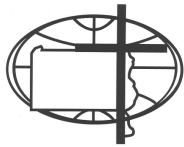


# MISSION ADVOCATE COMMUNICATOR



## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE

July 2008

### Excavation Begins!

Perhaps you have heard it said, "What a difference a day makes." In the last few weeks there has been significant progress made on the ABCOPAD Habitat Build. From a simple ground-breaking ceremony on June 4th, the build site has been transformed from a grass covered yard to a full-fledged construction zone.

During the week of July 14th, a backhoe and skid steerer went to work excavating the foundation. Within a week, the basement was dug and preparations were made for the foundation. At the end of the week, the footer was poured and blocks were delivered to the build site.

Despite heavy thunderstorms moving through the area, block layers began laying the foundation. Within a day, the corners of the foundation were set and half a foundation wall was in place. With many more sunny days in the weather forecast, the foundation should be complete by August 4th, clearing the way for construction teams to arrive and begin building the house.

Since April, over \$16,000 has been received through the mission giving of ABCOPAD congregations and

individuals. Also, the month of August has been well staffed with volunteers eager to begin construction. Construction will officially start on August 4th.

While we have come a long way, we still have many challenges before us. The cost of the project is \$80,000. Working with Blair County Habitat for Humanity, ABCOPAD has already committed about \$40,000 to purchase the property and cover, excavation, foundation and material costs. The challenge for ABCOPAD congregations will be to raise the additional \$64,000 by the end of the year with over and above giving. The ABCOPAD churches have always taken seriously their support of ministry here in Pennsylvania and Delaware (Partners in Ministry Emphasis), as well as the offerings for the missionaries and work of both National Ministries and International Ministries. Also, volunteers will be needed to continue construction through September and October. Very few volunteers have committed to these months.

Throughout scripture, after an individual had a dramatic encounter with God, a monument would be built and the location would be named to



remember the experience. The ABCOPAD Biennial this year will take place in Blair County. The theme of the Biennial is, "The Power of Partnership," and will focus on missions. It is our hope the ABCOPAD Habitat House will be a witness or a monument to the people of Altoona as well as everyone throughout the Region to God's divine presence and his desire to partner with us. It is our desire that those who see this house would say "Glory to God." **Matthew 5:16 (KJV)** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

It's not too late to get involved. Go to the ABCOPAD Web Site [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org) and learn how you can give, serve and pray for this exciting mission opportunity taking place in our Region.

—Mark Mahserjian-Smith  
World Mission Support Liaison



### Inside this issue:

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**words/works**

## Rankin Christian Center Calls

### Rev. John Cook as New Executive Director

Rev. John Cook has been on the staff of the Rankin Christian Center for 30 years. He presently serves as a Director with responsibilities for many of the county-funded programs to assist youths facing detention in the criminal justice system and to assist families facing the potential loss of children to foster care. He was the original organizer of the summer day camp and was the founder of a scholarship fund to recognize high school graduates and encourage them to continue their education. Rev. Cook will begin his new ministry on July 28, 2008. Our prayers go out to Rev. Cook and the Center!

## SheReads A Book Club for Women

Judson Press and AB Women's Ministries have developed a special book club for AB women — **SheReads!** Every 2 months, 4 selections will be featured at a 30% discount! ABW Ministries will host chat rooms, workshops, and other venues so Baptist sisters across the country can discuss the books.

### July/August Selections:



#### **Letters of Light for First Ladies**

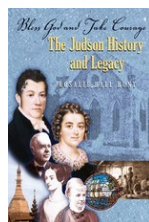
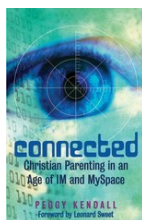
by Rev. Dr. Cecilia Williams Bryant  
Esteemed first lady of AME Bishop John Bryant and an honored pastor

in her own right, Rev. Bryant has compiled a collection of letters that mentor other first ladies of the church, letters rich in comfort, encouragement, and challenge.

#### **Connected: Christian Parenting in an Age of IM and MySpace**

by Peggy Kendall

IM and MySpace have redefined how youth spend time. They have important implications for parents who are desperate for guidance in what can seem to be a scary new world.



#### **Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy**

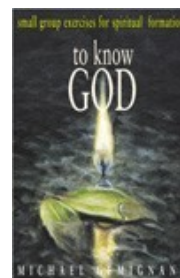
by Rosalie Hall Hunt  
*Bless God and Take Courage* documents the life and legacy of the Judsons with never-before

published discoveries. Hunt skillfully examines events from the first trip to Burma and the formation of a Baptist denomination to Adoniram's imprisonment at Let Ma Yoon and the aftermaths of the Judsons' deaths.

