



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

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

January 2019 No. 2

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2019 Calendar

Mission Giving Opportunity

March:

10: **Area II 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

June:

21 - 23: **ABCUSA Biennial
Mission Summit**
Virginia Beach, VA

July:

20: **Area V Annual Meeting**
Bethel Baptist Church
Columbia, MO

As many of you know, a group from our region is going on a mission trip to both the Philippines where Paul Rollet serves and Thailand where Jeff and Annie Dieselberg are global servants. We have learned of some special needs from both groups. I know this is short notice, but if you could help us with some of those needs it would be great.

We will be working with six different churches/groups in the Philippines and also working with three groups in Thailand including the new church that Jeff Dieselberg is the pastor of and the Night Light group. We will be purchasing supplies and equipment for children, youth and adults.

We would need to hear from you before February 8th. The need totals around \$2,000.

Anything you could do to help would be appreciated. Send funds to our office with Mission Trip to Philippines/Thailand noted.

Paul Gibson

international
ministries 



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

“Thoughts and prayers, thoughts and prayers”. That is how a radio sports talk person started off his show as I was on my way to attend FBC of Canton’s Sunday morning service. I naturally assumed someone had passed away and I was interested to hear who it was, but such wasn’t the case. The sports talk host was sending a message to the New Orleans Saints fans to help them deal with their loss in the conference championship game. “Get out of here”, was my response. He spent another five minutes sending messages to the fans hoping they would be able to overcome it and get on with their lives. If they can’t, they need to admit that they might worship the wrong thing. **Then I realized, many people probably worship football/sports more than they worship Jesus. A sign of the times.**

I had a great time in worship with **Pastor “Money” Bailey, his wife Anita,** and the good people in Canton. They were having a fundraiser that day for their mission team that is preparing to go to Hungary in May to visit our global servants. Good people, great church, and wonderful leadership.

Melissa and I, along with 11 other people from this area, are preparing for a mission trip to visit our global servants, **Paul Rollet and Jeff and Annie Dieselberg.** We will spend a

week in the Philippines and a week in Bangkok. Prayers would be appreciated as we visit these dedicated global servants who are from our region and experience the wonderful work they are doing in the name of Jesus. We leave in two weeks and will return at the end of February.

Here are a few upcoming gatherings that I want to bring to your attention:

1. **Area Meetings.** Many of our Area meetings will take place over the next few months so plan on attending. I’ll see you there.
2. **Resource Conference,** May 9-11, Bloomington, IL. Go to our website to get more info and register. It will be a great event and I hope you attend.
3. **ABCUSA Biennial,** June 21-23, Virginia Beach, VA. This is a great gathering of American Baptists from all over the country and a wonderful time to reconnect and be inspired.

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

Paul



GRR Mission Grants

GRR grants for 2019 are offered to encourage and empower GRR churches to make God's mission their passion in new ways.

These are matching grants that can be used by GRR churches for just about any **new** ministry (activity, event, project) directed toward those outside the church. It may be an activity in the surrounding community or something halfway around the world.

But it must engage the members of the applying church (i.e.: the grant money is not to send to someone else).

This is how it works:

The church designs a **new** ministry that is focused on people not regularly associated with the church. That effort might be a program over several weeks or a single event. Be creative as you look at the needs around you. Show the cost of the mission project/activity in your regular budget for 2019. Based on the merit of the proposal and the availability of funds, GRR will award a matching grant (up to a maximum of \$1500) to the church for enhancing the financial support of new mission initiatives.

Who may apply for grants? Any GRR church in good standing. "Good standing" is evidenced by (1) a current annual report on file in the Regional office and (2) having contributed to the financial support of the Region, either through United Mission, America for Christ, or Specifics during 2018. Priority will be given to churches that have not received a grant previously.

Contact the GRR Region Office for more information.

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)

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

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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.

New Members of the Churches of the GRR

First Baptist Church Decatur, IL Welcomes: J.T. Grider, Laura Grider, Walter Grider, Alexandra Treuthart, Nathan Treuthart, Pauline Tynan, and Robert Tynan

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks
Email: revrick4@comcast.net

Videos of Rivers Growth Conference Speakers Now Available

Videos are available in streaming (**from this site**) and dvd formats. (Contact the office of the GRR for dvd ordering information.)