



AMERICAN BAPTIST  
CHURCHES USA

# THE MISSION ADVOCATE COMMUNICATOR

American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

FALL 2006  
Volume 1

## GOD WILL ACHIEVE VICTORY... by Lauran Bethell

This week I visited Auschwitz with a friend. Most of the time, we were silent, walking through the ruins, the exhibitions in the museum, the sites of murder and torture. There are not words to describe the horror that millions of Polish, Gypsies, Jews, anyone who disagreed with Hitler, experienced there, those years ago. And every step of the way towards their death, they were deceived....deceived so that they would not protest, would not riot, would remain passive, until the final moment that they were killed. "Arbeit Macht Frei"-- "Work makes you free" are the words over the entry to the camp.... I can barely imagine the mind that ordered those words to be in that place...

I tried to put myself in that time period and wonder who I would have been....

Would I have been one of the deceivers, participating in the killing in the belief that my country and my race needed such blind and vicious loyalty in order to survive and thrive? Would I have tried to pretend that it just wasn't happening, do whatever I could to survive, and therefore deceive myself into passivity?

Or....would I have had the courage to try to protect those who were vulnerable, those being deceived, knowing that my own life could be at risk?

Thoughts about two people were on my mind during the day: Corrie Ten Boom and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Both did what they felt God was calling

them to do during this time. Corrie hid Jewish people in her home. Dietrich returned from the safety of the U.S. to his German homeland, to be a support to his community and then he became active in resistance activities. Corrie survived the concentration camp, Dietrich was killed. Their writings about their experiences of God meeting them in the midst of their misery and struggle have inspired masses of people. When I came home, I reread Dietrich's Letters and Papers From Prison. A couple of quotes challenged me, and I share them with you:

"We must plunge ourselves into the life of a godless world, without attempting to gloss over its ungodliness with a veneer of religion or trying to disfigure it....To be a Christian does not mean to be religious in a particular way, to cultivate some particular form of asceticism, but to be a person....it is not some religious act which makes a Christian what he is, but participation in the suffering of God in the life of the world."

And then, part of a poem, questioning, expressing queries of my own:

"Who am I?

Am I one person today and tomorrow another?

Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,

And before myself a contemptibly woebegone weakling?

Or is something within me still like a beaten army,

Fleeing in disorder from victory

already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.

Whoever I am, Thou knowest O God, I am Thine!"

"Whoever I am, Thou knowest O God, I am Thine...." When I go out on the streets where women are deceived, abused and killed, where it all seems so raw and so impossible, where some would say we are fools, and I sometimes think it's true, Dietrich's words serve as a balm, an encouragement. And once again, I realize that what we're called to do is not rescue the world, perhaps not even to see any successes or victories in our own time. What we're called to do is know that we belong to God. And then to know that God will achieve whatever victory there is to win. In that there is ultimate freedom, and ultimate peace. And with that knowledge tonight I go out, once again, on the streets, praying that God's presence will surround us, that God's presence will speak into the evil deception, that God's presence will speak peace and hope into the lives of women in prostitution, as well as their pimps. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your participation in the journey.

August 2006

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*Rev. Lauran Bethell is a Missionary Speaker & one of the world's leading authorities on the problems of international sex traffic. Lauran's profile can be found on page 5, MISSIONARY FOCUS*

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## GOT ANY MISSION NEWS TO SHARE?

Contact:  
724-838-7997  
dalouloucks@aol.com

The Mission Advocate Communicator newsletter is posted on the ABCOPAD website at [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)

Electronic reminders and/or hard copies of updates can be requested by contacting Dana Loucks at the ABCOPAD Western Office [dalouloucks@aol.com](mailto:dalouloucks@aol.com) 724-838-7997

## STEWARDSHIP



be surprised by God.  
pray. give. be amazed!

# 2006 World Mission Offering.



*“Let me add here a reality known to us all. United Mission (UM) giving is taking a sizable beating these days, and American Baptist Mission Support (ABMS) is not the worthy recipient of the “drain away.” Growing UM may be difficult in our present denominational condition, but UM is not dead; it can be stabilized. We can turn around this very powerful source of mission giving which undoubtedly benefits regional life, among other areas of our mission and ministry. In addition, let us all plan on submitting all 2006 mission giving in 2006. May I also encourage you to use all your influence, not only to continue speaking positively about our mission giving but also to grow the number of churches in your region enjoying the blessings of a commitment Sunday program this fall. And did you know this? More people in the United States today have more money than ever before.”*