#### **To Know God: Small Group Exercises for Spiritual Formation**

by Michael Gemignani

This book is designed to help develop spiritual disciplines such as prayer, self-denial, study, meditation, and personal ministry through small group fellowship and spiritual formation.



It's time to put your feet up  
with a good book!



## Barnabas Network

It is with great joy that the ABCOPAD Ministers Council announces the official launch of the Barnabas Network. This exciting new ministry venture has been created to provide care for the Region's pastors and their families in a more intentional way.

Each Association will have a Barnabas Care Pastor who will visit, contact, and pray for the clergy within that Association. Care Pastors will seek ways to support and encourage clergy in their ministry journey by sharing in both the joys and concerns. Care Pastors will be a friend to our clergy and a valuable resource to our churches and region.

The Barnabas Network does not replace the care and support of Area Ministers, but complements it in ways that allow for increased interaction. Care Pastors are partners in ministry whose goal will be to help strengthen pastoral ministries. Care Pastors will begin to contact clergy in the near future.

### Barnabas Network — Care Pastors

#### CENTRAL AREA

##### Centre

Bob Coddington  
814-742-7091  
rcoddingtonh@aol.com

##### Harrisburg — Open

##### Northumberland

Paul Fitzgerald  
570-546-2693  
mbcptf2@windstream.net

#### NORTHEAST AREA

##### Abington

Earl Cassel  
570-343-4290  
eoc221@aol.com

##### Bradford

Don Rockwell  
607-734-6032  
jrock46032@yahoo.com

##### Tioga

Steve Case  
570-662-1123  
fbspastor@epix.net

##### Wayne Susquehanna

Ken Knapp  
570-679-2715  
skyking@nep.net

#### Welsh Wyoming

Margie McCarty  
570-222-2288  
twopastrs@yahoo.com

#### NORTHWEST AREA

##### Allegheny River

Rusty Horning  
814-697-6556  
rhorning@netsync.net

##### Beaver — Open

##### Clarion

David/Christy Meneely  
724-545-9234  
David: DMeneely@alltel.net  
Christy: cafaith@gmail.com

##### French Creek

James Bennett  
814-437-3579  
pastor4fbc@verizon.net

##### Oil Creek — Open

#### SOUTHEAST AREA

##### Central Union

Tim and Jenn Schwartz  
610-692-2496  
schwar521@aol.com

##### Delaware

Bruce Martin  
302-838-2053  
MBRUCE476@aol.com

#### Reading

Al Heger  
610-622-7312  
revAFH@aol.com

#### Riverside

Brenda Bartee-Shaw  
610-874-7474  
bartee@juno.com

#### PITTSBURGH/SOUTHWEST AREA

##### Laurel

Mark Brady  
724-254-2344  
zbunch@verizon.net

##### Monongahela

Kathy Griffith  
724-725-1692  
rosiegrif@hotmail.com

##### Pittsburgh

Dr. Mark Egli  
412-299-8355  
msjegli@msn.com

##### Tim Spring

724-449-2782  
spring1@stargate.net

##### Ten Mile

Stewart Johnson  
724-941-1120  
jjj388@alltel.net



The *new* ABCOPAD Disaster Relief Trailer is in need of tools. Let's be generous and provide them with the means to help others. Multiple donations of any item is encouraged. Thank you!

### **Hand Tools Needed**

Slip Joint Pliers

Regular Pliers

Wire Cutters

Screwdrivers-Straight/Phillips



## **Disaster Relief Trailer Tool Shower**



Claw Hammers

Ball-Peen Hammers

Hand Saws



Circular Saw

Reciprocating Saws

Drills-3/8 inch & 1/2 inch

Battery Operated

Generator able to Handle  
At Least 1-220v 30-50amp

Circuit and 110v Circuits

Push Brooms (heavy duty)

Coal-Type Scoop Shovels

Preferably Long Handled or  
Ergonomic Style Handles

Ice Scrapers

Paint Scrapers

Gas Cans 2 Gallon Size

Gloves

Paper Suits & Air Masks for  
Mold & Mildew Protection

Rubber Boots [all sizes]

Portable canopy to set up  
next to trailer 10'x20' with  
side panels if possible.

