

Partners In Mission

American Baptist
Churches of
Pennsylvania and Delaware

May 2009



Frank Frischkorn
Executive Minister

Vital Partnerships

One of the key components of our Regional Vision is this:

To build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with our wider ABC Family: Striving to enhance existing partnerships with other Regions/Covenanting Partners and to explore new avenues of Partnership.

Fanning the Flame was the first initiative that we undertook with sister regions, and it went so well that we are anxious to do more! Some initial conversations have been held with the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky to see if we could 'strike a deal' to bring one of their staff persons into ABCOPAD to provide a series of workshops on an area of expertise where he has skills: the ministry to the small church. In exchange for his time with us, we will agree to 'swap' one of our staff persons to provide resourcing in their region. The response of the staff at Indiana and Kentucky has been very positive—they want to do it—so now we just need to work out the details! Be watching for further information (dates, times and locations), as it becomes available!

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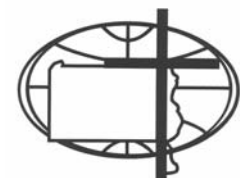
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ABWMOPAD donated \$3,000 to 12 AB International Missionaries; those same missionaries received a total of \$6,000 from their gift. How'd they do it? — See Page 8.



Karen Refugee Ministry — Pittsburgh

Temple Baptist Church, Rev. John Reynolds, Pastor, has stepped forward as the lead church for the Pittsburgh Area Karen Refugee Ministry. Altogether there are over 400 Karen living in Pittsburgh in 4 communities: Troy Hill, Green Tree, Castle Shannon, and Prospect Park. An estimated 40% are Baptist. Temple Baptist is working with the Prospect Park community.



The Karen outreach ministry kicked off on Palm Sunday. A contracted school bus provides transportation to and from worship. While at church, the Karen participate in the Sunday School and Morning Worship programs. The majority of the Karen are children and the Temple folks are providing both Sunday School classes and a Children's Church program. The children are rapidly becoming fluent in English. However, there is a need for a Karen speaking person to lead a class for the adults. During worship, all participate together, with the Karen frequently bringing special music in either Karen or English.

The ministry has been growing. The number of Karen in Week 1 was 23; Week 2 was 38; Week 3 was 38; and Week 4 was 33. Prior to the initiation of the Karen ministry, the average worship attendance at Temple was 24, so this new outreach has more than doubled the size of their faith community.

There are lots of needs if this ministry is to be maintained over the long term. **Additional volunteers are needed.** Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11 a.m. **Anyone fluent in the Karen language or who has experience working with immigrant and refugee communities would be a special blessing.**



The weekly costs for transportation is \$214. To date, this has been sustained by special gifts and equal part contributions from the church and PBA. PBA has received a special \$2,000 grant toward the costs; but we need to stretch this money as far as we can so we can establish a firm foundation. **We are seeking "partner churches" that would be willing to underwrite the cost of transportation for a week, or a couple of weeks, or a month at a time.**

We also need to find a way to transport smaller groups of Karen living in the other communities to and from the church on Sunday morning. One of our churches has offered the use of its 12-person van, but drivers are needed—Pick a week—Pick a month. Any time, would be helpful.



For More Information

Contact John Reynolds, Temple Baptist Church; 743 Brownsville Road; Pittsburgh, PA 15210; Telephone: 412-481-6164 or contact the PBA Telephone: 412-687-3940 Email: pghbaptist@aol.com

Want to Help Support the Ministry?

Make your check payable to Pittsburgh Baptist Association and mail it to PBA; 159 N. Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2609

The Future is Bright: A Model for Being and Doing Mission, ABC Style

In a little over a month, American Baptists from all over the country will gather in Pasadena for the 2009 ABCUSA Biennial. One of the key features of the meeting will be the opportunity to vote on a new set of By-Laws for our future ministry together. These By-Laws reflect some significant structural changes that will dramatically change the way that we work together.

In an effort to help you understand some of the implications of the proposed changes, we are scheduling a conference call on **Tuesday, June 2, from 7-8 p.m.** ABCOPAD Executive Minister, Frank Frischkorn, and our General Board representatives will be on the call to help guide a discussion on the key points in the proposal.

