

First Baptist Church Paris, IL Helps in Iowa

Four members of the First Baptist Church, Paris, IL traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 9-15, to help with the rebuilding of homes devastated by the flood of June 2008. Through the American Baptist Denomination partnering with Church World Service and other denominations, hundreds of volunteers helped over a six week period.



Those from Paris are Lisa Tucker, Samantha Tucker, Pastor Jon Lobos, and James Ligget. They all worked in the same house hanging drywall and mudding drywall.

Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Champaign at Savoy, IL Welcomes: Terry Silvers, Necia Silvers, Nastia Silvers, Anya Silvers, Andrew Silvers, Skip Perry, Karen Perry, Junjie Luo, Ruijie Liu, Yuan Liu, Minh Aimone, Sandy Haas, Cliff Hines II, Jessie Thomas, Donna Sherwood, Quinn Wherfel, Amanda Overbye, Hannah Overbye, Caroline Tee, Jarrett Anderson, Allison Conway, and Sam Conway

University Baptist Church, Champaign, IL Welcomes: Paul Anderson, Song Cho, Matthew Ferrans Bob Kuo, Dave Miller, Jenn Miller, and Kirsten Thomas

Muncie Baptist Church, Muncie, IL Welcomes: Sam Nale, Deb Nale, Bruce Cadman, Mala Cadman, Derek Leverenz, and Matt McGlaughlin.

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:

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Summer Mainstream Issues

This issue of Mainstream is the only June issue that will be published. Two issues of Mainstream will be published in July.

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The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

June 2010

Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

GRR Calendar

June 14 - 19 - **Great American Baptist Bike Ride Across Illinois**

August 6 - 7- **Baptist History and Polity Course**
NIU Campus Ministry,
DeKalb IL

September 17-18 - **GRR American Baptist Men's Gathering**
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

September 30 - **Ministers' Conference,**
Mt Vernon, IL

October 1 - 2 - **GRR Annual Assembly,**
Holiday Inn
Mt Vernon, IL

November 5 - 7 - **ABY Gathering**
FBC Pontiac, IL

A Message From Dwight Stinnett, Executive Minister

Last week Muriel, John and I joined about a dozen GRR pastors at the Fanning the Flame conference in



Green Lake. This was a pastor's renewal conference planned and sponsored by twelve ABC regions (GRR was one of them). In addition, nine ABC-related institutions (including Judson University) helped support the conference.

While lots of things happened at the conference, the high points for me were the evening worship services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Dr. Charles Wallace Smith (President of Palmer Theological Seminary and Senior Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington D.C.) was our featured preacher. Wow! He alone made the trip worth it.

Tuesday's sermon is still rolling around in my head. Dr. Smith preached from the familiar passage of Isaiah 6. Working with the theme of the conference, he focused on the "live coal." But the word that haunts me is something he said in passing.

Isaiah reported that he "saw the Lord high and lifted up" and that "the train of His robe filled the temple." Dr. Smith's observation was that the entire temple -- every nook and cranny -- was filled (continued on p. 2)



upon the arrival of the Lord. The temple was full to overflowing. He wondered what would happen if our churches were filled with God in the same way.

Some churches are so filled with their own busy-ness that they don't have room for God. Some churches are so preoccupied with their own agendas that God can't squeeze in one item. Some churches are so filled with conflict that God's presence is unnoticed.

That is tragic. But it is not necessary, and it is not true for all churches. The regional theme for 2010 is **Thy Kingdom Come**. The emphasis is on "thy" kingdom, not "my" kingdom. During the GRR Mission Conference we heard powerful messages from Dr. Dan Buttry about participating in the Kingdom of God. Then, a few weeks later Dr. Marvin McMickle challenged us to actually "do what Jesus did" in practicing Kingdom life.

Some churches got it! In fact, some already had it. This is an inhospitable, difficult time for Christianity in North America. But God's Spirit moves in hard, resistant places among those who are prepared to receive. In the last two years 18 GRR churches have received matching grants for interns to begin new ministries or expand present ones. Another 13 GRR churches have received matching grants to help support new ministry activities intended to reach out to their community. About 20 churches have participated in reorganization workshops, seeking to be more effective in the work of the Kingdom.

What happens when God fills the temple? I think that is what Pentecost was all about.



2010 Assembly of the Great Rivers Region

Mount Vernon, Illinois

Beginning at 2:00 p.m. October 1 and ending at noon October 2

GRR Minister's Conference will be on Thursday, September 30, 2010.

Our guest preacher will be

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson

National Coordinator for National Evangelism Team, Specialist for Evangelism American Baptist Home Mission Societies.





Register for Camp!

Need a registration form? E-mail Sharon Downs: sharon@abcgrr.org. Or:

Go to the GRR camping web site: <http://www.abcgrr.org/grrcamps>

American Baptist Men 2010 Gathering

I want to extend an invitation to all American Baptist Men of the Great Rivers Region to come and attend our 2010 gathering on **September 17 & 18**. Though we are still working on the details, I can tell you that there will be a varied program that will have something for everyone.

This is a great opportunity to meet and gather with other men from across our region. New friendships will be made and many old friendships will be renewed and refreshed. There will be a time of worship and a time of service as well. We are working on providing training for our Disaster Relief ministry as well. We will be offering CPR and AED training for anyone who wants it. The training is free, but space is limited. Register early and call to sign up for a class.

There will also be an opportunity to explore a new ministry that could have a big impact in your home church. We will also seek to help the camp by doing some projects to repair and improve the facilities. Certainly there will be something for everyone.

Our gathering will be held at the **Lake Springfield Baptist Camp**. Holding the gathering at the camp will help us keep our costs low, give us an opportunity to help the camp, and give you a chance to see the camp where many of our young people attend each summer. Maybe even your own children have attended camp at LSBC. Mark your calendar now for September 17th and 18th and make your plans to attend our gathering.

The cost is \$30 for adults (\$25 before September 1) and \$25 for youth. Additional youth in the same family are free.

Send registration to Earl Troyer, PO Box 211, Goodfield, IL 61742

Plan to arrive on Friday from noon on or early (8:00 a.m.) on Saturday. We will conclude by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday so everyone can make it back to their home for church on Sunday. Bring someone with you and together let's see how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus!

I hope to see you there!

Dave Comstock
ABM-GRR President



GAB-BRAI 2010

The Great American Baptist Bike Ride Across Illinois

The Great American Baptist Bike Ride Across Illinois is for anyone who enjoys biking and wants to support New Church Development. We will bike about 250 miles across north-central Illinois.

Each rider should seek out people to pledge money on a per mile, per day, or whole ride basis. Expected pledges for each rider should be \$250 or more.

One hundred percent of the money raised will go toward new church development programs. This year we are providing camp scholarships for the children of new church plants. For more information see the regional website. www.abcgrr.org