

GREAT RIVERS REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

These scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people who are members in Great Rivers Region American Baptist Churches to secure a college and/or seminary education.

Scholarships for any college student (regardless of major) or seminary student from the Gernenz-Shurtleff / Wilcoxon Scholarship are available.

Ministerial students attending ABC-related schools and seminaries in preparation for ministry can also apply for the Harold O. Long Scholarship.

All applications must be received in the GRR office by April 1, 2008.

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to: Scholarship Committee, Att: Sharon Downs, PO Box 3786, Springfield, IL 62708, phone: 217-726-7366; fax: 217-726-7566, or email: Sharon@abc-grr.org

Camping 2008



**Blackhawk Baptist Camp
Oregon IL**

**Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
Springfield IL**

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711
Telephone: (217) 726-7366 Fax: (217) 726-7566
Email: grrabc@abc-grr.org Web: www.abc-grr.org

Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Champaign at Savoy, IL Welcomes: Kevin Logsdon, Joann Logsdon, Ivan Sherburn, and Jane Sherburn

Ridgeview Baptist Church, Danville, IL Welcomes: Jennifer Ciancio, Seb Ciancio, Jennifer Kinney, and Karen Pitts

First Baptist Church, Galva, IL Welcomes: Chad Hodge

First Baptist Church of Peoria, IL Welcomes: Bradley Burmood, Anjan Cheerla, Shanthi Cheerla, Glen Evans, Sally Heathcoat, Michelle Lacy, Jacob Lewis, Kelley Sutherland, Agnes (Udayakumar) Kamalam, Jeba Udayakumar, Brian Ulrich, Courtney Ulrich, Katya Ulrich, Luda Ulrich, and Trey Winfrey

First Baptist Church, Wood River, IL Welcomes: Keith Huff and Gerry Huff

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. 1

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**



Friends,

I plan to be in Baton Rouge with my hammer for the 2008 Habitat for

Humanity project and hope to see you there. **Registration information is available on the GRR web page:** <http://www.abc-grr.org/gulfcoast2008/index.html> and read the article below.

See you there!

Dwight Stinnett

AMERICAN BAPTIST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO BUILD

HOUSES ON GULF COAST

Once again National Ministries, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, will partner with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge in the spring 2008 to build five homes for families who have permanently relocated to Baton Rouge, following displacement by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

More than 300 volunteers will be required to complete the homes in this "Blitz Build."

"Taking part in a 'Blitz Build' is an amazing opportunity to let others see the love of Jesus Christ in you," says Victoria Goff, National Ministries' Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries.

"It is awesome to help raise wall

after wall and then—before you know it—you have a house standing before you. Doing this side-by-side with others filled with Christ's compassion, and the homeowners, too, makes it even more special. Don't miss this chance of a lifetime to give back, and return home enriched in ways you could never have imagined."

Both individuals and groups are needed to make this "Blitz Build" successful. Participants **must be at least 16 years of age**. Construction skills are not required, but any knowledge of or experience with construction is appreciated. Skilled laborers—such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters—are especially critical, along with skilled individuals who can serve as house leaders.

Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation to and from Baton Rouge and the worksite as well as a weekly fee of \$100 for food and lodging.

More than 150 volunteers will be needed the first week, beginning Monday, April 28, when the five homes are blessed and the walls are raised. That week, work will focus on framing the exterior and interior walls, raising roof trusses and roof decking, and installing windows, doors and vinyl siding.

During the second week, beginning May 5, plans call for completion of subcontractor work, so volunteer opportunities will **require those with specialized skills**.

To finish vinyl siding, tape and float sheetrock, paint, and install trim work, cabinets and landscaping in the final week, **beginning May 12, another 150-plus volunteers will be needed**. The build will end on Saturday, May 17, with a dedication of each home.

In 2007, National Ministries built 12 homes with 200-plus American Baptist

volunteers in Baton Rouge, La., as part of a similar "Blitz Build" effort in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Since hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit in August and September of 2005, National Ministries' Volunteer Ministries office has sent more than 1600 volunteers to the Gulf Coast to help with rebuilding.

The Rev. Marilyn Turner: "We are thankful for the many American Baptists who continue to share their time and resources as gifts bringing comfort to the hurricane survivors. This is a long-term ministry of caring, and it is one that could not be accomplished without their dedication."

The registration deadline for participation in the 2008 "Blitz Build" is April 1.

American Baptist News Service

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

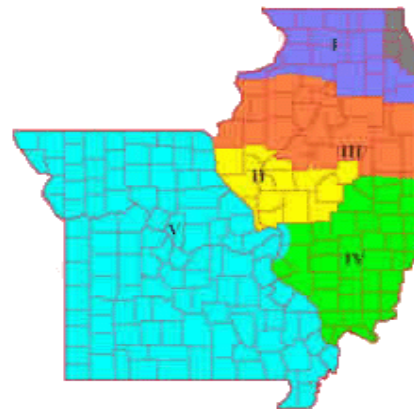
**American Baptist Assembly
Green Lake, WI**

Great Rivers Region Missions Conference

**Cherry Hills Baptist Church
April 25-26, 2008.**

Contact: John Grisham

Area Meetings



Area I LEAP Into Ministry

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

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

Area III Your Legacy of Faith

March 8, 2008 at Peoria FBC
Speaker: Reid Trulson, Executive Director, Board of International Ministries

Area IV

Missions: Here, There, and Everywhere

February 23, 2008 at Centralia First Baptist Church
Speakers: Area IV Mission Trip
Participants: Charles Klassen, Quinton Runyon, Rex and Becky Cooper, and John Lobos

Area V Imitating Christ In Service

March 8 - Kansas City MO First Baptist Church

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

Take advantage of these times of fellowship, worship, and learning



**Creative
Worship
Seminar**
March 8, 2008
Peoria First
Baptist Church



The Creative Worship seminar by **Len Wilson and Jason Moore will address what our churches can do to transform worship** through culture of worship, artful expression of the worship theme, development of the team that plans and supports worship, and use of technologies (from banners to projection).

This is NOT a tech seminar, but a time of learning resources and an approach that will help us intentionally plan worship that will reach the changing world around us.

The seminar is **being limited to 80** for space considerations.

Find registration form at:
<http://www.abc-grr.org/midnightoil/PromoFor8Mar08.html>
or in the recent Pastors Mailing.