

Partners In Mission

October
2009

American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania & Delaware

Gulf Coast Mission Trip January 17-23, 2010



Now that September is behind us and autumn is well underway, nights are getting cold, with summer shorts and T-shirts yielding to sweaters and jackets. Some people have already begun to talk about the frigid days of winter that lie ahead. Won't it be wonderful if God were calling you to someplace warm this winter to serve him. Someplace with 60 – 70 degree days and only 30 degree nights. Someplace where you could escape winter but also know, you were making a difference in the Kingdom. Maybe God is doing just that. Our Region is putting together a Mission Trip to Galveston, Texas, January 17 – 23.

ABCOPAD is partnering with Rev. Tim and Jenn Schwartz, now serving in the hurricane relief effort taking place on the Gulf Coast. The devastation following Hurricane Ike is still very real for many families in Texas who need to both hear the Gospel and need assistance in rebuilding both their homes and their lives. A mission team from our Region will be traveling to Galveston to work for a week. The anticipated cost for the trip will be under \$500.

Our hope is to use this trip as a model for local churches in ABCOPAD who might replicate the experience and take additional teams to Galveston throughout the year. Looking back at 2008, it was easy to see God's hand at work as the Region worked together to build a Habitat House in Altoona. That house was completed in January 2009. ***As Baptist, we are at our best when we are united in evangelism and mission.***

If you go to Tim and Jenn Schwartz' web site, it is easy to see the need is great ~ <http://timandjenn.wordpress.com/galveston-shorts>. So why not make plans to escape a the northeast winter for a week in January and discover in Galveston, TX the joy and energizing power of our God as you serve Him in Mission. If you have questions contact Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith at msmsmail@abcopad.com, or Denise Veselicky at pghbaptist@aol.com for more information. Looking forward to working with you in Texas!



God Bless,
Mark Mahserjian-Smith, World Mission Support Liaison

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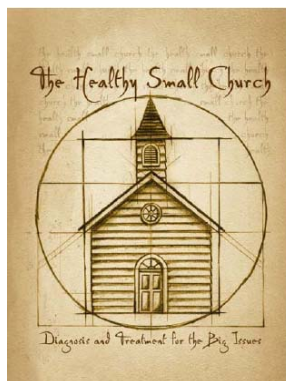
The Healthy Small Church

ABCOPAD is offering The Healthy Small Church (average of 120 or less) workshop, led by the Rev. Dennis Bickers, SE Area Resource Minister for the ABC of Indiana & Kentucky and author of the *The Healthy Small Church*.

(4 Opportunities to Attend — Workshops begin at 9:00 a.m.— 4 p.m.)
Monday, Oct. 26 Centerville Com. Baptist Church (Northwest)
Tuesday, Oct. 27 Blairsville, FBC (Pittsburgh/Southwest)
Wednesday, Oct. 28 Berwick, FBC (Central)
Thursday, Oct 29 Pottstown, New Covenant Baptist Church (Southeast)

Some the topics covered in the workshop are:

- The Benefits Offered by Smaller Churches
- Potential Problems in Smaller Churches
- The Power of a Unifying Vision
- Healthy Pastoral Leadership
- Healthy Lay Leadership
- How to Effectively Manage Conflict
- Initial Steps Required to Help an Unhealthy Church Become Healthy
- The Importance of Pursuing Excellence in All a Church Does
- How to Accomplish More Ministry by Doing Less



The cost for the workshop is \$25.00, which includes a workbook, a copy of Dennis' book, plus lunch and snacks.

Pastors and laypeople are all invited to attend.

For more information contact Rev. Richard A. McIntyre, NE Area Minister, at rmcintyre@abcopad.com, or 570-704-9301.

To Register: Contact Carol Bicking at 1-800-358-6999 or cab2644@aol.com; make checks payable and mail them to ABCOPAD; 106 Revere Lane; Coatesville, PA 19320.

ABC/USA Focus Statement

American Baptist Churches are healthy missional churches that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God.



