

## 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 Labels

## 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](mailto:Ricks4LR@insightbb.com)



# The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

February 2008 No. 2

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

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

## GRR Calendar

- February 23 - **Area IV Annual Meeting**, Centralia, IL FBC
- Feb. 29 - March 1- **Area I Annual Meeting**, FBC Elgin, IL
- March 8 - **Area III Annual Meeting**  
FBC Peoria, IL
- March 8 - **Creative Worship Seminar**  
Len Wilson & Jason Moore  
Midnight Oil Productions at  
FBC Peoria, IL
- March 8 - **Area V Annual Meeting**  
FBC Kansas City, MO
- March 9 - **Area II Annual Meeting**  
FBC Greenfield, IL
- April 12 - **Clean Up Day**  
Lake Springfield Baptist  
Camp
- April 25-26 - **GRR Missions Conference** hosted by  
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**

## Area Meetings



### Area IV: *Missions: Here, There, and Everywhere*

February 23, 2008 at  
**Centralia First Baptist Church**  
**CANCELLED by Weather**

### Area I *LEAP Into Ministry*

Friday, February 29 - **Judson University Fine Arts Auditorium**  
Saturday, March 1 - **Elgin First Baptist Church**

**Area I Youth Winter Retreat**, Friday,  
February 29 through Sunday, March  
2, **Judson University, Elgin, IL**

## Area III *Your Legacy of Faith*

March 8, 2008: **Peoria First Baptist**  
Speaker: **Reid Trulson**, Executive  
Director, Board of International  
Ministries

**The Creative Worship Seminar**  
(same date & place ) by Len Wilson  
and Jason Moore will address what  
our churches can do to transform wor-  
ship through culture of worship, artful  
expression of the worship theme,  
development of the team that plans  
and supports worship, and use of tech-  
nologies (from banners to projection).

## Area V *Imitating Christ In Service*

March 8 - **Kansas City MO First Baptist Church**

Guest Preacher: **Rev. Lisa Harris**,  
Executive Director of Bethel  
Neighborhood Center

**Youth:** Triple M: Mission, Meal, and  
MegaFun Day

## Area II *Children In Poverty*

Sunday, March 9 - **Greenfield IL First Baptist Church**

Speaker: **Rev. Marilyn Turner** -  
Associate Executive Director, Program  
Ministries of National Ministries –  
ABC/USA  
Concert by **4 His Glory**

For more information and to download  
registration forms for these meetings:  
[www.abc-grr.org/areas/annualmeetings.htm](http://www.abc-grr.org/areas/annualmeetings.htm)

## Churches In Ministry

In the coming months, *The Mainstream* will be featuring churches of the Great Rivers Region who are doing some exciting things in ministry. **First Baptist Church, Macomb, IL** is the church featured in this issue.

“Several Area III churches have shown significant growth over the past few years. However, I can think of no other church that **has turned around** so intentionally and deliberately in the last three years,” says Dr. Richard Ricks, Associate Minister for Area III of the Great Rivers Region, of First Baptist Church, Macomb, Illinois. The Rev. Wally Holt, pastor, has led the church in **increasing and developing its leadership group through intentional discipleship**. Worship attendance has more than doubled in the few years of his pastorate. The members are also intentional in their support of mission at all levels.

This most recent chapter of the life of First Baptist Church Macomb, began with the church naming a search committee which then met in consultation with Dr. Richard Ricks. Through many hours of prayerful discernment God blessed this collaborative work between the church and the GRR with the name of **The Rev. Walter Holt**. That he has been God's person for this pastorate has been affirmed by many in the church and community.

When Rev. Holt began his pastorate, the church had about five children and perhaps four couples under the age of fifty. Now there is a healthy cross section of young, middle-aged



and seniors attending. The children's sermon time has grown to ten to fifteen children. More than 50 percent of those attending Sunday worship now also meet in small groups and more than two thirds of those attending worship stay for Sunday school.

Submitted by: Dr. Richard Ricks and  
Claudia McCain, Director of Small  
Group Ministries, FBC Macomb

## New Director of Campus Ministry at SIU

American Baptist  
Campus Ministries at  
Southern Illinois  
University welcomes  
**Lois Bartley** as the  
new Director of  
Campus Ministries.  
Lois who served as  
Interim Director for  
the Campus Student Ministry of SIU  
was asked to take a full time call as  
Director in January. Lois moved to  
Southern Illinois three years ago with  
her husband Francis Bartley who is  
pastor of First Baptist Church Of Ava,  
Illinois. As Director, Lois says that she  
is excited by what the Lord is doing  
through the Campus Ministry at SIU  
and sees this ministry as having a  
great future potential in reaching col-  
lege students through Intentional  
Christian Living. Learn more about this  
vibrant and growing American Baptist  
Campus Ministry. Contact Lois at:

Lois Bartley  
516 S Hays  
Carbondale Illinois 62901  
Ph. 1-618-318-1701

Email: [baptisthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:baptisthouse@yahoo.com)  
Website:  
<http://intranet.siu.edu/~ambs/index.htm>



## Great Rivers Region Missions Conference Cherry Hills Baptist Church 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. The Binkleys are jointly appointed by International Ministries and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Within the U.S. the Binkleys will work with national and regional mission entities of American Baptist Churches USA and ABC and CBF local churches.  
(More on Missions Conference on page 4)