If you would like to participate in the call, contact Carol Bicking at our ABCOPAD Office. Carol's email address is: cab2644@aol.com, or call her at 1-800-358-6999. Space is limited—so don't hesitate.

Documents related to the restructuring are available on the ABCOPAD website www.abcopad.org.



2009 Biennial—A Multi-Ethnic, Cross Cultural Celebration of American Baptist Mission

At this, the beginning of our second 100 years, American Baptists are actively pursuing questions and answers that affect our everyday and congregational lives.

Please join us to begin this purpose-filled journey together.

A Mission Fair will feature activities for all ages, including Mission Projects in conjunction with Church World Service. Learning opportunities will provide practical advice on issues such as local church issues and resolutions, women and children

at risk, and inter-faith/cross cultural relationships.

There will be music, worship, praise and performances through-out the days, a special multi-ethnic dinner, and missionaries bringing indigenous items for sale from their mission fields.

The NM Financial Aid office is offering \$300 in Continuing Ed money for those attending one of the pre-Biennial events. For information on eligibility visit www.nationalministries.org.



Wonderful worship, key decisions for our future, helpful workshops, terrific setting, great friends—Five Good Reasons to be in

Pasadena for the 2009 Biennial! Come experience what "These Hands ...These Feet" are doing for Christ.

A. Roy Medley
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

For information, call 1.800.ABC.3USA x 2234
or email biennial.meeting@abc-usa.org.

**"I am sending you." - John 20:21
These Hands...These Feet**

Dominican Republic Missions Trip

Sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Wellsboro

Ardell and Peg Thomas, Coordinators: Phone: 570-724-3618 Email: apthomas@epix.net

2 Teams—2 Different Trips Between 12/28/09—1/22/2010 (Dates to be Determined)

Objective: to minister to the Haitians and Dominicans in the *barrio* of Las Colinas by finishing the building of the school (Colegio Moriah) and the church (Christ for the Nations Baptist Church), by teaching the school children, by providing medical care in clinics on the *bateys* and areas around San Pedro, to show the love of Jesus to everyone we meet. Cost: Approximately \$1,000.

Life Cycle and Stages of Congregational Development

Nearly 100 clergy and lay leaders have attended the Life Cycle and Congregational Development Workshops led by Rev. Tom Beers. Tom has helped churches walk through the process of determining where they are in the Life Cycle. He is equally skillful at helping deal with growing pains on the growth side of the Life Cycle or helping churches on the decline side to build a bridge to the next Life Cycle. Whether your church is on the growth side

or decline side of the Life Cycle, there is benefit in participating.

ABCOPAD has covered the cost of the workshop—the only charge is \$5 for lunch.

The next Congregational Life Cycle Workshops will be:

June 20: Northwest Area
First Baptist Church, Meadville

September 12: Central Area
First Baptist Church, Milton



Rev. Tom Beers
Nehemiah Leadership Network

(.5 CEU's will be offered)

Call Carol Bicking at
1-800-358-6999 to Register



New Love, New Mercy 2009 Giving Emphasis and Theme Materials

Brought to you by Mission Resource Development, ABC/USA
and your contributions to United Mission

This year's giving emphasis, "New Love, New Mercy," incorporates tableaux or living pictures to add a visual element to worship. As the offering is collected, several people kneel, stand or sit in view of the congregation in attitudes of repentance, thanksgiving, and celebration. The materials include a poster, a bulletin cover, bulletin inserts, letterhead and a #10 envelope, a Bible bookmark, a commitment (pledge) card with a mailing envelope, and a new song by Ken Medema. Available through Judson Press 1-800-458-3766.