How God Can Use the Willing

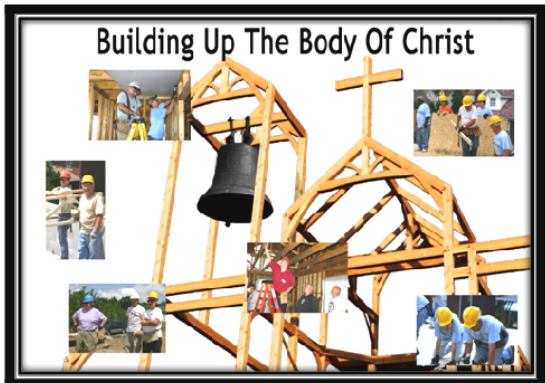


In November 2008, Tim and Jenn Schwartz felt the Lord leading them to quit their jobs as a pastor (Pughtown Baptist Church/Central Union Association) and physical therapist in order to move to the Gulf Coast to work as missionaries in disaster recovery.

In February 2009, they moved to Galveston, TX, to help in the recovery and rebuilding after Hurricane Ike. In their 8 months of ministry, they have helped numerous people return to their homes and get connected to resources and grants for rebuilding.

In addition, they are currently working on developing community action ministries for some of the neighborhoods that were most affected by Hurricane Ike. Throughout the week, Tim and Jenn spend time helping in reconstruction, family advocacy, parish ministry and many other things as they seek to be available to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Come to Galveston ~
God Can Use the Willing!**



2009 ABCOPAD Partners in Ministry

Regional Goal: \$100,000

To equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
(Ephesians 4:12)

100% of Your Gifts to Partners in Ministry Supports the Mission and Ministry of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Your Gift Supports...

Area Ministries
Support to Pastors
Youth/Young Adult Ministries
Mission Education/Trips
Pulpit Search Committee Work
Stewardship Education
Clergy Ethics Training

Workshops:
Vital Signs of a Healthy Church
Life Cycles/Congregational Development
The Healthy Small Church
Sunday School Training
The work of the
Church Leadership Institute

New Church Planting
Discipleship Training
New Pastors Orientation
Training Conferences in:
Leadership
Outreach
Christian Education
Missions/Stewardship

Partners in Ministry Supports ABCOPAD's Vision

To Build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with Local Congregations

“Supporting local churches in ministry as they both assess and build on the eight vital signs of a spiritually healthy congregation.”



To Build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with Pastoral Leaders

“Seeking to build a culture of Excellence in Leadership, which in turn will foster the development of a new generation of leaders.”

To Build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with our wider ABC/USA Family

“Striving to enhance existing partnerships with other Regions/Covenanting Partners and to explore new avenues of partnership.”

Two Ways to Give: Gifts may be sent through your Monthly Report of Mission Support form and listed on the ABCOPAD-Partners in Ministry line. Make your check payable to ABC/USA and mail to ABCOPAD; PO Box 421; Hatboro, PA 19040. Or give directly online through the ABCOPAD website www.abcopad.org.

Promotional Materials are available on the website www.abcopad.org or contact the Pittsburgh office 412-687-3940 Email: pghbaptist@aol.com

The Least of These

Nearly 73 million pounds of commercial products have been shipped to some of the world's neediest to help them become more self-sufficient, thanks to the vision and efforts of Baptist pastor, Wendell Mettey.

In 1991, Mettey created [Matthew 25: Ministries](#) in Cincinnati to salvage products that corporations and manufacturers otherwise would throw away. These items provide the poorest of the poor with basic necessities, educational materials, medical supplies, cleaning supplies and personal care products -- both within the U.S. and abroad.

More than 99 percent of the organization's cash and in-kind donations directly underwrite its aid programs. For each dollar donated, Matthew 25 generates \$97 worth of humanitarian aid, according to its 2008 annual report.

With a background as a welfare caseworker, Mettey realized early in his career that giving people handouts would not alleviate poverty. Rather, he discovered, meeting people's most basic needs and then emphasizing education, job creation and sustainable projects like housing construction could create greater self-reliance. They would also fulfill Jesus' injunction to his followers, found in Matthew 25, to care for "the least of these."



