

April Conferences

DAUGHTERS OF THE FLAME AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY 2008 CONFERENCE

APRIL 16-19, 2008

St. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Contact: Rev. Muriel Johnson

Fanning the Flame A National Pastor's Renewal Conference

April 22-25, 2008

American Baptist Assembly
Green Lake, WI

GRR Clergy Spouses

April 18-19, 2008

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

Mainstream Contact Information

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

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle
East Peoria, IL 61611

E-Mail: Ricks4LR@insightbb.com

Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church Champaign,
Savoy, IL Welcomes: Martin G. Wu,
William Denney, Arlys Denney, and
Art Skelton

Wilton Center Federated Church,
Manhattan, IL Welcomes: Joe
Budka, Nicole Caputo, Mark Gall,
Amanda Johnson, Jeremy Johnson,
Nikki Steen, Kim Tysse, Tom Tysse,
and Jim Wedster

Old Stonington Baptist Church,
Stonington, IL Welcomes:
Patrick Miller

First Baptist Church, Towanda, IL
Welcomes: Adam Wilson, Kristi
Wilson, Emma Wilson, Kayla
Jenkins, and Dawn Staton

Pastor Honored for Service

A special service was held
February 24, 2008 to honor **Pastor
Larry Wiese** for his twenty years of
service to the **First Baptist Church
of Orion, IL.**

During the morning worship service, Dr. Cheryl R. Henson, Great Rivers Regional Associate Minister for Area I gave the message, "Ready, Willing, and Able" and presented Pastor Wiese a certificate. Roger Nightingale, vice moderator of the church, also presented the pastor a certificate for his twenty years of service.

A luncheon and open house was held from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m. at the church.



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

March 2008 No. 1

Email: grrabc@abc-grr.org

web: www.abc-grr.org

GRR Calendar

March 28-29 - Oasis: Area 1 ABW
Retreat at Stronghold

March 29 - AB Men's Disaster Relief
Leadership Team
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

April 5 - AB Men's Disaster Relief
Spring Training Work Day
Grace Baptist Church,
Kansas City, MO and
Blackhawk Baptist Camp

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

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

Missionary Speakers:

**Duane and
Marcia
Binkley** serve
Burmese ethnic Karen and
Chin refugees both in the
United States
and Thailand.
The Binkleys

work with the tens of thousands of
refugees coming to the U.S. while
continuing to work with those still
remaining in refugee camps along
the Thai-Myanmar (Burma) border.

(Missions Conference continued, p 2)



Missions Conference (continued)

Mylynda and Gary Baits

are pastors and professors but mainly friends and connectors who walk alongside their sisters and brothers in Christ. They enjoy connecting students with leadership training, connecting scriptures to everyday life, and connecting people's gifts with life changing ministries. The Baits work with the Costa Rican Baptist Federation in pastoral and lay leadership development and theological education.



Conference Breakout Groups:

Bluefields, Nicaragua-

Carol & Dave Matheson

Christian Center of Anadarko-

Ben Sullivan

Costa Rica Partnership-

Gary Baits

Democratic Republic of Congo-

Wendy Barnhardt

Discovery Groups/Volunteers

Jonathan Hilsher

Kids Hope United -

Pat Griffin

Murrow Indian Children's Home -

Joan Brown

New Neighbors -

Ruth Peterson

Peoria Friendship House, Peoria

Barbara Hartnett

Women at Risk -

Elizabeth Landau

Mission Projects: Used Book Depository, Campbell Soup UPC's or lids (see www.campbellsoup.com for specific details)

Max Klinkenborg Recognized At Area II Annual Meeting

Max Klinkenborg, Regional Associate Minister Serving Area II was recognized during the Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Greenfield, IL on March 9, 2008. Max has served Area II in this position for more than twenty-one years. He has announced his retirement effective July 1, 2008. Dr. John Grisham, who assisted with the recognition will be following Max in this position, July 1.

James Daugherty, Area II Moderator, presented Max with a certificate of appreciation. Lois Pembroke, from FBC Greenfield is pictured below presenting Max a hoe, straw hat, and garden seed for his retirement.



Rev. Gerald Phillips, Rev. Dan Edwards, and GRR Executive Minister, Dr. Dwight Stinnett expressed appreciation to Max for friendship and ministry. Rev. Muriel Johnson from the GRR staff presented Max with gifts and cards from Area V.

Following the presentations, Max expressed his thanks and talked of future plans, announcing his intention to move to Kansas City, MO following his retirement - "but still in the GRR."

Max will be missed. We all pray for God's blessings on him and his wife Kay in their retirement.

Disaster Relief: American Baptist Men Respond To Ice Storm

An ice storm did extensive damage in the Jacksonville, IL area in December. On December 13, 2007 Ron Greenfield, Mac Shotwell and Paul Stivers met with Rev. Jim Harper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville to survey the damage and to do site inspection at the locations assigned by the city. They were joined by Bob Nicolette. Later that day the small disaster relief trailer was parked at First Baptist Church, thanks to Charlie Schumaker and George Meyer.

The next day, twenty-one volunteers worked at 15 sites, completing 14 of them. Because of extreme winter weather, the work was delayed until Dec. 20 and 21. Paul Stivers, team leader, led a team to complete eight additional sites: Breaking for Christmas, work resumed in January with three teams completing work at seven additional sites. Together thirty volunteers completed work at 29 sites in 6 days. On January 3 and 4, Ron Greenfield returned to Jacksonville to complete work at one site and three new ones. Work on this, our 7th disaster response, was completed on January 5 at 3 sites.

The following from Carol Rowe summed up what we heard from so many: "Thank you so much for clearing my yard of limbs after the ice storm... I do so appreciate and recognize the hard work and the Christian action. Your love for our Savior is evident in your good works. Again thank you and may God's blessings be with you always."

Mac Shotwell - GRR AB Men's Disaster Relief Coordinator

FBC Kansas City Youth on Mission:

In the summer of 2007 the **First Baptist, Kansas City, MO** church bus hauling a trailer full of supplies and gifts - followed by a mini-van - headed south on a mission trip. We spent days of work and fun at **Murrow Indian Children's Home** and then forced ourselves to part in keeping with our plan to also minister to **Bacone College**.

At Bacone, our youth first dug in and dug up an overgrown sand volleyball court in time for incoming students to enjoy. The next morning our youth painted parking lines in the hot Oklahoma sun and later cooked our lunch. After lunch they reported to Melissa Foutch for some "inside work" -- folding thousands of newsletters to be sent to Bacone alumni and supporters. Emily Dold, one of our newest youth - though more than glad to help fold, seal, address and ready them for posting - was impressed at how much work this was, especially since we had not worked with its production or printing.

During the next months, God worked in and through Emily and our youth and leaders. This led to our youths' fund raising skit about our faith and following Christ. Thanks to a gifted and giving congregation we raised over \$500 that now has been sent to Murrow in hopes they can purchase a folding machine with perhaps a service contract. May God's work as seen in Emily, be done in each of us, so we may see and feel needs, listen to God speaking to our hearts, and follow through with the love we've first been given, for we know the needs of our world are great.

Pastor Doug Valentine