



The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

Colorado State Historical Fund Awards Grant to First Baptist Church of Greeley



The State Historical Fund, a program of the Colorado Historical Society, recently awarded a \$9,600 grant to the First Baptist Church of Greeley, CO, to carry out an historic structure assessment of the church building which houses the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The building was built at its present site, 10th Avenue and 11th Street, in 1911. It is included in the National and State Historic Register of Historical Places. Larry Van Spriell is the congregation's interim minister.

The study will be led by Aller-Lingle Architects, P.C. and include description, assessment, and recommenda-

tions regarding various systems including structural, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical. The study report will include sections on site and landscaping, foundations, building structural system, interior finishes, and mechanical and electrical systems. Analysis of appli-

cable zoning, building, fire, life safety, and handicap accessibility codes will also be made.

The First Baptist Church has played a significant role in meeting the needs of people residing and working in Union Colony Center/ Downtown Greeley for 135 years. The results of this historic building assessment will provide the data needed to guide church planners in better defining the continuing role of First Baptist Church as the congregation seeks to meet needs within the community.

*Submitted by Leo Weaver
Moderator
First Baptist Church of Greeley*

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2006 GATHERING

hosted by New Hope Baptist Church, Denver
October 20-21

Theme:
Got Water?
John 4:13-14



**COME
AND BE REFRESHED!**

As a prophet to Israel, Micah asked: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). The prophet’s voice still speaks to us today of “loving kindness.” It is a resounding charge from God to ministry—ministry that meets people at their point of need and shares Christ’s love.

America for Christ gifts support the following American Baptist ministries and many more:

- Evangelism training,
- Regional youth conferences,
- Refugee resettlement,
- New church planting,
- Children in Poverty Initiative,
- Cluster meetings for pastors,
- *The Secret Place*,
- Spanish resources,
- Group mission experiences,
- *Journeys* adult curriculum,
- Racial reconciliation,
- Vacation Bible School materials,
- Discipleship models,
- Alaska ministries,

- Conflict transformation resources,
- Volunteers in Mission,
- Web resources,
- Ministry within underserved ethnic communities,
- Ministries in 35 ABC Regions,
- 20 Neighborhood Action Christian Centers.

Many churches focus on the America for Christ Offering in February and March, but the offering may be received any time throughout the year.

The United States has been called the third largest mission field in the world,* following only China and India in numbers of unchurched people. May God continue to bless the ministries of your church in your own neighborhood as you join with American Baptist Regions, National Ministries and other American Baptist congregations to extend your mission from Alaska to Puerto Rico.

Your church office has received the AFC offering information. You may also access information at <http://www.nationalministries.org/afc/>.

*Leonard Sweet, *Soul Tsunami*, Zondervan, 1999.



What’s Quaker Ridge Like?

The staff of Quaker Ridge Camp has invited us to visit their facilities. This tour will be Saturday, March 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be a “come and go” event. We are planning a time of prayer for our Region’s camping ministry at 11:00 a.m. and we encourage your participation.

Quaker Ridge will provide lunch for those who RSVP or you may bring your own sack lunch. This tour is open to adults and children who are interested in attending camp at Quaker Ridge this summer. We will try to answer as many questions about camping as we can at that time.

Camping information has been mailed to churches and is available on the Region’s website at <http://www.abcrm.org/ministries/camping.htm>.

Please RSVP to Mike Oldham at moldham@abcrm.org.

A Prayer for Discernment During Lent

Lord of the past, you formed every race and culture, and we chose to gather as nations. But did you ever imagine a life-time election as priest and prophet in a stateless state?

As the Word who expressed Isaiah's word, you were no studied mouthpiece for corporate ballots, you took no popular polls, admitted no party allegiances, danced no inaugural balls, held no debates—but spoke truth-telling parables on the ordinary. By the Spirit's triune anointing, you became wet enough to risk Jordan's humility, weak enough to speak plainly to sinners, modest enough not to escape the miseries of life, convicted enough for the poor to save face, alive enough to outlive Herod's bloodletting regime, and powerful enough to promise an end to Caesar's client-run empire.

Lord of the present, when national capitals are the world's largest gated communities; when we mistake flags for sacred symbols, convention speeches for Scripture, ill-considered wars for leaning on the everlasting arms; when we prefer mass branding which glues us to telegenic emperors; when we choose national leaders by corporate proxy, who predict Gospel prosperity the plantation size of Walmart; when we buy anything, but value nothing, and shelve our souls wall to wall in the process—God, remind us that your yoke is easy and your call without deceit, to be in friendship with those whom you elected for life—the poor, the immigrant, the sick, the widowed, the child.

Lord of the future, as we gather to work and worship, may we believe what we sing so well, 'Elect from every nation...' and with a relaxed heart, commit ourselves to a lifetime election as children of no one single nation, but only to your ever-expanding kin-dom, favoring national repentance over calculated remorse, vigilance for earth stewardship over stiff-necked ownership, health care for all over sugar high promises without cost, public education with dignity for those who teach and those who learn, living wages over weapons of mass destruction, a new quality of freedom in commitment over myths of national scarcity.

Triune God, in this inward season of Lent, may we walk the outward path of Mary and Ruth, Esther and Martha; may our litanies disturb and disrupt barren deserts and too long ignored valleys; may your gracious movement reach farther even than your justice; your mercy be offered through us without bias or bounds, for the sake of the Human Holy One, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Assistant General Secretary
Resourcing Congregational Life
General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Church
Used by permission.*



Healthy Congregations Leadership Training

For the first time, Facilitator Training is being offered for those interested in building healthy congregations. This experience will enable the trainee to be able to offer this "systems based" approach to congregational dynamics to one's own congregation or any group.

