

## American Baptist Men

American Baptist Men have a heart of mission. AB Men have served in training **disaster relief teams** (see calendar on front page) as well as sending individuals to help persons recover. These mission trips have found their way to places as close as Jacksonville IL and as far away as Managua, Nicaragua.

After a terrible 1972 earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua, ABM volunteers helped to rebuild a Baptist Church Camp. There were 29 men who worked two weeks at Camp Managua. Work that was done consisted of electrical, carpentry, cement work, cooking, and installation of a ventilation system

in the kitchen.

The picture (taken by Curt Mundell) at left is of an art piece depicting a dove flying into a cross.

This piece of art is at the

First Baptist Church of Managua. When Curt returned home he made a replica of this art and hung it in the the chapel of Lake Benton Baptist Camp as a memorial of the work that the American Baptist Men had done in the country of Nicaragua.

If you would like to receive a list of the names of those men - several whom the Lord has already called home - who worked on this post-earthquake relief mission trip, please contact me, Charles Schumaker at:

925 N Patton Ave  
Springfield IL 62702

Actionable. That's what faith in Christ is. Join us as we continue today in mission near and far!

## Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

### First Baptist Church, Belvidere, IL

**Welcomes:** Niki Sturm, Ace Lewis, Hui Chong Dofflemyer, Robert Dofflemyer III, Jacob Hughes, Lee Bachelder, Jillian Leutscher, Jake Colson, Rebecca Colson, Rolando Munoz, Angela Munoz, Terry Sanford, Susan Sanford, Russ Garner, Gena Garner, Mara Baer and David Rogers

### First Baptist Church, Cordova, IL

**Welcomes:** Don Thompson, Marvin Bowles, Robert Hetz, and John Bosten

---

## Mainstream Contact Information

Send your stories of mission and ministry (300 word maximum; pictures in jpeg format). Please also send the names of new members (the fruit of mission and ministry) to:

**Linda Ricks**  
232 Devron Circle  
East Peoria, IL 61611

E-Mail: [Ricks4LR@comcast.net](mailto:Ricks4LR@comcast.net)  
(Please note the change in the e-mail address.)



# The Mainstream

## News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

---

April 2008 No. 1

Email: [grrabc@abc-grr.org](mailto:grrabc@abc-grr.org)

web: [www.abc-grr.org](http://www.abc-grr.org)

---

## GRR Calendar

- April 12 - ABW Spring Rallies:  
Area I FBC Plano, IL  
Area III FBC El Paso, IL  
Area IV Pleasant Grove Baptist, Humboldt, IL
- April 12 - Clean Up Day at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
- April 16 - 19: American Baptist Women in Ministry Conference, St. Louis
- April 19 - Area 1 ABW Spring Meeting FBC Morrison, IL
- April 19 - ABMen's Disaster Relief Spring Training and Camp Cleanup Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
- April 22 - 25: Fanning the Flame, A National Pastor's Renewal Conference
- April 25-26 - **GRR Missions Conf.**  
Cherry Hills Baptist
- May 10 - **Clean Up Day**  
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
- May 17 - **Boundaries** Professional Ethics Course
- May 24 - **Open House**  
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
- May 31 - **Blackhawk Clean Up Day**

## Great Rivers Region Missions Conference

**Cherry Hills Baptist Church  
Springfield, IL - April 25-26, 2008.**

### Friday:

3:00 p.m. Registration  
3:00 – 5:00: Visit Mission Displays;  
talk with **Duane Binkley** or  
**Dwight Stinnett**.  
5:00 – 6:00 Dinner  
6:30 - Evening Session  
Mission Speaker, Duane Binkley  
Preacher, **Max Klinkenborg**

### Saturday:

8:30 a.m. Worship  
Speaker, **Gary Baits**  
Commissioning Service for Gulf Coast Volunteers  
Breakout Groups  
Lunch

There will be 2 **Conference offerings: Murrow Indian Children's Home** and scholarship funds for persons participating in **Gulf Coast projects**.

The **Used Book Depository** will have a truck at the conference to receive Bibles, Hymnals, Commentaries, and Bible study resource books-Friday evening only.