Wendell Mettey, founder of Matthew 25: Ministries, laughs with a young girl in Nicaragua



Among the important supplies to come through Matthew 25's warehouse were school materials. Fostering education became an important part of the organization's program. "Education is not the pathway out of poverty; it is the super-highway out of poverty," Mettey said.

During 2008, volunteers logged 19,658 hours preparing and loading products to be shipped to millions of people around the globe for humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief.

National Ministry Aids Children in Poverty

National Ministries has awarded 15 grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to American Baptist congregations and organizations in support of their work with children as part of the Children in Poverty initiative, which began in 2006. 44 applications were reviewed. All demonstrated a deep commitment to children. Each brought passion and hope to transform lives. An important aspect of those awarded grants were their focus on one of three targeted issues: education, health care or support of higher parent income. Grant recipients range from grassroots projects staffed by volunteers to more established, institutional projects.



Among Africa's Masai tribe there is a common greeting, "Kasserian ingera," which means, "And how are the children?" The traditional and proper response is "All the children are well." Which means, only when the youngest and most vulnerable members of our communities are safe, loved and living in conditions of peace and sufficiency can our society be whole.

National Ministries Volunteers Support Ecumenical Work in a Big Way



81 of the 140 volunteers who participated in the "Ecumenical Work Week III: Worship, Witness & Work" – a program of the National Council of Churches USA's Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast - were American Baptist of diverse ethnicities ranging in age from 8 to 76 (46 were youth). "At home, I have everything I need," said 15-year-old Christian Carlo of Riverside Church, N.Y. "Being here has made me appreciate all that I have."

The volunteers worked in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans, LA, rebuilding three homes and helping with community service projects. Construction jobs included painting and installing trim work, flooring and sheetrock, while community service work included mowing, pulling weeds, general repairs and maintenance, and serving meals to the homeless.

At a community center in the Lower Ninth Ward Village, volunteers cleaned and painted bathrooms, cleaned a kitchen that was virtually impassable, created a library, built a computer desk, painted several other rooms, created a mural in a common area, and started a garden on a quarter-acre plot.

The experience proved life changing not only for New Orleans residents but also for participants. "Volunteers were able to make a difference and help to transform the lives of those they encountered, and, in turn, I believe each volunteer has been transformed," says Victoria Goff, National Ministries' national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries. "I am sure that many will take this transformation back to their personal lives, churches, and communities. And it is my hope and prayer that it will continue to grow as each shares of their experience."



THE Penny PROJECT

The Children in Poverty Initiative
National Ministries The American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Raising awareness

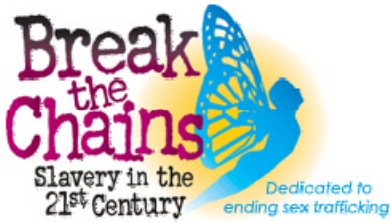
Raising change for change

Raising 14 million pennies
to represent the number of children living in poverty
in the United States and Puerto Rico

For more information, visit nationalministries.org

Office of Children in Poverty
National Ministries
The American Baptist Home Mission Societies
1.800.222.3872, ext. 2158

Give the change. Be the change!



ABW Ministries Distribute Break the Chains Funds

AB Women's Ministries distributed \$28,341.37 from the "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century," national mission project in grants to six AB-related ministries dedicated to ending human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service received a second year grant to assist its new jewelry making cooperative, a ministry that offers self-sufficiency for Hispanic immigrant women. In addition, women in the program are learning English and personal finance, and are gaining self-esteem.

BE FREE Transformation Ministries received a grant to develop and implement programs to promote awareness of sexual exploitation issues in the U.S. and the world. The grant will also help to provide a support system for women released from South Dakota's Women's State Prison; transformational life coaching for at-risk women and teens; and resources for community action against trafficking.

NightLight Ministry will use a second year grant for its expanding outreach ministry. A goal of the organization is to mobilize community members to recognize and take action against human trafficking in Los Angeles.

The Ghana Baptist Convention received a grant to help provide supplies for women and their children at a new training center at Frankadua, Ghana. The center was built by the Convention to provide safe shelter, education, and job training to victims rescued from an illegal sex slavery system in Ghana that entraps more than 2,000 women along the Delta River.

