



# The Mainstream

## News of Ministry and Mission

*Be a vessel that God can pour his love through.  
Let It Flow*

November 2018 No. 1

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### Calendar

2019

#### January:

18 - 21: **SKWIM**  
**Green Lake Conference**  
**Center, Green Lake, WI**

#### March:

9: **Area V Annual Meeting**

29 - 30: **Face To Face**  
First Baptist Church  
Indianapolis, IN

#### April:

13: Area III Annual Meeting  
FBC Champaign at  
Savoy, IL

26 - 27: GRR Clergy Spouse  
Retreat - LSBC

#### May:

4: Area I Annual Meeting  
Blackhawk Baptist Camp  
Oregon, IL

9 - 11: RESOURCE Leadership  
Conference  
The Chateau Hotel &  
Conference Center  
Bloomington, IL

### Mission Giving Opportunity

NightLight International in Bangkok, Thailand, led by IM missionary Annie Dieselberg, has been ministering to Thai women who seek to leave commercial sexual exploitation and gain ethical employment. Song Sawang Church, whose lead pastor is Jeff Dieselberg is a safe place for women to worship and to bring their friends and families to introduce them to the love of Christ.

By securing the needed \$379,000, a significantly reduced price over market value, NightLight can purchase the building it currently rents. Furthermore, when remodeled, the two buildings together will have enough square footage on the first floor to accommodate Song Sawang Church. Annie and Jeff are excited to see how God is answering the prayers NightLight has prayed for many years! "What an amazing Christmas gift that will enable Nightlight to continue to minister to countless women who seek dignifying employment, and for the church to provide a way to introduce the families to God's grace," says Annie,

**International Ministries is excited to announce that, thanks to a generous donor, all gifts to IM for this project up to \$100,000 will be DOUBLED between now and December 31, 2018.**



**A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister**

I think there are two basic groups within those who call themselves Christians: **1) Those who are using Jesus to get what they want, and 2) Those who are letting Jesus use them to get what He wants.** What group do you fit in? What group does your church or organization fit in? Sometimes I think we too easily fit into the first group. We use Jesus to get what we want, but make it seem like it is His doing. I think the second group is always concerned about others, even if it means they must give up something.

**What if Jesus really meant the stuff He said?** That is what the t-shirt said that I received from **Shane Claiborne when I visited "The Simple Way"** in Philadelphia last week. Printed on the back of the t-shirt is the Sermon on the Mount. I had a great time walking around



with Shane as he showed me the work they are doing in a rundown neighborhood. They are changing the neighborhood one rowhouse at a time. They are also adding murals on some of the walls and turning



gardens and parks. Shane was very gracious and wanted me to bring greetings to his new friends in the Great Rivers Region.

**Lee Spitzer is slowly making a comeback.** I also attended the General Board meeting for ABCUSA last week. One of the highlights was a visit from Lee Spitzer on the final day of our meeting. He came and spoke to us and then had some time afterwards for conversation. His recovery is going well, but slow, as they expected. Please keep Lee and his family, Lois and Josh, in your prayers as they work through the coming months.



Another highlight of the trip was to see **the new building that will be the headquarters for ABCUSA**. It is only a few miles from the present building and will be ready to move in around March of 2019. The present building is still in the process of being sold so please continue to pray for that situation.

As we get ready to celebrate the holidays, and especially Thanksgiving, let's think back on many of those immigrants who left a hostile land to start up again with the help of the people who were already here.

That is what the story of the first Thanksgiving in America is about. We were immigrants and the natives welcomed us. Please be praying for those in other lands who live in fear for their lives and seek a better place.

Be thankful for what you have and be willing to share with those around you. May you and yours have a great Thanksgiving.

**And remember, be rightly related to God and find your joy there, and out of you will flow rivers of living water. Be a vessel that God can pour His love through.**

Paul

## **First Baptist Church, Cordova, IL Celebrates 175th Anniversary**

On December 28, 1843, **First Baptist of Cordova** was founded. On October 21, 2018 the church celebrated

175 years of worship and Christian fellowship. The day included Sunday School, Morning Worship, lunch and an anniversary program that featured special music, words from past ministers and special guests, and recognition of founding families of the church. Various photos and displays were exhibited around the church building for all to see. Pictured below are church member Fred Genung and Regional Minister Paul Gibson.



## **Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)**

The Church Revitalization Initiative is designed to help committed pastors and church leaders who are willing to do what it takes to revitalize their churches. If you are feeling stagnant and/or undecided how to move forward, please email me; (**wal-lyholt63@gmail.com**) and we can discuss your situation and determine if the team can be of service to you.



## Great Rivers Regional Scholarship Programs

Scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people **who are members of 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, 2019.**

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to:

Scholarship Committee  
Attention Debbie Naugle  
PO Box 13457  
Springfield IL 62791

Phone 217-726-7366  
Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org)

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## Missionary News

**Ruth Mooney** will be retiring at the end of this year, December 31, 2018, after 32 years working with International Ministries in El Salvador, Cuba, and Costa Rica. **Ruth Vindas** of Santo Tomás, Costa Rica, has been appointed to serve as an International Ministries (IM) associate missionary in San José, Costa Rica. She will be replacing Ruth Mooney at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL).

## Mainstream Contact Information

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

**Linda Ricks**  
**232 Devron Circle**  
**East Peoria, IL 61611**  
**[Ricks4LR@comcast.net](mailto:Ricks4LR@comcast.net)**

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## GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks:  
Email: [revrick4@comcast.net](mailto:revrick4@comcast.net)

## Videos of Growth Conference Speakers Now Available

Rivers Growth Conference (2018 Annual Gathering) are now available in streaming (**from this site**) and dvd formats. (Contact the office of the GRR for dvd ordering information.)

Experience again - or for the first time - witness of God's work presented by David Fitch, Shane Claiborne, Tony Campolo, Sharon Koh, and Wally Holt (GRR church revitalization).