*Rev. Leo S. Thorne, Ph.D.*

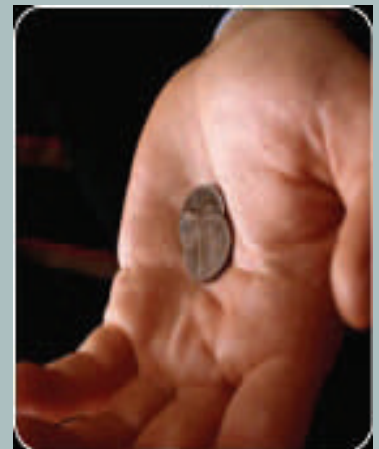
*Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development*

## NOW AVAILABLE

### American Baptist Missions On-line Giving

*Through a contract with Cashling, a company that processes on-line financial transactions, we are able to offer an opportunity to support Regional ministry through on-line donations.*

*Details and FAQs can be found on the [ABCOPAD website](#)*





**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**REUNION 2006**

*Reunion West*  
November 10-12  
First Baptist Church  
Monroeville, PA

*Reunion East*  
November 17-19  
First Baptist Church  
Bethlehem, PA

Contact Person: Eric Kraihanzel  
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*January, 2007*  
**Missions and Outreach Courses**  
*offered on an Auditing Basis*

*Do you have a passion for mission, and a desire to learn how to share your faith in new and compelling ways?*



If so, the Church Leadership Institute sites located in Harrisburg and Williamsport are offering two courses in Missions and Outreach that might be just what you're looking for!

This January, each site will be offering both classes on separate Friday evenings and Saturdays. As an auditing student, you can take one or both of the classes, and choose whether or not you want to do the readings. The cost to audit each portion of the course is \$37.50, with the schedule at each site as indicated below:

For more information, or to register for one or both of the classes, please click on the descriptive phrases located below:

[Mission and Outreach Course at the Harrisburg Site](#)  
[Mission and Outreach Course at the Williamsport Site](#)

**Harrisburg Site**  
**(The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church)**

**January 12-13th: Missions Course**  
*taught by the Rev. Frank Frischkorn*  
**January 19-20th: Outreach Course**  
*taught by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson*

**Williamsport Site**  
**(The Calvary Baptist Church)**

**January 5-6th: Outreach Course**  
*taught by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson*  
**January 19-20th: Outreach Course**  
*taught by the Rev. Frank Frischkorn*

## XTREME TESTIMONY



### WHAT IS MISSION?

This is a question we were given one night. At the time I was unsure what mission was for me. The leaders then told us that “mission is being, just being and being is more important than doing.”

In one of our exposures, we went to the small village of Belgica outside the city of Santa Cruz. At the village, the meaning of being and mission came together for me. The church is actually not your typical church. The “pastor” is a woman named Gladys, she drives an hour every week to teach the “congregation” about Jesus and God. The “congregation” is made up of the children of the village. The actual church building is a two-room structure in much need of repair. The lawn is overgrowing, the windows are dirty, cobwebs fill the rafters, and the peeling walls need to be painted.

Our exposure at the church was to help clean it up while we extended our hand of friendship to the children. For me I felt this church needed to look nice to make it feel safe for the children. So the job was to be more about the task and less about extending my hand and having fun. My view by the



featuring Xtreme Mission Xperiences

end of the day would be dramatically changed by two little children Jose Ernesto and Rosy. As we started cleaning the church I had been given the task to wash the windows. While I was working I got to know more and more about Jose Ernesto and Rosy. Jose Ernesto is a little six year old boy that seems to love life. He is so courageous and knows everyone in the village. As I worked Jose Ernesto seemed utterly fascinated by the squeegee it was like a kid watching a television show. Rosy is a four-year-old little girl that lives up to her name: a beautiful flower that everyone will love. At one point she came up to me and all I did to respond was to pick her up and hug her showing her that someone does care for her.

The mission became clear to me I found that I was not just doing the

painting and cleaning but befriending and being there with Jose Ernesto, Rosy, and the other children. The mission was expanding my mind trying to communicate with the children. There was a language barrier which I was able to combat with by using hugs, smiles, and laughter. I extended my hand of friendship. I exercised my faith and was exposed to different rules and quality of living. Through all of those I was able to explore God’s world and God’s beautiful creation which were the children. In the end of the experience I was able to separate being and doing I found that I could paint and get the job done but more importantly I could have fun playing, laughing, and enjoying the company of the children in the process. Henry Ford once said “If you think about it every experience is worth having.” Lana Lang in the television show smallville in one episode said “Life is about change sometimes it’s painful, sometimes it’s beautiful, but most of the time it’s both.” So what to you is mission? Loving someone? Giving a hug? Putting a smile on someone’s face? Is it listening to someone when they talk or tell a story? What is mission for you?



By Janelle: “Being @ Belgica”

## 2007 Xtreme Team Opportunities

The Xtreme Team will launch its tenth year of ministry by fielding two separate teams of young adults to two very different parts of the world in 2007.