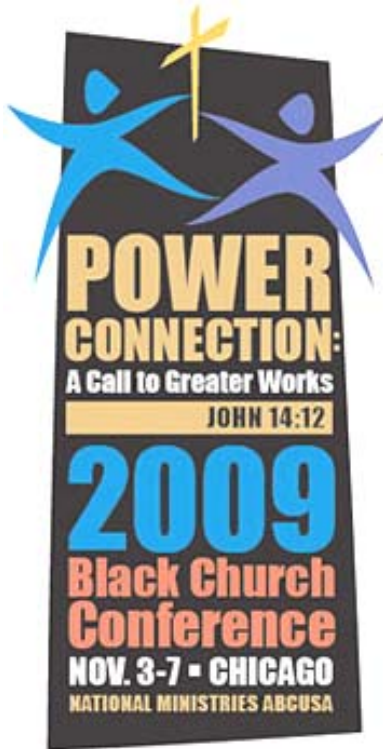
Sarah Chetti, an International Ministries' missionary in Lebanon, has received a grant from Break the Chains to assist her ministry to women trafficked into Lebanon to work as maids. Many of the women are mistreated, denied basic rights, and violated. Chetti's ministry involves regular visits to the prison to extend care to and advocacy for those women arrested without documentation.

In Italy, International Ministries missionary **Rev. Debbie Kelsey** received a grant for her "Woman to Woman" ministry that trains women to tutor women that have been trafficked into prostitution and addresses the demand side of prostitution with materials distributed through Italian Baptist churches.



When AB Women's Ministries launched its national mission project "Break the Chains" in June 2007, the two-year goal was \$250,000.

Today more than \$400,000 has been raised in support of this effort! Praise the Lord!



“The elders who direct the affairs of the Church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”

1 Timothy 5:17



October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Please encourage your church to take this opportunity to celebrate your pastoral staff by planning a special time of recognition. Visit the Ministers Council website for ideas and resources

www.ministerscouncil.com

Did You Know: Millions of new believers yearn for teachers and pastors to expand their faith. Your gifts to WMO help 32 missionaries work to train church leaders.

Friends of Judson

In 2009, Judson Press celebrates its 185th year of Christian publishing. The centerpiece of this anniversary celebration is the “Friends of Judson” campaign that seeks to raise \$185,000 for an ongoing program that will provide the gift of a Baptist personal resource library to graduating American Baptist seminarians. “As our ministry partners support ‘Friends of Judson’ with the spirit of Christian generosity, Judson Press can enhance its efforts to provide Christ-centered resources for leaders working to transform our churches and communities,” explains Laura Alden, publisher.

friends of
JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824

Four different levels of support—\$18, \$85, \$185 and \$1,850. Each level of support comes with thank you gifts and recognition. Contact: 1-800-458-3766 for more information.

Save the Date:
May 24-27, 2010
Green Lake Conference Center, WI

Fanning The Flame 2010

Featuring Plenary Speaker
Rev. Wallace Charles Smith
As President of Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, PA and Senior Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington DC., Rev. Smith also serves as the Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance.

In addition, four 8-hour tracks will be offered to give participants a more in-depth learning experience during the retreat:

- Biblical Preaching and Teaching in a Facebook Age
- Deepening a Pastor’s Spiritual Life
- Disciplemaking in the Local Church
- Relationships in the 21st Century: Networking in a Facebook Age



ABC/USA Burma Refugee Task Force Awards 2009 Grants

38 grants have been awarded by the ABC/USA Burma Refugee Task Force to American Baptists working with Burmese refugees. 13 of which support work in new locations (Temple Baptist Church, Pittsburgh Association received \$2,000). These grants are supported by ABC/USA's Mission Initiative Fund and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

The grants are utilized for a variety of purposes. Most commonly, they support transportation that enables refugees to go to church, work, appointments and job interviews. The funds also support staff positions such as outreach coordinators and interpreters, along with programs that assist with emergency needs, welcome baskets and initial settlement costs. Grants also fund programs that send children to church camp, participate in job skill and life skill training, and more.

