



The Mainstream News of Ministry and Mission

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

April 2018 No 2

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
Online edition interactive

web: www.abcgrr.org

2018 Calendar

May:

12: **Professional Boundaries Course** - GRR Resource Center

18 - 19: **Grow Healthy Workshop**
First Baptist Church
Decatur, IL

June:

8 - 10: **ABWM GRR Annual Conference**, Northfield Inn & Suites and Conference Center, Springfield, IL

22 - 23: **AB Men's Conference**
Bloomington IL First Baptist Church

July:

4 - 7: **World Mission Conference, Green Lake, WI**

August:

4 - 12 **Sturgis Mission**
24 - 25: **American Baptist History & Polity Course**
GRR Resource Center

September:

27: **GRR Ministers Conference**,
Bloomington, IL

28 - 29: **GRR Annual Assembly**
The Chateau
Bloomington, IL



Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)

With great excitement we introduce to the Great Rivers Region churches the **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. 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. We know that we are living in difficult times and that is why we want to be of assistance to you. In Proverbs 20:18, we read the following: "plans succeed through good counsel;...". Since we are all one family (of God), the Great Rivers Region has put together this initiative so that all will know we are here for each other. If you think you may be interested in some counsel concerning the health/vitality of your church, please contact me.

Wally Holt, Coordinator



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

When I am around you or your church would I hear or experience these words?

Love Joy Peace Patience Goodness
Kindness Gentleness
Faithfulness Self-control.

If the answer is yes, then I have a pretty good idea that you are allowing Jesus to flow through you.

CRI (Church Revitalization Initiative) is up and running!!! See the article (page 1 of this issue) written by Wally Holt. Contact him if you or your church is interested.

The Puerto Rico Sister Church Partnership is ready. Check our website of the ABCUSA website for more info. We are hoping for 10 from our region, already have 4 churches or groups of churches signing up. The need is huge.

FITCH, CAMPOLO, CLAIBORNE.... What do they have in common? They will all be at our **Annual Gathering in Bloomington this Sept. 27-29**. You won't want to miss it. Each one of these could headline on their own, but we have all three. WOW!!! Spread the word and plan on coming and bringing others with you.

Camps, Conferences, and Missionaries. Tis the season. Hope you plan to attend one of our camps this summer, or one of the conferences at Green Lake. The Missions conference, July 4-8 will have over 20 of our missionaries attending. Melissa

and I will be there, will you? Be watching....many of our missionaries will be in the area this summer, check our website for more info.

China Trip. I have been invited by Sharon Koh and Lee Spitzer to go with them on a trip to visit some of the work in China at the end of May. It will be wonderful to see some of the work started by missionaries years ago and visit our friends and partners there.

Give thanks. I give thanks every day for our regional staff. Our RAMS (Regional Area Ministers) are doing a great job....thanks Muriel, Patty and Rex. Our office staff are tremendous, thanks Nancy, Debbie and Melissa. Also thanks to our communication people, Linda and Richard Ricks, and to the head of our AME program, Paul Maitland. We are blessed.

Finally, 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.



Sturgis Mission

The ABC Emergency Services Center mission project will be open August 4 - 12 during the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally in and around Sturgis, South Dakota. Prayerfully consider this opportunity as a church. Find out more by downloading the flyer: . <http://abcgrr.org/abc-usa/SturgisFlyer2018.pdf>



GRR Annual Conference

Celebrating 50 Years

June 8 - 10, 2018

Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL

Missionary: **Betty Martin**, Executive Director of Murrow Indian Children's Home

Bible Study Leader: **Rev. Muriel Johnson**, Area V Area Minister

50th Anniversary Celebration

Special Music by : **D. Scott Kramer and Rachel West Kramer**

Send registration to:

Lori Hill, 26 NW 40th St., Kansas City, MO 64116, Email: Lori.hill@gmail.com



American Baptist Men Annual Conference

Each year, the men of Great Rivers Region join together for a time of fellowship, renewal, food, fun, workshops, speakers, and challenges. Our 2018 Gathering will be held in **Bloomington, Illinois at First Baptist Church on June 22-23**. Mark your calendars to attend.

Here is the registration site:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScX5Q_BrxrGhFu7z8q4oOo9mnhxb2UiF-p2rWlvMX8SIIyoPZg/viewform

World Mission Conference

The World Mission Conference will be held at: Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin from 6:30 p.m. on July 4 through 9:00 p.m. on July 7, 2018.

Discover how International Ministries global servants and partners make disciples for Jesus Christ through ministries of health and wellness, economic and community development and the abolition of human trafficking.

Celebrate the 4th of July as you interact with global servants and international leaders from dozens of nations, participate in global worship and conversation and explore ways to be more involved in global mission.

Grow Healthy



Join Michael Lukaszewski in Grow Healthy, a workshop for pastors and church leaders, hosted by Decatur

First Baptist Church May 18 and 19. Free to participate. **Download information | Form to fill out, then scan or fax.** Details on form.

Ron French, host pastor, "This workshop is intended to help churches consider their vision and mission and develop a strategy unique to their situation that will help them grow and blossom as lights in their community."

If you have any questions, please call the First Baptist Church and ask for Pastor Ron, 217-875-8034, or e-mail him at revfrench@comcast.net

International Ministries Matching Gift Challenge

On April 15, International Ministries launched the **2018 Spring Matching Gift Challenge** to benefit IM's global servants. IM advises that any new or increased gift to a global servant will be doubled **when it is received now through midnight June 15 PST** or when the matching fund is depleted, whichever comes first.

At a time when IM global servant support has fallen behind by almost \$150,000, "our desire is to make up the difference by encouraging new and growing support so our global servants can continue changing lives around the world," says Zofia Dripps, Associate Executive Director for Mission Advancement.

For donations made as part of the Spring Matching Gift Challenge, matching funds will be applied as follows:

1. A donor's first one-time gift for a global servant will be matched in its entirety.
2. When a donor makes a new monthly pledge for a global servant, the first month's installment will be matched.
3. In the case of a one-time gift for a global servant whom the donor has supported in the past, the amount of increase will be matched. For example, if the most recent gift was \$100 and the donor makes a new gift of \$150, \$50 will be matched.
4. When a donor who is currently making monthly gifts to a global servant increases his or her pledge, the amount of increase will be matched

for the first month's installment. For example, if the monthly gift is increased from \$25 to \$75, \$50 will be matched for the first month.

Gifts may be mailed to: International Ministries, 1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Gifts may also be made online. For more information, IM supporters may contact IM's Donor Services team at IMdonorservices@internationalministries.org or 610-768-2323.

New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

First Baptist Church, Greenville, IL

Welcomes: Cera Douglas, Brooke Anderson, and Kaitlyn Washburn

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks:

Email: revrick4@comcast.net

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