One team has been invited by the "Dios Con Nosotros", the Baptist Convention of Northern Baja California, Mexico and ABC missionaries Adalia and Ray Schellinger-Gutierrez to experience mission in **MEXICO**.

The other team has been invited by the European Baptist Federation and ABC missionaries Nora and Pieter Kalkman to experience mission in **EASTERN EUROPE**. The Xtreme Team is designed to connect young adults with the global mission of American Baptists. Its purpose is to grow a passion and interest in mission for the here and now as well as to cultivate global mission leadership for the future.

The Xtreme Team is open to American Baptist young adults between the ages of 19-29. The cost of \$3900 covers all the expenses for the trip. The experience lasts approximately 6 weeks over the summer, and includes orientation and debriefing as well as 4 weeks in either Mexico or Eastern Europe.

There is still space available for those who have an interest to explore God’s word and world, examine their own priorities, experience mission and those involved in it, exercise their faith, extend their hands, and expand their world view. Apply online at [www.xtremeteamonline.org](http://www.xtremeteamonline.org)



## MISSIONARY FOCUS



Rev. Lauran Bethell

Lauran Bethell is a Global Consultant, based in Prague, Czech Republic. She serves as a consultant to encourage and facilitate Christ-based ministries that address the exploitation and abuse of women and children.

Lauran, the daughter of an American Baptist pastor, was a teacher at an international school in Hong Kong when she experienced God's call to missionary service. After graduation from seminary in the U.S., she was commissioned by International Ministries for service in Thailand. She helped to establish the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1987, offering freedom and hope in Jesus Christ to young women and girls who are sold, tricked or willfully drawn into prostitution. The New Life Center, now with branches in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, provides Christian education, literacy, and vocational training, and also rehabilitates former prostitutes and works to reduce risk factors among other women.

Throughout the 1990s, Lauran shared her knowledge and experiences in international venues, continuing to direct the New Life Center until 2000, when she moved to the Czech Republic.



**European Baptist Federation Member Associations: 50**  
**Baptists in Europe: 783,201** (Baptist World Alliance 2000 est.)  
**Total population of Europe: 512,545,086** (2001 est.)

**"God can do anything, you know - far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!"**

**He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us."**

Ephesians 3:20, The Message

### JOURNALS FOR

*August 18, 2006*

*February 27, 2006*

*February 21, 2006*

*can be found by found on the International Ministries website at*

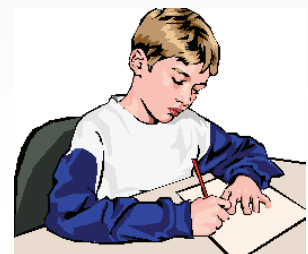
[www.internationalministries.com](http://www.internationalministries.com)

## BE A PEN PAL TO MISSIONARY KIDS

Did you know there are about 90 Missionary Kids living in 23 countries plus college students in the United States and Puerto Rico? Did you also know that there is a person in place to care for them specifically and make sure they are not lost in the mix? Tim Moore is the Director of MK Care and Concern of International Ministries.

Writing to the children of our ABC Missionaries out in the field is a creative opportunity to get your youth group or young children interested in Missions. It can be a fun way to form a lasting relationship with another child from across the globe.

Contact Tim Moore by email at [Tmoore@ABC-USA.org](mailto:Tmoore@ABC-USA.org)  
or phone at 800-222-2872 ext. 2123



If you receive this newsletter through the mail, check out the Missionary Kids insert.

## REGIONAL MISSIONS

### UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Pughtown Baptist Church to Ocean Springs, Mississippi ... Nov 19-26, 2006**

The Board of Missions at Pughtown Baptist Church is putting together another disaster trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi from Sunday, November 19 through Sunday, November 26. They are hoping to take a large group of people to make a significant impact on those who are still living in tents and FEMA trailers in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Contact Pastor Tim at [schwar21@aol.com](mailto:schwar21@aol.com) or call 610-469-6720

#### **ABW and ABCOPAD to Kodiak, Alaska ... June 18-29, 2007**

A working mission trip is well in the planning stages. If interested, a brochure and registration form await your call. Contact Lynn Swan at [swantown@aol.com](mailto:swantown@aol.com) or call 215-674-1935.

#### **FBC West Newton to Pass Christian, Mississippi ... February 24-March 3, 2007**

Information can be provided by contacting Joe Krofec at 724-309-2118 or John Reese at 724-518-8068.

