

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



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

February 2008 No. 2

Email: grrabc@abc-grr.org

web: 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 **CANCELLED**
Centralia First Baptist Church

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

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 college 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
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)

