

Great Rivers Regional Scholarship Programs

Scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people who are members in 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, 2010.

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to: Scholarship Committee, Att: Sharon Downs, PO Box 3786, Springfield, IL 62708, phone: 217-726-7366; fax: 888-922-2477, email: Sharon@abcgrr.org



Recordings of speakers and workshop leaders from the 42nd Annual Assembly of ABCGRR are available. Contact Debbie Naugle: debbie@abcgrr.org.

Mainstream Contact Information

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

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle
East Peoria, IL 61611

E-Mail: Ricks4Lr@comcast.net

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711
Telephone: (217) 726-7366 Fax: (888) 922-2477
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Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Benton, IL Welcomes: Carol Sluzevich, David Sluzevich; Dale Baumgarten, Darlene Baumgarten; Joe Dunbar; Don, Kathie Cowan; Rosemary Roffler; Stanley Davis; Jordan Richey; Jessica McClendon

First Baptist Church, Macomb, IL Welcomes: Jennifer Cooper, Sandra Hoskins, Brittany Jones, Cassandra Jones, Doug Jones, Leanne Jones, Tina Jones, Tina Lankford, Zach Lankford, Jamie McClure, Matthew McClure, Bobbie Morris, and Kyle Morris

First Baptist Church, Ottawa, IL Welcomes: Cal Jordon and Katherine Jordan

2010 GRR Missions Conference

Speaker:
Dan Buttry
serves as an International Ministries global consultant for peace and justice.



Date: April 23 - 24

Place: Cherry Hills Baptist Church
2125 Woodside Road
Springfield, IL



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

January 2010 No. 2 Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org web: www.abcgrr.org

GRR Calendar

2010 Theme: Thy Kingdom Come

February 20 - **Trivia Night**
Lightbody Conference Center
Lake Springfield Camp

February 26 - 27 - **Scrapbooking
Fundraiser LSBC**

March 6 - **Area III Annual Meeting
Also Seminar: Less
Clutter Less Noise
with Kem Meyer**
FBC Champaign, Savoy, IL

March 13 - **Area V Annual
Meeting**
Second Baptist Church
Kansas City, MO

March 14 - **Area II Annual Meeting**
Central Baptist Church
Springfield, IL

March 20 - **Area IV Annual
Meeting**
FBC Centralia, IL

March 21 - **Area I Annual Meeting**
FBC Sterling, IL

April 16 - 17 - **Clergy Spouse
Retreat,**
Lake Springfield Camp

April 23 - 24 - **GRR Missions
Conference**
Cherry Hills Baptist Church
Springfield, IL

A Word from the President of the GRR - Sharon Farral

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the GRR.

From early childhood, state/region participation has been a part of my life. I remember as a teenager the youth gathering at the Illinois State Fair Grounds and the women's "Houseparty" I attended with my mother. Association gatherings with inspirational speakers, hymn sings, youth activities - all these strengthened my spiritual journey. In recent years I have been inspired and renewed by attending Area meetings, GRR Gatherings/Conventions and our annual Missions Conference.

I attended Ottawa University and later did my Masters in Colorado. Wherever work has taken me, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, there have been American Baptist Churches welcoming me.

Recently I have been privileged to participate in several mission work groups and mission tours: Oklahoma, Arizona, Alaska, New England, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. As an American Baptist there is great joy in being a part of this large extended family of brothers and sisters in Christ. Together we



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share the Gospel of Christ --- work that one individual or one church could not possibly do alone. The work we do as American Baptists: reaching around the world for Christ.

At an American Baptist summer camp my sophomore year in high school I felt the call to what was then known as 'full time Christian service.' Somehow that got left on the sidelines. Years later, while attending missionary commissioning services at Green Lake, I again knew God was calling me to ministry. After nearly 40 years of teaching and 8 years of retirement, I was ordained as an ABC minister on April 27, 2008. This was made possible through our GRR Ordination Program. Thank you, thank you! I now serve as Associate Pastor for Senior Care at First Baptist, East Moline, IL.

Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
—Matthew 5:16

Love and prayers,
 Sharon Farral

Karen Congregation of Western Chicago



John Pattison, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church at Mill Creek, Geneva, IL welcomes Pastor Han

Naythan of the West Chicago Karen Church. Pastor Han and the Karen Church are worshipping in Faith's worship center on Sunday afternoons following their move from St. Charles

Reaching Out to Haiti

Our Missionaries:

Steve James and partners are providing medical care and relief supplies at Christianville at the quake epicenter southwest of Port au Prince. Cooperative Baptists are participating in this effort. **Nancy James** at Cap Haitien in the north is maintaining the communication link with Steve and his partners.

Kristy Engel and our Dominican Baptist partners are in Port au Prince with a 75 person team (including 30 medical personnel). The group includes Ketley and Vital Pierre, IM missionaries who have come to Haiti from Nicaragua. Kristy is providing administrative oversight of 3 clinics in which the medical team is working. Kristy plans to bring in additional teams of doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners on January 26th and February 2nd.

Madeline Flores-López is coordinating relief effort teams entering Haiti from the DR and providing medical care, shelter and relief supplies to quake victims arriving at the Contre-ras Hospital in Santo Domingo, DR

One Great Hour of Sharing:

OGHS has now released \$65,000 that is on its way to help the people of Haiti and those ministering to them. Your special gifts have made this possible. Many GRR churches are reaching out by receiving special collections for those who are suffering more in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake than most of us could ever imagine. Some of these churches include First Baptist Churches of Cordova, East Peoria, Galesburg and Fairbury. In this we are embracing one of the ways we are to be church.

Less Clutter... Less Noise Seminar



Do your church's publications release the response in people that you have intended...that people will notice your message?

Join with others in finding helpful insights and strategies on Saturday, March 6 at First Baptist Church of Champaign, Savoy as you participate in Kem Meyer's Less Clutter...Less Noise Seminar.

This seminar explores what it takes to have a communications strategy that communicates the Good News in the language and limited time of the world we live in. All materials churches use to communicate are considered - paper and electronic.

Kem is Communications Director for Granger Community Church of Granger, IN.

Want to learn more about Kem and her "mantra" Less Clutter...Less Noise? Find her blog at www.kemmeyer.typepad.com.

Early registration saves each person \$10. Registering as groups saves even more.

Download the flyer/registration material at: <http://www.abcgrr.org/areas/KemMyerFlyer2010.pdf>

Find a review of her book at: www.abcgrr2.org/Review_Kem_Meyer_Less_Clutter_Less_Noise/engage.html

Dennis Bickers' Healthy Small Church

is now available on DVD to pastors and churches of the GRR. Contact Richard Ricks (revrick4@comcast.net) for ordering your copy. (This seminar will not be posted on the web per agreement with Rev. Bickers.)

Camping 2010

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Fundraisers



Trivia Night

Place: Lightbody Conference Center at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

Date: February 20, 2010

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$80 per table (8 people per table)

Theme: Summer Camp

Scrapbooking Fundraiser

Place: Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

Dates: February 26 - 5:00 to ??? (no meal provided)

February 27 - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Bring sack lunch, dinner provided)

Cost: \$30.00 - Overnight housing in Carter Hall (bring bedding & toiletries)

\$20.00 No overnight housing

Who: All Scrapbookers and Crafters (Bring a snack to share)