### PAST MISSION TRIPS AND TESTIMONIES

## TO GOD BE THE GLORY GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE

#### **Pughtown Baptist Church to Ocean Springs, Mississippi ... January 7, 2006 – disaster relief efforts**

*"We thank God for His faithfulness in granting the team safe travel, good fellowship and allowing us to be hope-bearers and to make a difference on the Gulf Coast. Praise God we saw hope and abounding love. Praise God for the blessings received. Pray for Pat, Cindy, Chester, Pam, Ginger, Joseph, Diane and for the churches who are helping."* Pastor Tim Schwartz

#### **Oil Creek Association to the Gulf Coast in Mississippi ... February 2006 – disaster relief efforts**

Approximately 18 volunteers from North East, Erie, Greenville, Bradford, Cherry Tree, Allentown, Columbia Cross Roads, and Linesville teamed up and headed "separately" to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. *Led by Pastor David White*

#### **Calvary Baptist, Newark DE to La Paz, Mexico ... March 17, 2006 – worked with ABC Missionaries**

Ten volunteers went to Mexico – the first International Mission experience for Calvary. *"We had an incredible trip. God has changed each of us in ways we have yet to understand."* Rev. Carol West

#### **Christ Memorial Baptist Church to Slidell, Louisiana – April 2006 – disaster relief efforts**

Twelve church family members went from Christ Memorial Baptist Church in Dover, DE. The team helped in the surrounding area of New Orleans. FBC of Slidell hosted the team with food, water and accommodations as well as coordinated the work assignments. *"The lives touched made the trip worthwhile. I have seen people whose lives have been restored. One man with terminal cancer was so pleased that we came from Delaware just to clean his yard."* Pastor Mike Metzgar

#### **FBC Dover to New Windsor, Maryland, April 17-20 — worked with Church World Service**

Volunteers worked in the distribution warehouse, inspecting and folding TONS of sweaters for future shipment. On another day, they worked in the SERRV Processing Center, inspecting, pricing, wrapping, packing, and labeling different items of glassware and artwork from artisans in developing nations. Food was plentiful and delicious and accommodations were comfortable.

#### **FBC Dover to local community, Dover ... April 29 — community mission work**

Working with a county-based agency, volunteers from the church helped construct and install an access ramp for an individual living in a mobile home. *Pastor Bud Russell says of the FBC Dover experiences ... Though these mission opportunities were rather brief, we provided over 150 volunteer hours, and observed those words of the Apostle Paul after reflecting on the resurrection of Jesus Christ: "Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58)*



## REGIONAL MISSIONS

### **First English Baptist Church, Bloomsburg to Barnegat, NJ ... June 2006 – relief efforts to flood victims**

Many youth and adults worked approximately three weeks helping those in need throughout the communities affected by the June flooding in Pennsylvania. *Message by Thelma Lowthert*

### **First English Baptist Church, Bloomsburg to Barnegat, NJ ... July 2006 – labor for elderly and disabled**

Fourteen youth and six adults worked at building roofs, wheelchair ramps, painting, etc. for the elderly, disabled and low-income families. *Message by Thelma Lowthert*

### **Greenfield Baptist Church to Finger Lake Region, NY ... July 2006 – worked with Week of Hope**

Group of 17 youth and 4 leaders joined the Week of Hope at Group Work Camp. This was the first mission trip for many of the youth and they were excited to be going. *Led by Pastor Jim Laupp*

### **Indian Creek Baptist to Eau Claire, Wisconsin ... July 7-16 – work project through “Builders for Christ”**

Twenty-one members went on a 10-day mid-summer (July 7-16) mission trip to Eau Claire, WI. This was the third year that members of Indian Creek joined with other volunteers in a work project through “Builders for Christ.” During their stay in Eau Claire, they joined with approximately 170 other volunteer workers in helping construct a new church for a 525 member congregation called Jacob’s Well. Other volunteers were from South Carolina, Tennessee, Nebraska, Alabama, Missouri, Kansas and Texas. *Led by Pastor John Davis*

### **FBC Emporium to Philippi, West Virginia ... July 2007 – supported World Vision in mission**

The Melott family of five headed for Philippi for a week-long mission trip to serve with the staff of World Vision as a support team for Vacation Bible School and doing some renovation on homes in the area. *“We are excited about this unique opportunity to serve together. I know that the Lord has things for each of us to learn and experience.” Pastor Robert Melott*

### **FBC West Newton to Nicaragua ... July 28-August 6, 2006 – worked with ProVadenic**

*“The Pittsburgh Baptist Association has been taking mission trips to Nicaragua for the last 6 years. It is no exaggeration to say that lives have been changed. Almost \$50,000 has been donated to build or rebuild health clinics, schools, and communities in small Nicaraguan villages. For those who have made the trip, life will never be the same.” John Reese*