Duane Binkley, a Burma Refugee Task Force member and missionary dually-aligned with International Ministries and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, says that the real value is to say 'welcome' to these new Americans while strengthening the relationship between the denomination, the new refugee congregations, and the churches and people helping them."

IM Raises \$814,000!

International Ministries raised a total of \$814,000 in matchable gifts from individuals and churches for missionary support between March 1—June 30, 2009, through the Luther Rice Society Matching Gift appeal! The combined gifts and matching funds totaled \$1.7 million ~ nearly double the initial projections!



Approximately 1,400 donors participated, nearly 900 were first-time donors. Multiple donations were made by 450 donors. The knowledge that their gift would be doubled led many to give, even in the face of tough economic times for churches and families.

David Worth, IM Director of Development, said "This truly is cause for celebration...God has touched the hearts and engaged the minds of people who were willing to share of themselves in order to contribute to and continue the work of servant-leaders in mission."



Ministry Renewal Conference
January 4-7, 2010

Wyndham Resort/Conf. Center
Orlando, FL 32819

Come to Orlando for
Inspiration, Enrichment,
Education, Fellowship, and Fun!

Register Now:
www.ministerscouncil.org
Telephone: 1-800-222-2334

Did You Know

Millions of people suffer needlessly without basic education, health care and economic stability. Your gifts to WMO enable 64 missionaries to bringing help and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to victims of illness, violence, poverty and hopelessness.

Donations in support of the recent flooding in Georgia may be sent on your Monthly Report of Mission Support form and listed on the One Great Hour of Sharing line. To the left in the detail section, please note Georgia Floods.



In Due Time

This June all of the top leaders of the Naga insurgent factions have signed a “Covenant of Reconciliation.” For over 30 years, these groups have split Naga society, warfare has left thousands dead and with deep divisions among the Naga people. In 2008, a process of reconciliation was launched that brought people face-to-face, all the major leaders publicly committed themselves to the process.

For over 12 years, I’ve worked with the Nagas who live in north-east India and northwest Burma. The war between the Nagas and India started in 1955. In 1975, a flawed peace agreement sparked a bloody conflict among the Nagas. In 1997, I participated with Ken Sehested, Baptist Peace Fellowship and John Sundquist, International Ministries in the Atlanta Talks. Wati Aier was the leader of the Naga mediation team. All 4 of the major Naga factions were due to attend, but at the last minute, the largest group pulled out. Though the participants drafted “*The Atlanta Appeal*,” the splits were still very deep and expressed in on-going violence.



Dan Buttry with representatives
of the two largest armed Naga factions

Wati, John, Ken and I continued to work for peace. Cease-fires and sporadic negotiations were established with India. Informal cease-fires between the Naga factions were established but were shaken by conflict.

We trained the Naga civil society leaders in conflict transformation. Out of their growing relationships and skills they launched “The Journey of Conscience.” A nonviolent campaign that changed the context for political discussions both in the Naga homeland and in Indian society. The people with the guns were no longer running the debate.

Year after year the conflicts continued ~ then a breakthrough. Wati Aier, who is the Principal at a leading seminary for Naga Baptists, helped to arrange a series of meetings that brought all the factions together. Wati was joined by Naga civil society leaders and community activists who eventually formed the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR). The Forum was supported by me, John Sundquist, and a team of British Quakers. Traditional tribal leaders were brought into the process to work on the social divides.

During the talks the basis for reconciliation was hammered out in what became known as a “*Covenant of Common Hope*.” The Covenant had 10 action steps and commitments. The FNR has followed-up with on-going communication efforts back in Nagaland. They have facilitated technical talks about a cease-fire and engaged in the detailed work of forging peace.

For those of you who have followed the Naga peace efforts—don’t grow weary. This verse from Galatians is of great encouragement to me, **“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6.9)** We’re not at peak harvest yet, but the first-fruits are coming in!