**For More Information call  
Bob or Lynn Swan**

**215-674-1935 or e-mail  
[Swantown@aol.com](mailto:Swantown@aol.com)**

## **Face to Face**



The American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey will co-sponsor a **ABC Face-to-Face** event on October 3-4, 2008, at First Baptist Church of York; 3375 Druck Valley Road; York, PA 17406-6959.

This 1 ½ day event offers a series of "first time" interviews between clergy open to new ministry opportunities, seminary seniors or graduates in the ordination process, and pastoral search committees. All participants must be registered with the American Baptist Personnel Services (ABPS) prior to participation. The registration fee for clergy is \$50 and \$100 for pastoral search committees.

Questions may be directed to your Executive Minister/Area Minister or to Face to Face Co-Coordinator Rev. Don Girdwood, ABCOPAD, phone: 814-398-8393, email: [dwgirdwood@aol.com](mailto:dwgirdwood@aol.com) or Rev. Vernl Mattson, ABC of NJ, phone: 609-587-8700; email: [vmattson@abcnj.net](mailto:vmattson@abcnj.net). Registration materials are available on the ABCOPAD website [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org) or contact the Pittsburgh Baptist Association phone: 412-687-3940, email [Pghbaptist@aol.com](mailto:Pghbaptist@aol.com).

**The Registration Deadline is September 12, 2008.**



**AB International Ministries**, organized in 1814, serves more than 2,500 short-term and long-term missionaries annually, in 76 countries with cutting-edge ministries that tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs.

New Address: **AB MEN USA**  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
PO Box 1019  
(1019 Juliana Street)  
Parkersburg, WV 26102  
1-866-868-1050

## **The Gospel of Mark With Stan Slade**

### **Global Consultant, IM (CEU's available)**

Monday, August 25, 2008, 6 p.m. — 10 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 26, 2008, 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Watsonstown Baptist Church  
501 Main St; Watsonstown, PA 17777  
Telephone: 570-538-2512

Cost: \$15  
Deadline for Register  
August 22, 2008

Contact Carol Bickings  
1-800-358-6999  
cab2644@aol.com



### **ABC Missionary Plays Vital Role In Christian-Muslim Dialogue In Lebanon**

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon, recently completed its Middle East Conference -- an event designed to foster understanding between Christians and Muslims in the Arab world, as well as foster understanding with the western world.

Dan Buttry, a global consultant for peace and justice issues with International Ministries, was a keynote speaker at the event.

Dan said that the Institute is doing some groundbreaking work on the relationship of Christianity and Islam. They aren't just academics sitting back and studying the subject. They are facilitating people talking to each other, interacting constructively as communities, and exploring ways to move constructively into a hopeful and peaceful future in Lebanon, as well as other Middle Eastern contexts.

Dan has worked in hotspots around the world, helping Christian leaders and non-Christian leaders learn better ways of overcoming their differences and resolving violent conflicts peacefully. He has worked in several places where there has been religious violence, such as Northeast India, the Republic of Georgia (of the former USSR) and Ethiopia.

He is the author of several books, including the recent compilation, *Interfaith Heroes*, a 31-day devotional, with brief biographies on several religious peacemakers, including Baptists such as Roger Williams and Martin Luther King, Jr., along with other Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, Jews and Hindus.



## Financing the Vision: One Church's Story

In 2002, 12 devoted Baptists from Wilmington, DE, who had been worshipping at a community church, met, prayed, and agreed they were ready to do a new thing and set a new course. They became a new church plant of American Baptist Churches USA and gathered in their homes for planning and communion. Then they looked for a shepherd.

They did not have to look far. The Rev. Dr. Christopher Alan Bullock, who was leading a Chicago congregation at the time, was familiar to the group. He'd served as pastor of the historic Eighth Street Baptist Church, also in Delaware. According to Earl Green, a leader in the initial group, Bullock personifies the biblical directive to love mercy and do justice.

By 2004, Dr. Bullock was installed as pastor of the new congregation, Canaan Baptist Church. Soon he and his parishioners were worshipping at a performing arts center in a parochial school, and their ministries—substance abuse and music—were spread across the city. But they needed a permanent home—enter The American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC). For almost 50 years, ABEC has been promoting and supporting church extension and assisting churches with construction, acquisition, and renovation of property to spread and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The decision to turn to ABEC was simple, Dr. Bullock recalls. "Conventional banks did not fully understand our needs...ABEC's loan rates and

terms were doable for a young church. It just [made] sense to work with them." ABEC provided loans to Canaan for its ambitious building project.



