

GAB-BRAM

Great American Baptist
Bike Ride Across Missouri

June 15 - June 20



Participating riders are accepting pledge money on a per mile, per day, or whole ride basis. One hundred percent of the money raised will go toward new church development programs. This year we are providing camp scholarships for the children of new church plants.

Pledges can be made online through the regional website at www.abcgrr.org or contact Ted Marrinan at teosails@yahoo.com or Dan Edwards danedwards@casscomm.com. Information is also available by calling the GRR Resource Center (217) 726-7366.

Mainstream Contact Information

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

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle

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@abcgrr.org Web: www.abcgrr.org

Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Carthage, IL
Welcomes: Gavin Bergmann and
Kristina Knoche

Ridgeview Baptist Church,
Danville, IL **Welcomes:** Art
Orsborn, Paulette Orsborn,
Dorie Pierce, Eric Pierce, Joel
Wallace, and Lisa Wallace

First Baptist Church, East Moline,
IL **Welcomes:** Debbie Wood



**ABW Ministries
GRR
Annual Retreat**

**June 5, 6, & 7
Lake Williamson
Carlinville, IL**

**BE RENEWED - BE REFRESHED
BE EMPOWERED
in Christ Jesus**

More Information:
www.abcgrr.org/abwm/index.htm
or call: Marcia Wimmer: 217-877-
4128



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

May 2009 No. 2

Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

GRR Calendar

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

May

23 - Lake Springfield Baptist
Camp Cleanup

28 - Church for All Generations
with Edward H. Hammett
FBC Bloomington, IL

June

5 - 7 - GRR ABW Ministries
Annual Retreat
Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL

20 - 50th Anniversary of Blackhawk
Baptist Camp

25 - 29 - Biennial Meeting of ABC-
USA, Pasadena CA

July

8-9 - National ABM Council
IL Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL

10-11 - GRR Men's & Boys
Conference - IL Wesleyan
University, Bloomington, IL

25 -31 - National ABWM and ABGirls
Conference, Lake Williamson
Carlinville, IL



Camping 2009

***Community
* Leadership
*Personal Discovery
*Relationship With Christ**

Let's go camping. It's that time of year to register for summer camp. The GRR has two camps to choose from. Blackhawk Baptist Camp is a wooded camp in northern Illinois near White Plains State Park. Lake Springfield Baptist Camp and Conference Center is a year round facility on the shore of Lake Springfield in Springfield, IL.

Camping is a wonderful experience. At our Baptist camps, fun, fellowship, and the camping experience are combined with the life changing spiritual experience of becoming closer to the Lord through worship and learning opportunities in God's beautiful world.

Get registration materials from your church office, or call Sharon at (217) 726-7366 or download: www.abcgrr.org/grrcamps/index.htm

**Being Church for All Generations...
A Seminar for Church Leaders and Pastors**



Seminar Leader: Dr. Eddie Hammett
Senior Coach for Lake Hickory Learning Communities & Valwood

Christian Leadership Coaching, and a founding partner of the Columbia Partnership. He is the author of four books dealing with how the church can be prepared for more effective ministry in the 21st century.

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church
2502 E College Ave
Bloomington, IL 61704

Cost: \$30.00 - Includes lunch, notebook, and one copy of Hammett's book for the Pastor, and 3 lay leaders (Additional people from a church will be charged \$5.00 each for lunch)



Mang Sonna Appointed Bethel Executive Director



The Board of Directors of Bethel Neighborhood Center has announced the appointment of Rev. Mang Sonna as

the Executive Director effective May 2009.

Mang Sonna was born and raised in a Baptist pastor's family in India. He accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at the age of twelve and he felt called to become a missionary at the age of nineteen.

Having lived through hard times with his six brothers and a sister, he knows what it is like to be poor and needy, and he understands the difficulties of the new immigrants. Mang says, "God took me along many roads and enriched my life with so many experiences. Those life experiences taught me lessons I would have never learned any other way. God has been very faithful to my family and myself. I am thankful to God for making me available to touch lives at different stages of my life. Obedience, faith, prayer, and God's timing keep me on the right path to fulfill God's call and God's will."

Mang began his service at Bethel in September 2004, first serving as a part-time after school staff member for a year and the Assistant Program Director for four years. Mang says, "I feel privileged and honored to serve as the Executive Director of Bethel because Bethel touches lives. I am humbled to lead

a ministry that has been touching thousands of lives for almost 100 years! We have much to learn from one another if we only take the time to listen to one another's stories"

Mang wants to impact the lives of those who come to Bethel in such a way that they will have hope in the future in spite of the challenges they are facing in life. Bethel is more than a place of work for Mang. It is a place of love where he is being touched each day. Bethel emits the love of Christ by serving others with love, respect, acceptance, and humility.

Blackhawk Baptist Camp To Celebrate 50th Birthday

January 1959: 160 acres of wooded farmland was purchased from Floyd W. Stauffer for the price of \$12,000. June 21, 1959: a Camp Sunday was held on the property so the churches of Northern Illinois could see the new camp site. A camp naming contest was initiated. Eventually the name **Blackhawk Baptist Camp** was selected (probably a recommendation from George McCoy of Rockford).

On **June 20, 2009**, we are again inviting everyone to join us at Blackhawk Baptist Camp to celebrate the **50th birthday of Blackhawk Camp**.

Our celebration is called the "**Blackhawk Fiftieth Funanza**." It will be a day filled with music, memories, food and fun. We are inviting all former campers, managers, board members, directors, counselors, staff members and friends to return to the camp for a grand reunion. We will start at 10:00 a.m.

and have a full schedule of on-going activities such as tours, praise and worship, swimming, games, reunions, re-dedication of the camp, fried chicken and much more.



If you have memories you would like to share, write us a letter, or send us photos that we can include in the memory book that is being prepared. We will present a special video for the evening Grand Celebration. We will conclude with the time honored campfire service complete with singing and s'mores!! Send your reservation by email to area1grr@comcast.net or

phone (815) 986-7932.

And at LSBC...

**Crop for the Camp
All Scrapbookers and Crafters**

Date: May 30 from 9 AM to 9PM

Place: Lightbody Conference Center at **Lake Springfield Baptist Camp** (5878 Iron Bridge Road, Chatham, IL 62629)

Cost: \$25 per person includes lunch, dinner, and beverages. Bring your favorite snack to share (Download registration form)

Come and have fun! What a great opportunity to enjoy an event and know proceeds go toward the LSBC