

GREAT RIVERS REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

There are scholarship programs in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people **who are members of Great Rivers Region American Baptist Churches** to help with college and/or seminary education costs.

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

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, 2009.

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@abcgrr.org



Harvest Grants

Harvest Grants are intended to empower and encourage churches to "open their eyes" to the fields all around them during 2009. These matching grants can be used by GRR churches for just about any evangelistic effort. Our operational definition of an "evangelistic effort" is any program, activity, or event **directed to those outside the church and including an intentional invitation to Christian discipleship.**

To get a packet, including application, call the GRR or download it from http://www.abcgrr.org/evangelism/Harvest_Grants_2009.pdf

Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Dixon, IL Welcomes: Connie Potter, Mason Rhodenbaugh, Antony Maves, Bill Rex, Tina Rex, Richard Horton, Vicky Horton, Ken Angleton, Dan Cibu, Marcy Cibu, Chelsea Smith, and Elizabeth Shomaker

Northern Seminary Professor Speaks at University Baptist Church

Professor David Fitch of Northern Seminary preached for **University Baptist Church, Champaign, IL** on Sunday, January 25th, challenging the young adults to witness Christ's Great Commission for today's generation. Dr. Fitch also gave an afternoon presentation at UBC about reaching people in their 20s and 30s,



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
East Peoria, IL 61611

E-Mail: Ricks4Lr@comcast.net



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

February 2009 No. 2

Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

GRR Calendar

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

March

- 14 - Area V Annual Meeting, FBC Edwardsville IL
- 15 - Area II Annual Meeting Jacksonville FBC
- 21 - Area IV Annual Meeting First Baptist Church, Benton IL
- 22 - Area I Annual Meeting First Baptist Church, Ottawa IL
- 22 - Area III Annual Meeting North Bridge Baptist Church Normal, IL

April

- 17 - 18 - Clergy Spouse Retreat Lake Springfield Camp
- 24 - 25 - GRR Missions Conference Cherry Hills Baptist Church, Springfield, IL

May

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

Area Meetings Harvest Time



Area I

FBC Ottawa, IL
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Speaker: Dr. Alistair Brown President of Northern Seminary Children and Youth Events

Area II

FBC Jacksonville, IL
Sunday, March 15, 2009

Afternoon:
Reports From:
Dr. Dwight Stinnett
Rev. Lisa Harris
Dr. John Grisham
Breakout Groups

Evening Speaker: Rev. Lisa Harris

Area III

North Bridge Baptist Church
Normal, IL
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Afternoon Speakers:
Pastor Christian Ricker, Chenoa FBC
Rev. Wally Holt, Macomb FBC
Dr. Brett Smith, University Baptist Church, Champaign, IL;
Workshops

Area III (Continued)

Evening Speaker:
Rev. Karen Boucher, Associate
Pastor of FBC Pontiac, IL

Area IV

First Baptist Church, Benton, IL
Saturday, March 21, 2009
Theme: Sowing For Harvest

Speakers & Workshop Leaders:
Rex and Becky Cooper
Charles Klassen, Jon Lobos
Ron Haynes

Worship Leader: Rod Mays

Area V

FBC Edwardsville, IL
Saturday, March 14, 2009
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dwight Stinnett

The long process of **recovery from Hurricane Katrina** continues, and in places like the New Orleans neighborhood of Little Woods, much more help is needed.

Sunday, April 19 - Saturday, April 25
Sunday, April 26 - Saturday, May 2
Sunday, May 3 - Saturday, May 9
Sunday, May 10 - Saturday, May 16

Contact: Victoria.Goff@abc-usa.org



GRR Missions Conference

April 24 - 25, 2009

Cherry Hills Baptist Church
Springfield, IL



**A Conference Designed for People
with a Heart for MISSIONS**

Friday:

3:00 p.m.: "Mission & Ministry in
Rural and Small Town Churches"
with Susan Gillies

6:30 p.m.: Plenary Session

- Testimonies on Habitat Projects
in the Gulf
- Special Music by 4-Given
- Preaching by Rev. Wilfred
Brown
- Offering for Alajuelita Project
in Costa Rica

Saturday:

7:30 a.m.: Continental breakfast
with GRR Staff

Workshops

11:15 a.m.: Plenary Session

- Special music Karen Musical
Troupe
- Message on Baptists in Burma
with Dr. Angelene Naw

Offering for Break the Chains project

President of the Arab Baptist Seminary of Beirut, Lebanon Visits Third Baptist Church

On Sunday, February 22, **Dr. Elie Haddad, President of the Arab Baptist Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon** was the special guest of **Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO**. Dr. Haddad addressed the combined Adult Bible Classes and spoke in the worship hour.

Third Baptist Church has a very special relationship with the Lebanese Baptist Christians. In 1893, a young man from Lebanon, Saeed Juriedini, came to Chicago as part of a Syrian contingent to attend the Chicago World's Fair. After the fair, he visited a friend in St. Louis who invited him to attend worship services with him at Third Baptist. Upon hearing the gospel presented by Pastor W.R. Smith, Saeed made a profession of faith in Jesus that morning, and was baptized at Third Baptist Church.

Saeed returned to Lebanon and was instrumental in starting a house church in his photography studio.

In 1895, Pastor Smith and a group of believers from Third Baptist Church went to Beirut and Saeed was ordained as the first Baptist pastor in Lebanon.

Out of that nineteenth century beginning, a Baptist Christian witness has given birth to a vibrant witness that trains pastors and leaders from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The Lebanese Baptist Conference of Churches now has 18 churches with 950 members.

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 for 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, note-
book, 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)

Clergy Spouse Retreat

April 17-18, 2009

Lake Springfield
Baptist Camp

Theme: Choose Joy

Retreat Leader:
Ruth Shipman