ABEC President Valoria Cheek, Esq. says those thinking of building a church, no matter the size, should seek expert and experienced counsel. "Too often, churches do not seek professional services that can aid in developing a successful building project and help them avoid pitfalls. We encourage groups considering building projects to seek [our] assistance early so we can share our experience and resources," Cheek advises.

Along with providing loans for new construction and renovations, ABEC offers church leaders and congregations the opportunity to "invest in the Kingdom" through ABEC Investments' interest-earning, fixed and variable rate investment notes. These investment dollars are used to make future loans to other churches. Dr. Bullock credits the 700-member Canaan Baptist Church's partnership with ABEC for the success of its ministry. "We built the ministries and then we built the church. We did it with ABEC's help and that's an important reason we've been so effective."

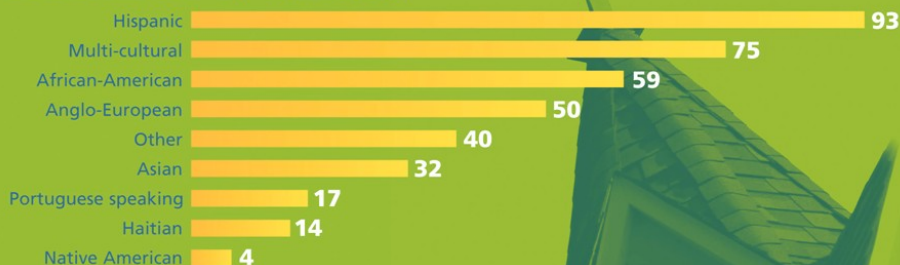
—Taken from the National Ministries Mission in America July/August 2008 Newsletter.

### New Church Plants

#### By the numbers

**384** new churches planted 2000 to 2007.  
Of these, **55** were planted by women pastors.

#### The numbers by ethnicity



**ABEC** exists to promote and support church extension and to assist churches and other related entities with acquisition, construction, and renovation of property for the spreading and sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

[www.myabec.org](http://www.myabec.org)

800-222-3872 X 2232

## ABCOPAD 2008 Biennial

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



Bible Study with  
**Dr. Stanley Slade**  
 Global Consultant for  
 Theological Education,  
 International Ministries

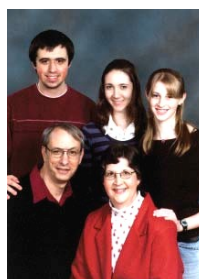
For additional information, contact  
 Carol Bicking at 1-800-358-6999 or  
 visit the ABCOPAD Website:  
[www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org).

### Biennial Workshops:

**Friday, October 24 — Women's Day**

**Saturday, October 25 — Workshops**

- **Missions: Coming to a Pew Near You**  
 – Mrs. Marcia Binkley, BIM/BNM  
 Missionary to Burmese Karen Refugees
- **It Takes More Than a Hub & Spokes to Make a Wheel**  
 – Mrs. Ruthie Stevenson, International Ministries  
**and Transforming Lives Through Volunteer Ministries**  
 – Mrs. Vicki Goff, National Ministries
- **Engaging the Children in Poverty Initiative**  
 – Rev. Dale Miller, Southeast Area Minister
- **Preparing Leaders for the Global Church** – Dr. Stan  
 Slade, Global Consultant, International Ministries
- **Estate Planning: A Partnership in Ministry and Mission**  
 – Rev. Fred Daugherty & Mrs. Linda Cassel,  
 American Baptist Foundation



The Binkleys

“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)



Philippians 1:4-6

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

### Local Mission Site Workshops

- American Rescue Workers
- Family Services
- Hope Center in Bellewood



Music Leaders  
**Lois & Frank Clark**  
 Members, First  
 Baptist Church of  
 Monroeville

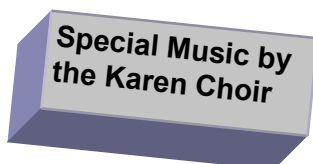


## 2nd Annual “Displaced, Not Erased” Benefit Banquet Spotlighting Iraqi Refugees

Friday, August 15, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Calvary Church; 1015 Landis Valley Rd; Lancaster, PA

Iraqi refugees throughout the Middle Eastern region have become increasingly desperate despite the decline of violence. Only a small number of displaced Iraqis have returned home due to a lack of resources, and many of those that have, found their property occupied and suffered a secondary displacement. An estimated two million Iraqis have fled to the surrounding countries of Jordan, Syria, and other Middle Eastern nations. Another 2,000 continue to flee each day seeking asylum. As a result, the U.S. has pledged to receive 12,000 Iraqi refugees in 2008. Church World Service has already placed 10 in Lancaster and has received 11 more arrival notices.



