



## 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](mailto: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

## New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

**First Baptist Church, Virden, IL Welcomes:** Piper Parrish, Cynthia Carter, and Jennifer Carter

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## 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>

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## GRR Website

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

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## 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)



# The Mainstream

## News of Ministry and Mission

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

May 2018 No 2

Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org)  
Online edition interactive

web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

## 2018 Calendar

### 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**, First Baptist Church Bloomington, IL

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

### October:

20: **American Baptist Professional Boundaries Course** GRR Resource Center

## Experience God's Love at the Holy Spirit Conference -- Coming Soon!!

It's not too late to make plans to be there!

Where: **Green Lake Conference Center**, Green Lake, Wisconsin  
When: **10:30 AM Sunday, June 24, through 9:30 PM Thurs., June 28**

Hear from acclaimed guest speakers: **Dr. Michael L. Brown**, biblical scholar, author, revival leader and voice of moral, cultural and spiritual revolution; **Francis Anfuso**, nationally known speaker, evangelist and intercessor, and radio teacher on 1-Minute of Encouragement on K-LOVE radio programming. Celebrate Jesus, experience worship, engage deeply.

**Workshops:** Great variety of relevant workshops.

Daily: Childcare for little ones, Children's Ministry K-4, Middle School and Youth Ministry.

Scheduled Young Adult Fellowship mixers and activities.

**Registration:** After June 1: Full week \$100/family, \$70/single, \$40/youth  
One Day rates: \$40/family, \$25/youth



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

“Make me a blessing, make me a blessing. Out of my life, may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing, O Savior I pray, make me a blessing, to someone today.” Old hymn, great words. Are you being a blessing to the people around you, to your church, to your community. Let’s look at it another way, are you being a blessing to God?

Summer is here, and we can really feel the heat. I hope you have some cool ideas for this summer. Let me encourage you to include attending a camp as one idea. We have two great camps in our region, Blackhawk Camp, and Lake Springfield. I hope you are involved with them in some way this summer. Melissa and I will be at the Green Lake Missions Conference at the beginning of July, and I will also be at the Holy Spirit gathering at the end of June. These gatherings can be a great time of spiritual renewal and a time of renewing old friendships. We also have regional ABW and ABMen gatherings in June, so pick one and enjoy.

This fall we will be gathering in Bloomington for our annual gathering at the end of September. We have a great group of speakers to challenge and inspire us, including Dave Fitch, Tony Campolo, and Shane Claiborne. Please come join us, and invite others to come along with you.

Is your church in a difficult spot and trying to figure out what will happen in the next five years if things don’t change? If so, and you would like us to come along side and help with ideas, give Wally Holt a call and he will share with you what we are doing with our Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI). We have funds, a plan, and people in place to help you. Don’t wait until it’s too late to do anything. We have had a number of churches call in the past few months saying that they will be closing. We would have loved to have had them call us a few years ago to see if things could be done to turn things around. Don’t wait, think ahead and pray.

THE GREAT OFFERING. We will be coming out with materials to send out to you to let you know about the “Great Offering” for this fall. Please be praying about your church being involved.

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.



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**Note About Mainstream:** There will be only one issue of the Mainstream each month in June and July.



**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](mailto:Lori.hill@gmail.com)

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**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](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.

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**Church News**

**First Baptist Church of Cordova, IL** is preparing for “**2018 Picnic Under the Pavilion**”. Last summer, the church started a new outreach of love. They offered a free lunch to all in the community for two hours one day a week each week during summer break. The meals were available under the church’s pavilion on the church grounds.

This year, the church hopes to expand upon this ministry. Fliers were given to the schools in April and May so that the kids were made aware of it before school was out for the summer. Fliers were also posted around town, on Facebook, and on the church’s website. The “2018 Picnic Under the Pavilion” will be on **Tuesdays, June 5 through August 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The food is provided through donations.