



The American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania & Delaware

**Rev. Mark
Mahserjian-Smith**
1523 Smokey Corner Rd
Williamsport
Pennsylvania
17701

(570) 435-2001

E-mail:
msmsmail@abcopad.com



Dear Friends:

One of the things I enjoy doing during my free time is playing an online video game called Marvel Contest of Champions. The game features many of the comic book characters whose comic books I collected as a kid. Champs like Spider Man, the Incredible Hulk and Captain America are all heroes in the game you can collect and bring to battles. While you can play the game as a solo player, to advance in the game you really need to be a member of an alliance or team. By being a member of a team, you can participate in highly competitive challenges and earn big rewards, allowing you to enhance your roster of champions.

This strange, silly game has actually taught me something about life and ministry. One of the things the game has taught me is the value of team. In Marvel Contest of Champions, there is no way to win quests without the full participation of the team. If one or two members of a team fail to show up or complete their task the team cannot be successful no matter how hard other team members try. To win everyone must actively participate in the game.

Funny how this simple game drives home an important Biblical truth for the church and its ministry. Over and over again, the Bible highlights the importance of team and being an active participant of Jesus' team. One of my favorite metaphors illustrating this point is Paul's comparison of the church to a human body with every body part being essential for success. Paul says, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Cor. 12:26.

This is true for Regional Ministry as well. Our Region is strongest and most successful when we are all participating and working together. We can accomplish great things in our local church, in our communities and around the world when we work as a team. ABCOPAD's vision is all about team, creating healthy partnerships with churches, pastoral leaders and the wider ABC family to fulfill Christ's mission in the world.

When you support Partners In Ministry, you become a member of the team. You make it possible for all of us to be successful in the midst of ministry. This year our goal for PIM is \$225,000. Every dime of that money will be used to help build and support our Regional Team.

If you gave in 2017, thank you, thank you, thank you for your donation and for being a member of our team. We need you to contribute again this year. If you have never given to PIM, perhaps you would consider joining the team. We need you. We need your congregation's participation, with all the gifts and talents you bring to the table. We need each and every church coming together so we can accomplish great things for Jesus. Thank you for your Partnership In Ministry.

Serving Jesus together,

Mark

Mark Mahserjian-Smith
ABCOPAD Regional Pastor for Mission and Communication