### **FBC Greensburg / Olive Branch to Webster Springs, West Virginia ... July 12, 2006 – built a home for needy**

Thirty-four volunteers from FBC Greensburg teamed up with others from the Olive Branch Baptist Church, Belle Vernon and the Lebanon Baptist Church of New Hampshire and traveled to Webster Springs, to participate in a mission project. In just a few days, the crew working together built a new 20’ x 30’ house, complete with a fully equipped kitchen and full bath and a 4’ porch. *“What a blessing to know that where once stood a dilapidated house – now stands a new home – to be enjoyed by an elderly gentleman with all the modern conveniences of home.” Led by Rev. David Moutz.*

### **Linesville Baptist Church to Long Beach, Mississippi ... July 28-August 5, 2006 – disaster relief efforts**

Forty-three persons including two youth volunteered for duty! There are numerous testimonies (as you might have guessed) ... too many to fit on the page. Please do go to the ABCOPAD website and experience God’s work through this team. *Trip led by Pastor Brenda Loucks*

### **Coryland Baptist makes a difference in Cuba, August 2006 – VBS sent baseball uniforms to children**

*“We had received many uniforms from Efrain in Miami, and it was great and wonderful, was a great testimony in the town, everybody says that the uniforms are beautiful, and better than national baseball uniforms in Cuba. The factory that make uniforms is not working, that is to say that this uniforms in our hands are a miracle of God.” Rafiel Arkadis, friend of Rev. Myra Goss*

### **Mt. Moriah Baptist to New Windsor, Maryland, Sept 2006 – worked with Church World Service**

Six members of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church drove to New Windsor, Maryland in order fulfill a mission. The group hand delivered 12 Baby Kits, 2 School Kits and 1 Clean-up Bucket Kit and took a tour of the facilities where volunteer work is done. *Message by Donna Franks*

**BLESSED BY AN AMAZING GOD**

## REGIONAL NEWS



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SISTER CHURCHES IN OUR REGION

"We can't go, unless we know."  
"Unless the LORD builds the house,  
they labor in vain that built it"  
Psalm 127:1a

KINGDOM BUILDERS is a volunteer service organization which will provide labor and leadership for the construction of new churches, and assistance to congregations which need help in repairing or renovating their facilities.

Teens, women and men of our Pennsylvania and Delaware congregations are invited to volunteer time, skills and tools to assist member congregations in need. It is also anticipated that those who are able and willing may respond to in-state disaster situations, and perhaps even those out of state. Quite a number of ABC congregations need help maintaining their church homes. Carpenters, painters, electricians and general helpers could provide the assistance needed in many situations.

Request for assistance should be channeled through respective Area Ministers.

We need Baptists - teens, women, and men - who are willing to commit their gifts and time to work on a project in one of our two states. Please read through this bulletin and see what it's all about. And I truly hope to see you in one of our building projects.

To see some of the projects that the KINGDOM BUILDERS have done please see the website at <http://www.abmopad.org/>. At this site is information for American Baptist Men of PA & DE and Disaster Relief Trailer Ministry.

Mike Metzger  
Kingdom Builders  
151 Sunnyside Rd  
Smyrna, DE 19977

Telephone: 302.659.5630  
Fax 302.653.7004  
Cell: 302.559.5429

### UPLAND BAPTIST CHURCH EXPRESSES EXCITEMENT OVER CONNECTION TO AFRICA

*Submitted by Rev. Brenda Shaw*

It is exciting for us in Upland, PA to have a connection to Africa via Cameroon. We are overjoyed with the opportunity to send at least 50 NIV Study Bibles to the Cameroon Baptist Seminary.

Dr. Charlemagne Nditemeh is the president of Cameroon Baptist Seminary, though a few short years ago he was worshipping at Upland Baptist Church, while he worked on his own Seminary degrees. Charlemagne has remained in touch with the church since returning to Cameroon to help train others to share the love of God.

Charlemagne recently wrote the church and asked if we might help the students at the Cameroon Baptist Seminary by sending at least 50 NIV Study Bibles. It will cost approximately \$20 to send one Bible. We are excited about this ministry opportunity for what better way to bring the love of God to the ends of the earth!

If you are able to help us send NIV Study Bibles to the Cameroon Baptist Seminary, please send your monetary donation to:

**Rev. Brenda A. B. Shaw**  
**Upland Baptist Church**  
**325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015**

**If you have questions, please call  
the church office at 610-874-7474.**

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP  
AS WE MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THE  
NAME OF  
JESUS CHRIST!**

### NORTHEAST AREA YOUTH ACCEPTED FOR MISSION ENCOUNTER



Erica Henderson, sixteen, from Towanda, Pennsylvania was selected for an American Baptist Girls Mission Encounter earlier this summer. Erica joined a team of 2 girls and 2 adults from around the United States to spend June 27th to July 10th in Prague, Czech Republic and Sofia, Bulgaria. Activities included working at orphanages, shopping and delivering meals to the elderly, assisting in street ministry, and working with local youth. Erica is a sophomore at Towanda Junior Senior High School. She is active in drama club, forensics, IRC, FISH, FBLA, 4-H, and Girl Scouts and a member of First Baptist Church of Canton where she is on the mission's team and active with the children through nursery and kids club.