**Omar Farooq Rushdi** was a civil engineer in Baghdad happily married with 2 young daughters. That is, until U.S. tanks pulled down the statue of Saddam Hussein, located across the street from his house in Fardus Square. The fall of the statue not only marked the symbolic end of Saddam’s rule in Iraq but also the end of life as Omar knew it.

Omar was offered a position teaching English to Arabic speakers and interpreting for the American Army.

During this time, Iranian insurgents crossed the inter-

national border and created the Sunni/Shia cultural divide. As a Sunni married to a Shia, living in a Shia neighborhood, Omar’s civil standing deteriorated and the family fled to Turkey.

His wife and daughters returned to their home in Baghdad to gather some belongings. Tragically, Omar’s daughter was killed at their home by intruders who targeted Omar because of his connections to the U.S. government.

Omar, his wife Rajaa, and daughter Safa are now in America ready to begin a new life. Although Omar has endured great hardship, he is willing to share his experiences and share insight into the troubled and unstable country that is Iraq.

**Tickets \$20 For More Info Call William Offutt 717-824-3004/woffutt07@comcast.net**

### Men’s Rally — Saturday, August 30, 2008

8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Allenwood, PA

A time for men/boys to Renew, Refocus and Rekindle their walk with the Lord.

Registration \$20 (includes lunch)

Contact Brian Probst for more information 570-850-7931 Email [homepro1@ptd.net](mailto:homepro1@ptd.net)

Registration materials are available on the ABCOPAD Website: [www.abcopad.com](http://www.abcopad.com)





**Continuing Education with  
Dr. C. Jeffrey Woods  
Saturday, October 18, 2008, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Moreland Baptist Church  
118 Moreland Baptist Road; Muncy, PA 17756  
Telephone: 570-546-2568**

**Session 1:  
Identity, Vision, Mission, and Results**

This workshop is based upon Woods' most recent book (under contract with Chalice Press) "The Agility Model." For a church or region to be agile, it must have strength, speed, and balance. During this hands-on-coaching session, Dr. Woods guides the participants through the process of clarifying identify, discerning vision, narrowing missional priorities and producing results. Come and explore topics such as:

- How do we decide what to keep, abandon, and create?
- How can our motto serve as a window to our vision?
- How do we build ownership for our vision?
- Are we a modality or a sodality?
- How do we match our resources to the needs of the community?

Dr. Woods serves  
as the  
Associate General Secretary  
for Regional Ministries  
American Baptist Churches USA

**Session 2:  
Church Health and Church Growth  
Finding The Leverage Points**

With so much written about church growth and church health, it can be difficult to sort out the hunches from reality in order to know what works and does not work in promoting church health and congregational renewal. In this workshop, Dr. Woods draws from his involvement on the "Pulpit and Pew" project as well as numerous research papers presented at the Religious Research Association over the last few decades in order to respond to questions such as:

- What are the marks of a healthy church?
- What are some common and rare forms of community ministry?
- What is the relationship between church health and church growth?
- How much do church size and location influence its ability to grow?
- What inspires a person to visit a church, return, and eventually get involved?
- Are New Paradigm & megachurches a model for reaching the unchurched?

## National Ministries Calls For Action Against "Big Tobacco"

Since 2002, Faith United Against Tobacco, a broad and diverse coalition of more than 20 national faith denominations and organizations, including American Baptists, Southern Baptists, United Methodists, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs, has been working to convince the United States Congress to pass life-saving legislation that would authorize regulation of tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Thanks in large part to the work of this faith community, our nation is now closer than ever to the FDA legislation

becoming law. The regulation bills have passed House and Senate Committees and may come up for vote in the next few weeks.

National Ministries' Office of Governmental Relations urges American Baptists to take action now about this issue: contact your senators and representative in the U.S. Congress and ask them to vote for H.R. 1108 and S. 625, the bills that will bring tobacco products within FDA regulation.

This important legislation will establish a comprehensive national tobacco policy and restrict tobacco advertising

and promotion, especially to children, along with granting regulation oversight to the FDA. Also, the legislation will grant the FDA authority to require that tobacco companies disclose contents of tobacco products and reduce or remove harmful ingredients; stop tobacco companies from misleading the public about the health risks of their products; and require larger, more effective health warnings on tobacco packaging.