American Baptist Women's Ministry of Pennsylvania and Delaware Adopt 6 International Missionary Couples from Mexico

The ABW of PA/DE voted to adopt six IM Missionaries at the April Regional Board meeting. All six serve in Mexico. Mexico was chosen because of the special relationship between ABWMOPAD and Adalia Gutierrez & Ray Schellinger at Deborah's House in Tijuana. Representatives from the six areas of PA/DE (which includes the Philadelphia Baptist Association) were given the privilege of selecting a particular missionary for their area. Their choices are as follows:

- Central..... Mercy Gonzalez and Rick Barnes
- Northeast..... Patti and Tim Long
- Northwest..... Adalia Gutierrez and Ray Schellinger
- Southeast..... Joyce and David Reed
- Southwest..... Doris and Ricardo Mayol
- Philadelphia Baptist Association..... Romona and Chuck Shawver

Although Philadelphia is not a part of our Region, their women serve on the ABWMOPAD Board. An IM missionary will also be assigned to the Pittsburgh Baptist Association, the details are still being finalized.

AB Women have a desire to work more closely with our missionaries. We hope to serve as part of their Missionary Partnership Network. Each area will have a contact person that will work directly with their missionaries MPT. If you are interested in receiving information on any of the missionaries, you can sign up for their mailing lists through International Ministries. Visit www.internationalministries.org.

Ruthie Stevenson, IM Missionary Partnership Coordinator, will attend the Region Conference in June to help "train" our women in the support and care of the missionaries. Ruthie will assist Janice Tokarsky, our Region's new Missions & Service Coordinator, with the Missions & Service Workshop on Friday, June 5 at Bucknell. This "adoption" does not replace our Special Interest Missionaries, it give us more personal contact with the adopted couple.



The Reed Family
Southeast Area



The Mayol Family
Southwest Area



The Shawvers
Philadelphia Baptist
Association



The Gonzalez/Barnes
Central Area



The Long Family
Northeast Area



Gutierrez/Schellinger
Northwest Area





HouseParty — July 31 — August 2

First English Baptist Church of Bloomsburg

700 Millville Road; Bloomsburg, PA 17815



Theme: "He Lift's Me Up."

Theme Song: "Get Down" by Audio Adrenaline

Theme Scripture: "The Lord upholds all those who fall down and lifts up all who are bowed down." Psalms 145:14

Mission Project: House of Hope Susquehanna Valley which provides teenagers with the help and encouragement they need to overcome their personal challenges.

It will be a PARTY! Complete with fun, workshops, friends, food, and so much more. AB GIRLS are honored to be a part of the 150th anniversary celebration of First English Baptist Church of Bloomsburg. As a part of the celebration, all groups are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items, food storage containers or paper products. The church is collecting 150 items each month for The Food Cupboard at Winona in Bloomsburg.



Registration Materials are Available on the ABCOPAD Website: www.abcopad.org.

Contact Cindy Martin, AB GIRLS Coordinator for more information

9345 Palmer Road; North East, PA 16428

Telephone: 814-882-1558 Email: cimgmartin@yahoo.com

Cost: By June 30: \$30

By July 15: \$35

After July 15: \$45

New 2009—2011 Program Theme Resources

"Women...Destined for God's Purpose"

Year 1 Issue A is now available! For the first time, 4 separate issues will be produced over the 2-year period. This means, more resources than ever before! Year 1, Issue A covers September 2009-February 2010. It contains Bible studies, a devotional, materials for AB Women's Ministries Sunday, and much more!

Available online at www.abwministries.org/store



Download Free Program
Theme Resources at
[http://www.abwministries.org/
resources](http://www.abwministries.org/resources)

Facebook

AB GIRLS of PA/DE will soon be located on Facebook. National is already located on Facebook. Encourage your girls and leaders to visit www.facebook.com and join this group. Share ideas, find AB GIRLS that you have met in the Region or Nationally....*all this and more.*

Rebuild the Gulf Coast with National Ministries and the National Council of Churches

Ecumenical Work Week 2009
August 2 – 8

Travel to New Orleans, La., or Gulfport, Miss., with other people of faith for worship and volunteer work helping victims of Hurricane Katrina rebuild their homes, churches, and communities

Bring your youth for this week of witness bound to transform lives—including yours!

Contact Victoria Goff at
vgoff@abc-usa.org or
800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2449

(Volunteers are responsible for
transportation and housing
costs, starting at \$20/night)



Pennies for Poverty

In New Hampshire, 60,000 children live at or below the poverty level. The youth of First Baptist Church of New London, NH, gathered 60,000 pennies to represent each child in the state suffering from hunger. FBC youth canvassed their community, collecting pennies from church members, schools and nearby neighborhoods. Within six months, they had amassed 60,000 pennies!