In peace, hope and trust,
Rev. Dan Buttry
International Ministries, Global Consultant





From Victim of Human Slavery to Committed Servant of Christ

How surprised are you to learn that slavery still exists in the United States and around the world? Today, modern-day slavery (commonly called “human trafficking”) forces millions of children, women and men to work against their will. In fact, “trafficking in human beings is the third largest money-making venture in the world after illegal weapons and drugs.” (Source: *The Natashas, Inside the New Global Sex Trade*, Victor Malarek, 2005). People are considered trafficked when they are deceived through fraud, abuse of power or abduction, transported away from their homes and forced to work against their will for little or no pay while living in inhumane condition. Forced and exploitive labor can be found in sweatshops, the sex industry, restaurant labor, and even domestic service.

Through missionaries and global consultants, IM brings education, vocational training, therapy and the love of Jesus Christ to victims and those at-risk of being victimized. “Mary” had that need when, at the age of 11, she was released from a brothel in Bangkok, Thailand. She entered the New Life Center, directed by IM missionary Karen Smith, where she was transformed, going from forced prostitution as a child to church leadership as an adult!



The Gutiérrez Family

Your Gifts to WMO can prepare people like Mary to begin a new life—graduation with her husband from Bible school and starting a ministry at a Bangkok Baptist Church

**WORLD
MISSION
OFFERING**
Empowering your gifts
to transform the world.

Beautiful, Though Muddy, Feet!

The next time your feet get muddy, will you think of the World Mission Offering (WMO)? Your WMO gifts fund the healing ministries of the “beautiful feet” described in Romans 10:15. Sometimes those “feet that preach the gospel” trample through shallow streams and climb muddy hill-sides to bring medical knowledge in the name of Christ. This is true when they are the feet of Rick and Anita Gutiérrez, IM missionaries, who

traveled to a rural Zulu village in Matendeni, South Africa.

Rick and Anita joined Pastor Bongamusa as they used a video in the Zulu language to teach about the effects of high blood pressure. One trainee, Rose, had a sibling who died of complications related to that disease. She enthusiastically participated in the training that included how the Bible applies to her life situation. Before leaving the village, Rick and

Anita joined Rose and her grieving family in prayer that brought healing comfort.



Through your Gifts to the World Mission Offering, you can help Rick & Anita Gutiérrez train up to 100 health builders annually to screen for heart disease and HIV/AIDS.

Dailey Reminders from Hurricane Ike



Every day the people of Galveston live with daily reminders of death and devastation. Reminders of brokenness and heartache—reminders that are always there—always present.

***Come to Galveston!
Let God use you as a
living reminder of hope,
resurrection, and peace.***

Visit Tim and Jenn Schwartz's Blog to learn more
www.timandjenn@word.press



Appliance Graveyard

The appliance graveyard is located on the Boulevard Peninsula, the place hardest hit by Hurricane Ike. The graveyard stands as an ever-present monument to the destruction and loss in peoples lives.

Each crumpled appliance once belong to a family, the refrigerators that held the breakfast orange juice, the stoves that were used to prepare the family meals, the TVs around which families gathered for a night's entertainment are all piled on top of each other, all broken ~ all ruined.



Come to Galveston to help restore hope...restore homes...restore lives.

Welcome to My World

The storm didn't just hit people's homes ~ it hit the church, too. Visit www.timandjenn@word.press to hear the story of Pastor Billy Graff, University Baptist Church. He lost everything but his faith.

Watch the clip and share a typical day in the life of Pastor Graff.



American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with 5,500 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God's mission around the world.



Non-Profit Organization

US Postage
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit #379

Tioga to Washington, PA

Tom and Terry Myers, AB Missionaries to Bulgaria, will be visiting our Region April 24—May 2, 2010. They will be starting their visit in the Tioga Association (4/24) and ending in Washington, PA, (5/2), if you are on that route and would like to host the Myers, please contact 412-687-3940.



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.

Northwest Opportunity

Ray and Adalia Schellinger-Gutierrez, AB Missionaries to Mexico will be speaking at FBC of Cambridge Springs on November 29, 2009. If your church is in the neighborhood and is interested in hosting the Schellingers, contact the Pittsburgh office 412-687-3940. They are willing to extend their visit.



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.