

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@comcast.net

Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church Paris, IL

Welcomes: Allen Williams and
Crystal Williams

Central Baptist Church, Springfield IL Welcomes:

Misty Carver, Cheryl
Teele, Georgie Borchardt, and
Lindsay Foster

E-Mail Changes For Staff

The e-mail addresses of several region staff members have changed due to Insight being changed to Comcast. The following are the correct e-mail addresses:

Linda Ricks-Mainstream Editor
Ricks4lr@comcast.net
(The letter after the 4 is an L not a 1)

Richard Ricks - Regional Associate
Minister Serving Area III
revrick4@comcast.net

Cheryl Henson - Regional Associate
Minister Serving Area I
area1grr@comcast.net

Mike Henson - Camps Property
Manager
mthenson@comcast.net



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

March 2008 No. 2

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 Camping 2008

Camping season is coming soon! It is time for you to think about children and youth going to camp at one of our two camps.



Lake Springfield Baptist Camp and Conference Center is located near Springfield, IL. **Blackhawk Baptist Camp** is located near White Pines State Park in northern Illinois.

Our purpose in GRR camping is "to bring children, youth and adults a step closer to Christ." Join us this summer at Blackhawk or Springfield Camp as we commune with God in nature, make Christian friends, and grow spiritually.

April 13 is American Baptist Camps and Conference Sunday. We invite you to celebrate this in your churches. Suggestions for promoting camp can be found on the region website. www.abc-grr.org

CAMPING WISH LIST – 2008

1. More Camps
2. Directors and Counselors
3. Offerings in support of GRR camps
4. Prayer for all who participate and all who provide leadership for GRR camping

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.



My linda 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)

Registration Information:

Registration forms can be downloaded from the regional website or registration can be done online. Lodging information is also available. For further questions contact the Region Office.

Leadership Changes

New Areas of Service

Barry Norris, Pastor, Park Place Baptist Church, Montgomery, IL

Chrissy Bartholomew, Youth Minister, First Baptist Church, Oak Park, IL

Sharon Farral, Associate Pastor to Seniors, First Baptist Church, East Moline, IL

Bon Rutherford, Youth Minister, Judon Memorial Baptist Church, Joliet, IL

John Withum, Youth Minister, First Baptist Church, Aurora, IL

Departing

Vada Southern-Allen, Interim Minister, First Baptist Church Kankakee, IL

Ron Harbold, Interim Minister, First Baptist Church, Plano, IL

Richard Cunningham, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Morris, IL

Alternative Ministerial Education

The Regional Ordination Program has a new name as of January 18, 2008 by action of the GRR Board of Ministries.

The name of the Regional Ordination Program (ROP) has been changed to Alternative Ministerial Education (AME). Nothing is being changed about the content or procedures of the ROP. The reason for the suggested change is to more accurately reflect the purpose of the program. For more information contact Carl Cottingham, Dean of AME.

Spring Training Work Days for Disaster Relief Volunteers

On **Saturday, April 5** there will be two events, one at **Blackhawk Baptist Camp** and another at **Grace Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO.**

On **Saturday, April 19** a third training and work day will be held at **Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.**

All three of these events will include "hands-on" training with the use of disaster relief equipment: chain saws, water pumps and other tools. In addition, the day will include latest information on readiness for disaster response, team identification, responsibilities, group building and how we are organized to respond.

At our two camps we will help do spring clean up while we are training. In Kansas City we will cut down dead trees on the church grounds. Dress for physical work, wear steel toe shoes if you have them and bring work gloves. Complimentary lunch will be served at all three events. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. in Kansas City and at 9:30 a.m. at Blackhawk and Springfield.

Reservations need to be made with **Jack Smith** (for Blackhawk Camp) at jacksmith@grics.net or by calling 815-284-6156; with **Paul Webb** (for Kansas City) at paulville2@sbcglobal.net or at 816-505--0619 ; with **Mac Shotwell** (for Springfield) at macs@warpnet.net or 217-241-4048.