The money was donated to local food pantries, homeless shelters and other organizations that help those in need.

Inspired by their success, FBC youth have decided to continue collecting pennies. Their new goal of 13 million pennies represents the number of children who suffer from hunger in this nation.

FBC youth are also extending an invitation to AB youth in churches throughout the denomination to join the "Penny Project" to raise awareness about poverty.



National Ministries New Discipleship Web Pages



National Ministries has added new web pages that offer free resources devoted to discipleship and Christian education. Download a few and see how they can help your church make disciples of all believers.

[2009 Discipleship Planning Guide](#) includes a planning calendar, practical suggestions, and resource listings for holistic, age-appropriate Christian education built around the nine qualities of disciple-making churches.

[Workshops for Church Life and Leadership](#) address a wide range of topics relevant to contemporary church life.

[Race and Poverty: A Five-Session Study Guide](#) examines attitudes and perceptions about race and poverty in America; developed in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Want a Closer Relationship With Your Missionaries?



Missionary Partnership Networks and Teams

The concept of MPN/MPT's originated as a response to individuals and churches who wanted to have more direct and personal contact with missionaries.

A **Missionary Partnership Network (MPN)** is a large group of individuals and/or churches who pray for and support a particular missionary and become an important part of what God is doing. They can be located anywhere in the US or Puerto Rico.

A **Missionary Partnership Team (MPT)** is a small group (4-10) who serve as the core of a missionary's MPN. MPTs keep the network informed by sharing news of a missionary's ministry, prayer support, organize mission trips, and invite people to give financially towards the support of a missionary. MPTs have a target goal to raise 75% of the costs related to a missionary's service.

You can join an MPN by contacting the missionary, the MPT, or IM's Mission Partnership Office. If you make a donation in support of a particular missionary or receive a missionary's journal you will automatically be added to the Network. Visit www.internationalministries.org.

How Can You Be Supportive?



Commit to pray for your missionary regularly. Write to them, post their picture in your church. Exchange information about your ministries. Look for opportunities to develop interactive relationships.

If you give financially, please do so with gifts that have not been shifted from United Mission, but rather represent new dollars given to the cause of Christ around the globe. Please continue to support United Mission and the Partners in Ministry emphasis so that the Region can continue to assist you to carry out your mission in the Region and beyond.

Double Your Dollars

The Luther Rice Society will match donations of \$200 - \$2,000 from **New** donors until June 30, 2009. A new donor is a person/church that has not donated toward a specific missionary in the past three years.

Donations may be made online at the ABCOPAD website www.abcopad.org or sent through your Monthly Report of Mission Support as "Targeted Giving" in the detail section, list the name of the missionary and note "Luther Rice Matching Gift". Make your check payable to ABC/USA and mail to ABCOPAD; PO Box 421; Hatboro, PA 19040.

The Luther Rice Society (formed in 2001) was named after Luther Rice (1783-1836) who dedicated his life to raising support for Baptist missionaries sent out in the early 1800s beginning with Adoniram and Ann Judson. IM created the Society to recognize donors who have made annual gifts of \$1,000 or more.



What's it Cost?

In 2008, it cost an average of \$57,000 annually to support the work of one missionary in the field. The total cost to support all of IM's long-term missionaries was \$6.2 million. As health care costs increase and the value of the dollar fluctuates, costs are expected to increase at a rate greater than the rate of inflation.



Missionary Partnership Networks

*Building Friendships
and Touching Lives
Around the World*

Missionary Partnership Team Connections



One of the central points of our Regional Vision is as follows: *To build a Healthy/Vital Partnerships with our wider ABC Family.*

In an effort to foster our partnership with the Board of International Ministries, we want to share with you the development of an exciting new resource on our regional website which we are calling, "Missionary Partnership Team Connections".