The American Baptist Men will have their **disaster relief trailer** at the conference.

Your **registration by April 22, 2008** will help with plans for meals and hospitality and for breakout groups.

## Churches In Ministry

What makes a church healthy? One of the most important characteristics is the church's outreach beyond their own congregants to their neighborhood, community, state and uttermost parts of the world. In **Area 1**, of GRR, **Oak Park Avenue Baptist Church in Berwyn, IL**, is just such a church.



Last summer, under the leadership of their pastor, **Bill Steger**, the church hosted a block party for their neighborhood. They requested permission from the city of Berwyn to close off the entire block around the church and invited everyone from the neighborhood to a good old-fashioned barbeque and music festival. The church purchased enough food for over 600 people, and even though it rained all day, around 250 came to the event. It was such a great outreach event that the church is planning another one this summer.

Oak Park Avenue reaches out in many other ways also. They provide their facilities to a Spanish-speaking congregation, but go even beyond that, to have occasional bi-lingual worship services together. The church is supportive of numerous missions in the community as well as a variety of ABC missions including Blackhawk Camp

and others.

Their passion for missions and outreach is also evidenced in the fact that many of the church have been on mission trips themselves to Central America.

All of their love and compassion for others to know Jesus Christ is evident in their inspiring worship services and relationships with one another.

Why is Oak Park Avenue one of the healthiest churches in Area 1? The answer is they feel compelled by Christ's love to carry out the Great Commission. They truly care about their neighbors and go outside the church walls to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

Submitted by: Rev. Cheryl Henson  
Regional Associate Minister  
Serving Area I

### **DAUGHTERS OF THE FLAME AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY 2008 CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 16-19, 2008, St. Louis  
Contact: Rev. Muriel Johnson**

**Fanning the Flame  
Pastor's Renewal Conference  
April 22-25, 2008  
American Baptist Assembly  
Green Lake, WI**

## First Baptist Church Greenfield, IL Builds For the Future

In March, the Area II Annual Meeting was hosted by **First Baptist Church, Greenfield, IL** in their new church building. One of the work-



shops, led by building committee chairman, **Larry Pembrook**, featured the process in which they were able to build a new church building.

The decision to build was not an easy one as it meant leaving the old church with its history and memories. The need for more space caused the church to plan to build. Three years of planning and pledge drives preceded the building process. The land was donated and about \$240,000 in pledges was added to the \$400,000 that had been saved to present to the bank for a loan.

Because of using skilled labor church members as well as help from others, the church was built for slightly over half of the appraised cost.

The Greenfield Church found out that there were groups of Baptist that would come and help build churches. A church from Alabama contacted Greenfield and said that they had two hundred people who wanted to build a church and they did not have a place arranged as they normally would. This group from Alabama wanted to come in June 2005 and it was already February. With God's help, everything fell into place. The site was prepared and the plans finalized.

The group from the Alabama church brought builders, food, and cooks to stay for a week at no cost to Greenfield. The Alabama church requested that a dedication service be held on Thursday night of that week. At that service, the Alabama church presented a love offering to Greenfield that they had been collecting, amounting to \$4700.00.

Some other smaller groups from Illinois also came and did work on the church building.

FBC Greenfield members did most of the finishing work through the winter and the first service was held on Easter of 2006. The sunrise service was held in the old church and the regular morning worship service was held in the new church.

The new First Baptist Church Greenfield cost approximately \$1.1 million and is 20,400 square feet. The sanctuary seats around 290.

**Rev. George Rosales**, pastor, said, "A million is nothing compared to one person knowing the Lord."

The Lord's hand was in this building project as key people who were needed became available in the time of need.

Volunteers work crews from Greenfield have been to the church in Alabama and to Berea, KY. A group is planning a work trip to Redbud, IL this year.

Volunteers in mission continue as the Lord's mission is being fulfilled.

### **GRR Clergy Spouses**

**April 18-19, 2008**

**Lake Springfield Baptist Camp  
"The Song In Your Heart"  
Ardys Carpenter - Retreat Leader**