### CAMP CARMEL APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clint Iams, member of the North Ten Mile Baptist Church was named the new Executive Minister of Camp Carmel on Sept. 1, 2006. Clint's mother served one time as assistant manager, while he came "up through the ranks" as camper, counselor and now director. Clint is a graduate of Waynesburg College with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Clint and wife, Angie, and two children reside in Lone Pine, PA. Congratulations to Clint on his new position and may God bless him with many rewarding experiences.



## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES OPPORTUNITIES

### **Team Members Needed for Costa Rica Trip -- March 26 - April 2, 2007**

Lebanon Baptist Church, Indiana needs at least two more construction workers and one or two more doctors to go on a construction/medical mission trip to Costa Rica. The team will be working with the ministry of American Baptist missionaries Gary and Mylinda Baits and IM partners in Costa Rica. Email [BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org](mailto:BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org)

### **URGENT NEED!! Brent International School, Baguio City Philippines**

Work with Flint and Deb Miller, Missionaries... This is still an urgent need! A male dorm intern is needed whose responsibilities would include the following: Living in the dorm and overseeing the male boarders there, involvement in 5 hours of class every two weeks, involvement in school activities, starting and leading a student ministry patterned after Young Life. For info on the school go to [www.brentschoolbaguio.com](http://www.brentschoolbaguio.com). For more details about this opportunity, contact Jonathan or Angela at [BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org](mailto:BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org)

### **Houseparents needed in Bluefields, Nicaragua**

Are you a committed Christian with a heart to raise children for Christ? Couples or teams are needed to be house-parents of 24 children (6-15 years old) whose parents are working in cruise ships for 6 to 8 months. During these months, the children will live in "Safe Harbor" and the ministry will be totally responsible for the children well being in all aspects of their lives. The children will go to school in town and they will be involved in an After School Program of Bethel Church. Service needed beginning Dec 2006. The children speak English, so Spanish is helpful, but not required.

### **College Students / Young Adults taking Mission Trip to Nicaragua January 4-15, 2007**

Leading the team will be Danica Hernandez (daughter of former ABCOPAD Pastor, Rev. Pat Hernandez). Danica was once a member of the Xtreme Team -- a daring and faithful group of youth who courageously volunteer for mission trips (locations and projects unknown to them) in various parts of the world ... an Xtreme step made purely by faith and genuine love for God's will in their lives. The team will be partnering with AMOS (A Ministry Of Sharing) hope and health, formerly "Providence," founded by Dr. Gustavo Parajon and now directed by Drs. Laura and David Parajon, ABC Missionaries. The cost will be \$1300 with about half of that money going to support the community in which the project is done as well as our ABC missionaries. If you are interested, e-mail Danica Hernandez at [dvh10@albion.edu](mailto:dvh10@albion.edu).

### **Akha Tribal Crafts Project, Thailand**

Web Design/Marketing Skills needed for the Akha Tribal Crafts Project in Chiang Rai. Project needs someone who can design a website and market the beautiful handmade bags, table linens, stuffed animals, and more, in the USA. The initial portion of service would be in Chiang Rai, learning about the project and meeting the people involved, then the rest would be USA based.

An Administrative person is needed at the Akha Tribal Crafts Project. Light accounting, basic computer skills, contact churches, help with correspondence between STEP (Scholarship Tuition Expense Program) children and their sponsors, and practice English with the women at the Akha Tribal Craft project in Chiang Rai. Partner with a wonderful, talented Akha woman already in place helping with these responsibilities.

### **Short Term Mission Leader Training**

Short Term Mission Leader Training and Cross Cultural Orientation offered through International Ministries provides twenty hours of training and philosophy. Topics include team building, cultural differences, conflict management, cross cultural communication, and sharing Christ in another culture.