As you may have heard, International Ministries is calling for each Missionary and their Missionary Partnership Team to reach their MPT goal of support by the end of September 2009. To do so, our IM missionaries will be looking for opportunities to come and share the exciting stories of what the LORD is doing in their midst with the churches of our ABC Family, and in so doing, ask for your support. As a region, we have significant relationships with a number of our BIM missionaries, and our hope is to help them in their efforts to communicate their mission and ministry by creating a webpage listing AB Missionaries who have requested the opportunity to speak to ABCOPAD churches, as well as the dates that they are available. If a church is interested in scheduling a speaking assignment, we ask that they contact the Pittsburgh office at 412-687-3940 or email pghbaptist@aol.com. Following these contacts, we will, in turn, contact the appropriate MPT or Missionary and ask the MPT or Missionary to make the arrangements. After the event is planned and the date is set, we are asking that the church/MPT confirm the assignment with us, and we will then update the schedule listed on our website, so other churches and individuals can get the latest news of when a particular missionary will be in their area.

God placed a passion for mission in the lives of American Baptists with the work of Adoniram Judson, and He continues to use our denominational family in the extension of His Kingdom around the globe. As we seek new and creative ways to 'tell His Story', may God grant us His wisdom and grace.

~ taken from a letter written to regional churches by Frank Frischkorn, ABCOPAD Executive Minister and Mark Mahserjian-Smith, World Mission Support Liaison

Health Kits for Nicaragua

The North Hills Community Baptist Church, Tim Spring, Pastor, will lead a mission trip to Nicaragua on July 10-19. Please pray for the team members.

You can also support the team by donating Health Kits to be distributed in needy areas. Each Health Kits includes: 1 hand towel, 1 washcloth, 1 new bath-size bar of soap, 1 comb, 1 toothbrush, 1 tube of toothpaste, 1 nail file, 6 band aids, place all the items in a large zip lock bag. Deadline for donating the Health Kits is July 3.



Contact North Hills Community Baptist Church for more information 412-366-2662 or nhcbcl@verizon.net.

Missionaries Around the Region

On the next 2 pages is a list of mission opportunities for your church. Although Sunday morning may seem like the ideal time to host a missionary, other options can work just as well. Be creative and please be flexible.

Please keep in mind that when missionaries come to your church to share their testimony and their work, you will need to help defray the cost of their visit. The host church/or churches is responsible for any and/all ground transportation, meals, lodging, and hospitality costs associated with the visit. International Ministries has limited resources dedicated to underwrite the cost of airfare when such travel is required and approved. A donation to help offset the cost is encouraged and appreciated.

If you are interested in hosting a missionary, contact the Pittsburgh Office 412-687-3940 or email pghbaptist@aol.com.

Missionaries Around the Region

August 26 — 30 Kit Ripley, Thailand

Kit's primary ministry involvement is with the New Life Center Foundation in northern Thailand where she works in a wide variety of ways with ethnic minorities from the hill tribes. The New Life Center works with tribal minority girls who have come out of exploitative labor situations or are at risk for becoming victims of labor exploitation.



August 26-29.....Open for Invitation
August 30..... Bradford, First

September 13 — 20 Vital and Ketly Pierre Nicaragua

The Pierres work on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua to strengthen local churches and encourage existing churches to plant new ones.



September 13.....Wellsboro, First
September 14.....Jefferson, Jefferson
September 15, 18-19.....Open for Invitation
September 16.....Commodore, East Mahoning
September 17.....Greensburg, First
September 20.....Smithfield, Mt. Moriah

Sept. 20 — 26 David Reed Mexico

The Reeds are working in partnership with the Mexican Baptist Convention of South Baja. They have developed a theological education program to address: education, new church development, and leadership training.



David Reed
September 20..... Bethlehem, First
September 21; 24-25..... Open for Invitation
September 22-23..... Newark, Calvary

October 2 — 4 Barbara Bolick Chile

The Bolick's work with the Mapuche an indigenous people of Chile and Argentina. Most of them live on small farms in isolated rural communities called "reductions." They struggle with severe poverty, lack of sustainable livelihoods, and the debilitating, culture-eroding effects of centuries of domination.



