

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

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



The Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)

The Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI) is designed to help committed pastors and church leaders who are willing to do what it takes to revitalize their church. The Initiative is comprised of pastors and church leaders who have helped lead their churches to healthy revitalized congregations if you are feeling stagnant and/or undecided how to move forward, please email me (wallyholt63@gmail.com) and we can discuss your situation and determine if the team can be of service to you.

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks
Email: 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).

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711 Phone: (217) 726-7366 Email: debbie@abcgrr.org Web: www.abcgrr.org To subscribe or unsubscribe to The Mainstream or to change contact information, please send an e-mail to Debbie Naugle with your request: debbie@abcgrr.org.



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

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

December 2018 Email: debbie@abcgrr.org web: www.abcgrr.org
Download Color or B&W for printing. Online edition interactive

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



Merry
Christmas

From the

Great Rivers Region Staff

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

**ON THE RUN, MARY, JOSEPH,
JESUS AND OTHERS**

As I prepare for Christmas I am reminded of the situation surrounding the birth of the One we worship. I recall that He and His family had to escape to Egypt because they were facing death if they stayed. It seemed a gang, led by a guy named Herod, had put a death sentence on the boy and many others about that same age. I am thinking there were many scared parents marching toward the border of Egypt to escape that death sentence that was placed on their boys. Maybe that's why Jesus speaks about helping others in Matthew 25. Not only does He have compassion for them, but He was one of them.

So, if you want to give a special gift this Christmas, **try giving compassion** to those around you. I think Jesus would like that gift.

PUERTO RICO SISTER CHURCH PROGRAM

I wanted to update things since our region gave funds to help get this program started. As of now, there are over 62 churches and groups from the mainland who have committed to partner with a church in Puerto Rico. There are also 40 churches from Puerto Rico who have agreed to partner with churches in the States. Thank you to the six churches in the Great Rivers Region who are participating in this program.

THE GRREAT OFFERING

We started this annual offering this past September and so far, 24 churches have participated for a total of \$10,323. Thanks to all who have participated. We are challenging all our churches to consider this special offering for 2019. **Would you and your church take up the challenge?**

SPEAKING OF THE GRREAT OFFERING—TAYLORVILLE

The folks in Taylorville will be on the receiving end of the GRREAT Offering. A group of approximately 38 people, coordinated by our American Baptist Men, head to Taylorville to help in the recovery from the recent tornados and are already using funds from the GRREAT Offering. These funds will help with expenses and help families who lost their home and other essentials. Thanks for your gifts.

SAFE TRAVELS AND BLESSINGS

For those who will be on the road during the holidays I pray for safe travels and blessings as you get together with friends and family. I head to North Dakota the weekend of December 15th to celebrate my mom's 95th birthday with friends and family. Mom is okay but wishes she could soon join my dad in heaven. Hard to argue with that. Merry Christmas.

Paul Gibson



2019 Biennial Mission Summit

Plan now to attend the **American Baptist Churches USA 2019 Biennial Mission Summit event, June 21-23** at the **Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia!** The theme is **"Summit by the Sea."** Registration will be available in January 2019 – Don't miss it!

Speakers have been announced for the event: **Dr. Howard Stevenson**, clinical psychologist and researcher, will speak during the Friday evening worship service. **Elijah Brown**, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), will speak during the Saturday evening **worship service.**

Dr. Jolene Erlacher, founder, trainer and consultant at Leading Tomorrow, will provide Sunday Morning Word and Witness. **Ngwedla Paul Msiza**, BWA president, will bring the message during Sunday morning worship.

In addition to hearing from significant speakers, American Baptists and friends will have an opportunity to take part in an all-new **Biennial Academy**, with tracks offering continuing education and spiritual growth opportunities for both clergy and lay leaders alike. Academy Tracks will include Social Media, Technology and Ministry; 21st Century Options for Church Planting and Renewal; Transition Ministries Training; Bible Studies; and more.

The 2019 event will also offer opportunities for all ages featuring new events for youth and children, with a new 3-day youth conference for middle and high school students, and separate VBS-style classes available for elementary ages. Day care will also be offered.

GRR Intern Grant Program

Many churches have discovered that part-time internship programs provide an effective means for churches to enhance their existing ministries or to explore new ministries during the summer months. These internships not only expand the ministry of the church, they also provide a significant opportunity for people to explore ministry vocations and to receive meaningful coaching in ministry.

The GRR Intern Grant Program is designed to challenge GRR churches to use interns to enhance existing ministries or to explore new ministries. Funding of this program is made possible by the Des Peres Legacy. This is how it works:

The church designs a ministry that would benefit from a Summer Intern. The design includes the ministry to be done, the time frame for the ministry, and a plan for ongoing training, coaching and evaluation. The church will prepare a job description for the internship, and commit funds in its regular church budget. Based on the merit of the proposal and the availability of funds, GRR will award a matching grant (up to a maximum of \$3,000) to the church for enhancing the financial support of the Intern.

Any GRR church in good standing with the Region can apply. **Applications are due April 30, 2019.** Check the GRR website (www.abcgrr.org) for more information and an application

New Address

**International Ministries
1009A W 9th Ave
King Of Prussia PA 19406**
(This is also the mailing address)