#### **Dates for 2007**

**March 16 – 18, 2007** at the Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville, PA

**March 30 – April 2, 2007**, Dayton Oaks Camp and Conference Center, Dayton, IA

**April 27-29, 2007**, Camp Arrah Wanna, Welches, Oregon

(More information can be found at [www.discoveryteams.org](http://www.discoveryteams.org) and click on Leadership Training)

Contact information about these and other opportunities provided through International Ministries:

1-800-222-3872, Jonathan Hilsher ext. 2367 — email [TUJonathan.Hilsher@abc-usa.org](mailto:TUJonathan.Hilsher@abc-usa.org)

1-800-222-3872, Angela Sudermann ext 2164 — email [TUAngela.Sudermann@abc-usa.org](mailto:TUAngela.Sudermann@abc-usa.org)

Or check the website for a full listing of opportunities — [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)

*May your faith be strengthened as you follow His leading into the mission fields.*

*God bless you all*



### ABCUSA TO CONSIDER SALE OF PROPERTY IN VALLEY FORGE PA

The General Board Executive Committee (GBEC) unanimously voted at its September 9 meeting to recommend to the General Board that ABCUSA begin the process offering the Mission Center property for sale, acting upon the recommendation of the Building Management Council to sell the Mission Center property.

This recommendation sets the stage for action by the General Board at its November meeting and accommodates any action that might require Board approval in the process. The General Executive Council which met from September 25 - 27 also endorsed the recommendation.

But the decision involves more than selling a building. The beautiful Mission Center in Valley Forge, PA, represents for many American Baptists an enduring symbol of God's work among the 1.5 million members. For many this building is iconic. The decision, therefore, was not entered into lightly. ABC enlisted the services of Cope Lindner Architects to perform a site development study and the GBEC thoroughly reviewed the use and development possibilities of the site. This internationally-recognized firm examined three options. Based upon analysis, however, of economic implications, timelines and needed expertise, among other things, the recommendation was not to pursue these. The divestiture of this circular-shaped office building is responsible stewardship.

"We believe that God is calling all denominations to a new direction," said General Secretary Roy Medley, "and we must remain open to what God is doing. We must also better position ourselves for ministry in the 21st century." In addition, the total office space occupied by ABC entities is less than 50 percent. The remainder is occupied by outside tenants and this fact exposes us to the risk of vacant space. "We want to be good stewards of our resources and to "right-size" to fit our current space requirements," Medley added. "We should not be in the real estate business. We need to remain focused on our primary work of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ as radical disciples." ABC's President Arlee Griffin, Jr. also expressed the thought that "in selling the building we are being responsible stewards and doing the right thing." All buildings need extensive maintenance as they age, and this 42-year old Mission Center seems to have arrived at this point with its need for capital work, and costly maintenance is no exception.

Over the years the Building Management Council and the Budget Review Committee of the General Board regularly reviewed the use of the building

and has worked diligently to reconfigure the utilization of space for greater efficiency. "ABC needs to use its largest asset in a different way to enable its ministries," said Cheryl Wade, ABC's treasurer. "Just as the church is not a building," she continued, "so the Mission Center is not ABCUSA." The decision to sell the building at this time, therefore, is timely and this is a favorable real estate market. "It makes good business sense," said Lloyd Hamblin, ABC's Budget Review Officer.

The sale of the building will create an endowment fund for ABCUSA. Any negotiations will include an ABC option to stay in the building for a 3 -5 year period of time to determine where the core functions will be housed. It seems that ABCUSA has a very good opportunity to position itself for its mission and ministry well into the future, just as many other denominations are also reshaping themselves to be responsive to God's leading. ABCUSA is seeking to seize the moment to refocus on its true centers of mission, the local church.

### SEARCH COMMITTEE NOMINATES TRULSON TO LEAD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

The committee formed to conduct the search for the next Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries has unanimously chosen **Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson** as its nominee. The announcement of the committee's decision was made October 6 by Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches (ABC), USA, and Rev. Ray Schooler, President of the Board of International Ministries (IM).

The action of the committee culminates a six month search process, which will bring Trulson's nomination to the full ABC General Board and the IM board for election on November 15, 2006. Schooler expressed gratitude for the work of the committee, saying "the search committee members really gave themselves to this effort. We had a very solid process and a great outcome. We are deeply grateful for God's leading throughout our work, and also very appreciative of the selfless service Roy Medley graciously rendered to the committee."

Medley expressed his own enthusiasm for the nomination of Trulson, saying, "Reid has won the respect of Baptists throughout Europe and the Middle East with whom he has worked closely as a missionary and staff person as well as the re-

spect of our American Baptist family. He will provide strong leadership to our international mission."

Trulson brings to the executive directorship a great depth and breadth of experience in the life of ABC and IM, having served over twenty years in local church ministry and over eleven years with IM in international mission (five years as a missionary in Europe and six years as a member of the home office staff). During his years in local church ministry, Trulson served on both region and national boards: he was President of the ABC of Wisconsin region board and, during his eight years on the ABC General Board and the Board of IM, Trulson served two terms as the President of the Board of IM. The grandson of Norwegian immigrants to the U.S., Trulson's interest in cross-cultural mission came early. While a student at Fuller Seminary, he interrupted his studies to spend a year serving with Scripture Union in Ghana, West Africa. Upon returning to seminary, he became deeply involved in the life of Friendship Baptist Church, the oldest African American Baptist church in Pasadena, California. Trulson was ordained at Friendship, and served there as Minister of Christian Education. As Rev. Dr. James Stinespring, Vice President of the IM Board put it, "Trulson's passion for cross cultural ministry positions him to make a significant contribution to the internationally diverse mission of the ABC-USA."