October 2-3.....Open for Invitation
October 4.....Ten Mile Annual Meeting

October 16 — 18 Ray Schellinger, Mexico

The Schellingers work with the women of the "Dios Con Nosotros" Baptist Convention of Northern Baja California, Mexico. Together with the women of Tijuana, they have begun Deborah's House, a ministry to victims of domestic violence.



October 16-18..... Tioga/Bradford Mission Blitz



The **OGHS** offering is known as the "disaster relief offering." But did you know that it also provides funding for development projects and refugee ministries to national, international, and ecumenical partners totaling over \$1,000,000?

Missionaries Around the Region

April 23 — May 2, 2010

Tom and Terry Myers Bulgaria

Bulgaria is a struggling country trying to find its way in a free market economy. Many areas outside the capital city of Sofia have unemployment rates greater than 90%. The Myers, the Baptist Union of Bulgaria, and the local Baptist churches are developing ways to help families by creating long-term solutions to the problems of unemployment, while ministering to families' immediate needs.



4/23..... ABW Meeting of Tioga

4/24.... Westfield, First/Tioga Annual Meeting

4/25-5/1 Open for Invitation

5/2..... Washington, First

Missionaries Seeking Invitations to Share their Ministry

July 2009

**Mercy Gonzalez
and Rick Barnes**

Mercy and Rick have been working with the Dios con Nosotros (God With Us Baptist Convention) Convention in Baja California, Mexico since 2002. Their ministry in Baja includes leadership development for new church planting, teaching at the Seminary, and work with short-term mission groups from the United States. Their ministry area includes Mexicali, Tecate, Ensenada, San Luis and Tijuana.



**November 1 — 17,
2009**

**Kristy Engel
Dominican Republic**

Kristy works with the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, ministering to Haitians who are among the poorest in the country.



July 16 — August 12, 2009

**Carlos Bonilla and
Mayra Giovanetti**

Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti have been professors-at-large for the churches of the *Convention of Baptist Churches of the Chilean Mission* and for their *Baptist Theological Institute* until March 2009. Upon completing their home assignment, the Bonilla-Giovanetti family will be relocating to Spain to minister with the *Baptist Evangelical Union of Spain* in immigration, training lay persons, and preparing Christian Education curriculum.



Dates to Be Determined

**Bruce and Ann Borquist
Brazil**

Ann and Bruce Borquist serve as missionaries of International Ministries ABCUSA in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in partnership with JAMI, the international mission agency of the National Baptist Convention of Brazil. The Borquists equip Brazilian missionaries to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in countries around the world, including unreached people groups in Brazil. Based at JAMI's missionary training center in Belo Horizonte, they serve as teachers and pastoral counselors training new missionaries in the areas of cross-cultural ministry skills, Christian community and economic development, and English language for mission.





**American Baptist Churches
of Pennsylvania and Delaware**

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Email Request

If you can download your newsletter from the ABCOPAD website, please email the Pittsburgh office pghbaptist@aol.com. Thank you!

Money, Money, Money

Did that catch your attention? You can't turn a page in a magazine, glance at a newspaper, catch two minutes of the news or click on to the internet without hearing or reading about money. It's on everyone's mind, in one way or another these days.

This spring in ABCOPAD, eleven churches, two camps and one association have money to talk about. They applied for grants from the Release God's Power Fund and the Ministries of Christian Discipleship Fund. Some of their plans ranged from help for senior citizens, food programs, a skateboarding ministry, a rock fest, a projector and expansion of a program for youth.

Even though the grant amounts were smaller than in some past years, over \$9,000 was disbursed to be used for these new or expanding ministries. Since 1995, when the first grants were given out, over \$597,850 has gone out to churches, camps and related organizations in ABCOPAD.

Last year two churches whose ministries had come to an end, decided to leave behind a legacy in the form of funds to be used for grants to bring new life and hope to other congregations. Presently guidelines are being worked on, with the expectation of having these funds available for the fall grant cycle.

Speak with your Area Minister for information about any of the grant funds or if you would like to be in touch with a contact person related to any of the projects that have received funding in the past. They would love to share their experiences with others interested in similar types of ministries and outreach.

~ Caryl Casey, ABCOPAD Treasurer