## NM Launches Web-based Missional Church Transformation Resource

The "missional church" is an authentic community of faith that directs its ministry outward toward the neighborhood where it's located, as well as to the world beyond. National Ministries' new web pages provide valuable information and resources for congregational leaders and others who want to form missional churches or engage in mission-oriented work.

National Ministries' missional church web pages feature:

- an introductory page
- a page with information about resources and skills essential to forming missionally-oriented churches, along with contributions from resource partners such as teaching churches, regional experts, professors, pastors and ecumenical sources; and
- a contact page for National Ministries' missional church transformation team, so visitors can access the expertise and experience these professionals bring to the missional church transformation process.

Visit National Ministries' home page, [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org), and click on "Missional Church Transformation" in the left hand column.

## General Board Considers New Structure

During the first session of its Annual Meeting, June 25-29, in King of Prussia, PA, the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA was introduced to a proposed new structure for governance based on a federation model designed to bring greater empowerment for mission.



The new structure eliminates interlocking mission boards but maintains inter-relatedness through a Mission Table and Mission Summit held in conjunction with the denomination's Biennial Meeting. A notable difference is the process of selecting board members that allows for matching interests with board service and includes an orientation prior to commencing service. The denomination's commitment to diversity would be reflected in board members being selected from churches of different sizes and locations; across age groups, geographic regions, ethnicities, and economic classes; having differing physical abilities.



Limited to governance, the changes do not affect the purpose of the denomination, and no amendments were proposed relating to provisions for cooperating churches and regions.

Mary Armacost Hulst, Board President called on Lloyd Hamblin, Acting Treasurer and Associate General Secretary for Finance, to clarify the financial implications of the new structure. He said that while the Treasurers Council recommended a reduction in governance costs by a minimum of 25%, the proposed structure reduces them by 43%. American Baptist Churches USA as an organization deals with vision, coordination, structure, leadership, and stewardship, but structure is the one area presently under discussion. Of the budgeting needs for the denomination, the new structure only affects the costs of governance.



In their joint report, Hulst and General Secretary A. Roy Medley, described how the changes under consideration would support the current mission goals of the American Baptist mission partners — National Ministries, International Ministries, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, and the General Secretary's Office. However, the new structure would also implement changes that allow the denomination to "be more nimble" in responding quickly to mission opportunities, Medley reported. Hulst said, "Structure is the larger tool enabling the mission of local churches."

If the new structure is adopted, ways of doing mission that bring healing to hurting people, are sensitive to cultural differences, and seek justice for all would continue, fulfilling the denomination's essential mission to be the hands of Christ "blessing the world" and the feet of Christ "walking to do good." Hulst said hallmarks that would remain are the denomination's commitment to local churches and the high value placed on representation and diversity.

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For a detailed report of the June 2008 General Board Meetings by Rev. Dr. Charles Case, NW Election District Representative to the General Board, visit the ABCOPAD Website: [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org).



## MISSION ADVOCATE COMMUNICATOR

American Baptist Churches of  
Pennsylvania and Delaware  
c/o Pittsburgh Baptist Association  
159 N. Bellefield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit #379

### Mission Advocates

Recently I have been attending meetings with many pastors throughout our Region. It has been wonderful spending time with pastors in face to face conversations as opposed to virtual meetings by phone or via email.

Often I have shared the Mission Advocate Partners Newsletter (The Communicator) with the clergy I've spent time with. As our Region's World Mission Support Liaison, the Communicator is a great tool highlighting local, regional, national and international missions.

I have been surprised to learn many pastors are unaware of this

resource. There has been a look of bewilderment on the face of many clergy when I ask them about the Mission Advocate Partner (MAP) serving in their church. It is with this reality in mind that we are sending this issue of the MAP Communicator to all Clergy and Mission Advocate Partners. We want to make sure everyone is aware of this valuable resource.

We are asking for your help. If your church has a Mission Advocate Partner (MAP), we would like to confirm their contact information and have on record their email address. If your church does not have a MAP representative, we invite you to identify someone excited

about missions in your church and invite them to join the MAP Team.

Future MAP Communicator Newsletters will be sent via email and posted on the ABCOPAD Web Site. Contact Denise Veselicky ([pghbaptist@aol.com](mailto:pghbaptist@aol.com) or 412-687-3940) at our Western Regional Office to register the MAP representative in your church.

—Mark Mahserjian-Smith  
World Mission Support Liaison

**Mission Advocates  
Working Together**