Trulson comes to IM at an important time of transition in the life of IM and of the ABCUSA as a whole. For over 192 years, the agency currently known as IM has served as the ABC's instrument for international mission outreach, continually adapting its strategies to changing circumstances. The strategic plan guiding IM's work during the first decade of the twenty-first century, *Go Global*, combines classic commitments to evangelism, leadership development and holistic ministry to human need, with innovative commitments to partnering with local churches and ABC regions.

Trulson served both on the task force that crafted *Go Global* in 1998-99 and on a smaller task force that in 2003 made significant mid-course adjustments to IM's way of pursuing *Go Global*. Chief among those adjustments has been the introduction of IM's Missionary Partnership Networks (MPN), a highly relational approach to providing for the various elements of missionary support.



**NEW MISSIONARIES  
APPOINTED  
TO SERVE IN THAILAND**

**Scott and Tan Coats**

The couple will serve among the minority peoples of the Mekong River region of Thailand. Tan Coats is Thai, and Scott Coats is the son of retired missionaries Bob and Pat Coats, who rendered exemplary service for many years in northern Thailand. They are among the founders of Mekong Minorities Foundation, a ministry based in Chiang Rai, Thailand and devoted to holistic leadership development and capacity building. The Coatses bring to three the number of new missionaries that have begun service with IM thus far in 2006. He emphasized staff are working with a number of candidates and look forward to expanding the number of missionaries serving through IM as the new missionary support model begins to bear fruit. For more information on the new missionary support model, contact Ruthann Stevenson (call 1-800-222-3872, etc. 2210) or Rev. Jim Bell (call 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2351). Or download a brochure about Missionary Partnership Networks and Teams.

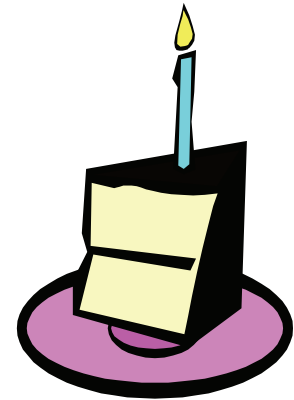
**NATIONAL MINISTRIES  
STRENGTHENS  
VOLUNTEERISM**

**Victoria Goff**

Victoria has been named national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries, replacing Jacci White, who recently retired. A member of National Ministries' staff since 1992, she has served as electronic media coordinator for about five years and as Overland White Cross coordinator for nearly three years. She also serves as National Ministries' consultant with American Baptist Women's Ministries, a position to which she was appointed in 2003. Goff will continue in her roles serving White Cross and Women's Ministries in her new position. "My vision to expand volunteer ministries includes finding new ways to connect with new partners in mission, such as campus ministries," says Goff. She sees possibilities for new opportunities for service, with strengthened emphasis on recruitment of youth in particular.

*"My experiences facilitating Overland White Cross and working with American Baptist Women's Ministries have given me a foundation to create even more opportunities than now exist to involve volunteers in vital work."*

**MISSIONARY  
BIRTHDAYS**



**NOVEMBER**

- 3** Kimberly Brown, Thailand
- 24** Ruth Fox, Thailand
- 28** Samuel Escobar, Spain

**DECEMBER**

- 2** Ann Clemmer, DR Congo
- 2** Raymond Schellinger, Mexico
- 15** William Clemmer, DR Congo
- 17** Sarah Chetti, Lebanon
- 18** Debra Coats, Cambodia
- 20** Michael Lowery, DR Congo

**DID YOU KNOW...**ABC has experienced over 441,000 baptisms (towards our goal of 1,000,010), indicative of some type of spiritual decision, over 339 new churches started (towards our goal of 1,010), over 800 existing congregations (towards an unspoken goal of one to one, one new church plant begun to one established congregation transformed) have gone through a period of intentional self-examination and transformation and the creation of a multitude of community-based, caring ministries begun (towards a numbered goal), but one new ministry in each of our nearly 6000 congregations sounds great and would transform our society and nation. A lot of effort is being focused on the nearly 16 million children in the US living in poverty. That's a lot to say and maybe not the best way to say it, but you get the point. It's something to celebrate ... and we could all use a little Good News today!

*Jeff Johnson*