail: emberger@windstream.net



FACT: 60 to 80 percent of farmers in the developing world are women. In sub-Saharan Africa, women account for 75 percent of household food production. Yet 70 percent of those who suffer from hunger worldwide are women and girls. (Bread for the World/World Food Program)

FACT: Over the past 10 years, Burma's army has destroyed more than 3,000 villages. As a result, an estimated 500,000 ethnic civilians currently are internally displaced in eastern Burma, and there are believed to be more than 2.5 million civilians from Burma, including migrant workers and refugees, in Thailand. (Church World Service)

Debbie and John Coats to Leave Mission Service with International Ministries

Dear Supporters, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is time to let you know about an important major decision we are making. We are resigning from American Baptist International Ministries, effective April 30. Let me immediately say we are not resigning because there is a major conflict or spat between ourselves and International Ministries, or between any persons and ourselves, or a conflict about doctrinal issues, or disagreement about our ministry. The situation leading to our resignation is based on a personal family concern regarding our children. International Ministries and ourselves have tried to come to a mutual decision about what should be done about this situation but we simply have not been able to.



Many months ago, International Ministries asked us to seek professional assistance for our family. International Ministries paid the costs to make this professional consultation possible. Those with whom we met made some strong recommendations to International Ministries. After months of discussions with us on the matter, International Ministries has concluded that it would be best for our family to depart from Cambodia and relocate to a place where our children could access regular long-term counseling in a safer environment. International Ministries is not willing to continue supporting us as missionaries unless we leave Cambodia, at least until our children have finished high school and this concern has been resolved. These discussions with International Ministries have been honest and congenial. They have not been antagonistic. International Ministries has been serious about finding a common solution, and has been generous and supportive in finding a way to help our family, and at the same time retain us as missionaries.

Nevertheless, we have come to a different conclusion about what direction to take. Like International Ministries, Debbie and I have been praying and thinking through this situation for some time now, and we believe God has been showing us he wants us to stay in Cambodia. Some may ask why we have come to a different conclusion if we are all praying. I don't know the answer to that. The Lord knows. We certainly did not plan or expect to be leaving International Ministries at this time. We have some grieving that we are separating from International Ministries. Both Debbie and I have long-term relations with International Ministries. My parents were International Ministries missionaries. Debbie's father was an ABC pastor, and both her parents have long been supportive of International Ministries mission work.

We realize that some of you may question our decision. Yet we believe God has been clearly directing us to stay in Cambodia at this time, and since we believe God wants us to stay, we also believe that God will take care of our family and help us to work through these concerns. Please feel free to contact us if you would like more clarity how we came to our decision ~ djcoats@online.com.kh.

—Portion of a journal entry written by John Coats to American Baptists
The entire journal entry is posted on the International Ministries website.

As of May 1, International Ministries will no longer be able to receive or transmit gifts designated for the Coats ministry in Cambodia. However, our thoughts and prayers go out to the Coats family. We wish them well and are hopeful that we may again serve together in the future.

Your Mission Dollars at Work

When I was visiting villages in the Vanga health district to investigate rising rates of water-borne diseases, I noticed Manwana, a 10-year old boy walking on his knees and dragging his deformed legs behind him.

Two days later at Vanga Hospital, Manwana was waiting for me outside my clinic door. He and his mother had walked 7-hours to the hospital; his mother carried him all the way on her back. "What can I do for you?" I asked in my broken Kituba, their local language. Manwana piped up. "I'd like one of those chairs with wheels on it," he said, "so I can move around like other children and maybe one day go to school...and I'd like a new shirt. His sole article of clothing was the worn-out shirt he was wearing.

Two months later, I returned to his village. I could never describe the expression on his face when I pulled up to his hut with a shiny and sturdy wheelchair donated by the AB Men of Indiana and sent overseas by White Cross, a new set of clothes sent by a 12-year old boy from Maine, and funds from a retired pastor and his wife to enable Manwana to go to school.

A week later, I saw him at the far end of his village surrounded by a group of kids. The wheelchair may have seemed like a miracle for Manwana--but it was a spectacular event for every boy and girl in the village. The children all wanted to be the one to push Manwana; they called his wheelchair "notre velo" (our bike). In the midst of the group, Manwana was full of joy. Only days earlier no one wanted to be near him...now he was the center of attention. "How do you feel?" I asked him.

"Clean" he said "Doctor, I feel really clean."

I mentioned to a friend that I should have bought him more clothes if 'clean' was so important. Dr Ngoma chuckled. "He meant his hands are clean, not his clothes." Manwana has spent his entire life using his hands as feet, pulling and dragging his lame body behind on the ground. To be outside meant that his hands would be constantly in the dirt and his face and body inches from the ground. With the wheelchair, he is eye-to-eye with his peers. His hands, which were as calloused and thick as the soles of our feet, are now being prepared for nobler tasks: reading, writing, learning, touching and perhaps one day healing and sharing.

—Bill Clemmer, Democratic Republic of the Congo



Good News

Does your church have 'Good News' you'd like to share with American Baptists nationwide? ABC/USA is currently looking for short, factual stories that show God working in your church and community that will teach and inspire. Please share your stories via e-mail to webmaster@abc-usa.org with the subject line of *Good News*.

Habitat: Ground Breaking Ceremony

*Wednesday, June 4, 2008
1 pm "Sharp"*

*Habitat Build Site
209 - 223 Spruce Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601*



A ground breaking ceremony will be held at the property. Everyone from the ABCOPAD Region is invited to attend. Bring a shovel and help us break ground as we begin this exciting mission project together as "Partners In Ministry."

Special Note: On Street Parking is limited, please park on a nearby street and walk to the property.



**ABCOPAD/Habitat for Humanity Build
Altoona, Pennsylvania**

**Volunteer Registration Form
Beginning July 7, 2008 – December 31, 2008**

Rev. Stan Johnson, Project Leader, will contact Each Volunteer to Confirm Scheduling

Volunteer Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Age 16 or Older? YES _____ NO _____ Male _____ Female _____

Church: _____ Association: _____

Do You Have Any Experience With a Habitat Build Before? YES _____ NO _____

Date(s) Available: _____

Skills: _____

Preferences: _____

Comfortable Working at Heights (Roofs, Ladders, etc.)? YES _____ NO _____

Please List Any Special Needs or Restrictions: _____

Please return this form to Stan Johnson; ABCOPAD Habitat Build;
Liberty Baptist Church; Main & Bald Eagle Rds; PO Box 207; Blanchard,
PA 16826; Email: pastorstanj@msn.com Telephone: 570-962-2214



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2008 ABCOPAD
Partners In Ministry
Regional Support Goal \$95,000

Giving Hands... Come from a
Giving and Forgiving Savior



*In order for us to continue our ministry together, and to reach out in the new endeavors we believe the LORD has for us to achieve, we need God's People in ABCOPAD to Partner in Ministry with us through your faithful and growing support of our **ABCOPAD-Partners in Ministry** effort.*

*Our goal for this offering in 2008 is **\$95,000**, but together we believe that the God who "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask, or imagine" (Eph. 3:20) can surprise us with His Goodness and challenge His People to an even greater level of support!*

100% of your gifts to ABCOPAD-Partners in Ministry supports the mission and ministry of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

2008 Partners In Ministry Offering Material
is Available Online at the ABCOPAD Website: www.abcopad.org