

GRR American Baptist Youth Gathering

BRINGIN' JESUS BACK

John 14:19

**November 7-9, 2008
First Baptist Church D
Decatur, IL**

Speakers: Rev Steve Mechem
J. P. Parrish

Concert by: The Virginia Go

Mission Opportunities & Workshops

Cost: \$50.00 Youth
\$40.00 Youth Leaders

Open to: Youth Grades 8-12 &
College Freshmen & Sophomores

Mainstream Contact Information

Send your stories of mission and ministry. Please also send the names of new members (fruit of this mission and ministry) to:

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle
East Peoria, IL 61611
E-Mail: Ricks4Lr@comcast.net

Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

**First Baptist Church, Macomb,
IL Welcomes:** Julie Bunch, Derek
Helling, and Emily Richardson

Northern Seminary Has New President

The Northern Seminary Board of Trustees has prayerfully and unanimously selected the Reverend Dr. Alistair Brown to lead the school in its next chapter of theological education. Dr. Brown began his leadership responsibilities in mid-September.

For the past 12 years, Dr. Brown served as General Director of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) at its World Mission headquarters in Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK. He also served for more than ten years as senior pastor at a large, center-city church in Aberdeen, UK. Dr. Brown earned a Ph.D at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Brown will lead the seminary through several changes, including the relocation of its main campus to Elgin, IL adjacent to Judson University

The GRR was pleased to meet Dr. Brown at the GRR Annual Meeting.



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

October 2008 No.1 Email: grrabc@abc-grr.org web: www.abc-grr.org

GRR Calendar

November

7 - 9 - **ABY Gathering**, Decatur, IL

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

January

16 - 19 - **SKWIM** at Green Lake

March

14 - Area V Annual Meeting,
FBC Edwardsville IL

15 - Area II Annual Meeting
Jacksonville FBC

21 - Area IV Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church, Benton IL

22 - Area I Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church, Ottawa IL

22 - Area III Annual Meeting
North Bridge Baptist Church
Normal, IL

April

17 - 18 - Clergy Spouse Retreat
Lake Springfield Camp

24 - 25 - GRR Missions Conference
Cherry Hills Baptist
Church, Springfield, IL

Harvest Time



The **2008 GRR Annual Meeting** was held October 3-5 in Moline, IL. The theme was "Harvest Time"; the theme scripture taken from John 4: "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

Myllinda Baits, missionary to Costa Rica, was the keynote speaker. Her preaching at the annual meeting communicated her belief that worship is not limited to Sunday mornings, but is a daily expression of the life transforming and liberating love of Christ. Myllinda also spoke at the American Baptist Women's breakfast on Breaking the Chains. Myllinda is helping to establish "El Centro de Transformacion Mariposa", a church based family ministry working to keep young people out of the sex trade in Costa Rica.

Myllinda and her husband Gary are pastors and professors in Costa Rica. They work with the Costa Rican Baptist Federation in pastoral and lay leadership development and theological education.



GRR Convention Highlights



The Area I Youth Ministry Team led the music for the Friday evening session.

Gary Baits was the keynote speaker at the Mission Banquet on Saturday evening.



The service Saturday evening was entitled *Emerging Voices*. The preachers for the evening were Heather Henson, (upper left) Bunyan Cocar, (upper right) and Terrance Clark, (left) all under 35 years of age.



The Karen refugees from Moline (above) sang on Sunday morning and the Karen children (left) participated in a Bible lesson as part of the children's programming.



Church News

First Baptist Church, Carthage, IL is responding to Christ's call to "allow the children to come unto me". In September, the church began the new year of Kids Club. Children, grades K-5th, were invited to come to church on Wednesday afternoons for games, refreshments, music, and active Bible lessons.

The children are drawn into the truth about who Jesus is and how he wants them to live their lives through story telling, drama, and puppets.

The director of Kids Club is Kara Cozart. Janet Carlisle leads the music and teaching. Other members of the team include Neva Eads, Judy Allison, Brenda Putnam, Dick Putnam, Judy Knorr and others. Pat Ciupek, interim pastor, is very thankful for this ministry that the lay leadership of the church provides.

The leaders of Kids Club are tuned into the individual needs of each child and work to relate to the parents of the children.

Kids Club at Carthage FBC has grown from around 25 to between 40 and 50 each week. Most of the children do not regularly attend church. Through this ministry, the church is reaching out to the community. A video clip of Rev. Pat Ciupek sharing about this ministry can be found on the Regional Web page. (www.abc-grr.org/ccm/library.htm).

Pastor **Charles Klassen** of FBC **Benton IL** presented a preview for the community of the 13 week Financial Peace University program to beat debt, control finances and give like never before.

The church also had a PowerPoint

slide program presented to all adult Sunday School classes from the GABBRAI bike ride to solicit funds for church planting. This will be available to other churches to support the program and next year's ride

Community Baptist Church, Utica, MO began their 34th consecutive year of C.L.I.A. (Christ Love In Action), an after school program for children, K - 6th grade. Seventh and eighth graders can become Youth Leaders. **Lois McCain** has been the director for 33 years. Other leaders are **Shirley Hess**, pastor, **Liz Cunningham**, **Kathryn Ratliff** and **Rene Harkins**.

The motto for C.L.I.A. is "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only" from James 1:22. The group meets two times a month during the school year concluding with a dinner and an awards ceremony in May. The picture below is the group from the awards ceremony in May of this year.



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