This training will give participants an overview of systems processing in a congregational setting, and familiarity with the six study guides. Those six sections include "A Systems Assessment of Healthy Congregations," "Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change," "Leadership in Healthy Congregations," "Building Relationships in Healthy Congregations," "Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People (stewardship)," and "The Spiritual Care of Healthy Congregations." All include a theological foundation and application.

Dates

June 4-6, 2006. This is a two-and-a-half day workshop.

Leaders

- Gordon J. Kieft, M.Div., M.A., Pastoral Counselor, American Baptist clergy, Licensed Professional Counselor and Congregational Consultant.
- Rod Schofield, Ed.D, LCSW, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Congregational Consultant.

Both have trained with Peter Steinke, developer of this program.

For more information and to register, contact: Gordon Kieft at 303-741-5588, ext. 37 or Rod Schofield at 719-440-1827 or 719-395-3766..

"We worked, we worshiped, and we wept when we saw the devastation, the destruction, and the despair. . . ."

First Baptist Church of Delta Ministers in St. Bernard Parish



"We worked, we worshiped, and we wept when we saw the devastation, the destruction, and the despair in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," reported Pastor James Conley of First Baptist Church of Delta, CO. A group of 21 people went from three churches in Delta County, Colorado to Chalmette, Louisiana, in St. Bernard Parish. First Baptist Church of Delta and Surface Creek Community Church teamed up for the second year in a row on a Winter Mission trip February 16-25. We connected with PRC Compassion, a church network formed following Hurricane Katrina and expanded after Hurricane Rita.

"We went on this mission trip by faith," stated Pastor Conley. "We did not know where we would be assigned, what we would be doing, or what we might encounter."

The day before the group left for the Gulf Coast region, they learned that they had been assigned to St. Bernard Parish near New Orleans, LA. Group leader, Ken Nordstrom received word that the Colorado group would be working in a distribution center and doing some

construction projects in the area based on their skills. They went to work on Monday morning at the ministry tent set up in the Wal-Mart Super Center parking lot on land occupied by FEMA (pictured below). Each day of the week, St. Bernard Parish residents come to "shop," picking up daily necessities. The distribution center stocked by donations & Second Harvest gave away clothing, food, toiletries, bottled water and juices. Breakfast and lunches were served to anyone in need. The week the mission group was in Chalmette, they served over 800 citizens daily and over 500 meals a day.



St. Bernard Parish covers over 1700 sq. miles, but only 495 sq. miles is land above water. The remainder is swamp land fit for snakes, mosqui-

toes, and gators. Over 66,000 people resided in the Parish. Every home was damaged by the hurricane and high water. None of the structures were untouched by this disaster. Over 14,000 businesses were damaged and many are still closed and may never open again. Churches are still closed.

Pastor Randy Millet, serving at Adullah Christian Fellowship before Hurricane Katrina, saw his church building flooded. He is networked with PRC Compassion and oversees the ministry at the tent in front of Wal-Mart. "The water was up to the words 'Wal-Mart' on the front of the store," he proclaimed, "and 18 to 20 feet deep in this neighborhood." Every Sunday they hold a tent meeting at 10:00 am, and then they serve dinner and open the distribution center from noon until 3:00 pm. They rely on volunteers to run the distribution center. The mission group from Colorado helped to fill the gap for 4 days!

Six months since the hurricanes, the damage remains evident in every direction one turns in St. Bernard Parish. Pastor Randy thinks it will be 10 years before things return to some sense of normal.

The mission group from Colorado was changed by this experience. The group included 10 males and 11 females, several families, teenagers, and two children. Many hope to return and plan to keep the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in their prayers. They will also have a soft heart for the people of St. Bernard Parish who showed them how to respond with Christ's love after tragedy.

WOMEN IMPACTING THE WORLD THROUGH MISSIONS

A great conference is coming up
in Fort Collins, June 9-11, 2006!

Women and girls from all over the Region are welcome.

It'll be worth your time—and the price is right!!

We are women impacting the world through our concern for missions, and our **THREE WOMEN MISSIONARIES** and our mission fair will bring home to us the value of Christ-like ministries, showing how lives are being touched around the world. These speakers will be: **TERRY MYERS**, Bulgaria; **JUDY DEROLF**, Japan; and **RUTHANN STEVENSON**, International Ministries staff.

We want you to bring with you all the girls (8 years and up) you can so they can enjoy the Conference along with the women. We hope you will also bring the young women you know. The Conference Committee is working on a program that will be enjoyed by all ages—some intergenerational activities as well as some activities just for the girls while the women do other things. There will be plenty of excellent music!

Women and girls can impact the world by learning how to carry out the **“HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING” PROJECT**. This will be a real beginning which we can spread throughout our communities to end violence and abuse.

There will be a variety of workshops to perk the interest of everyone. They will range from traditional needlework to high tech computer use, from caregivers' lives to missionaries' lives, along with the “how-to” of helping missionaries. And, bring **TEDDY BEARS** for our special White Cross project. These will be for Loveland police to give to child accident victims and for A.J. and Nathan Myers to take back to Bulgaria to give as gifts to friends and orphans.

We'll carry out our year's theme, **BORN AGAIN...TO BE WILD ABOUT JESUS**, with lots of music, laughter, and fun—showing that Christian women have enthusiasm about living for Jesus. There will be a **MINI-MALL** for all those who are wild about shopping (and doing hands-on projects and gathering information.) We'll have a fantastic **“I'M WILD ABOUT. . .” FUN NIGHT** of sharing talents and hobbies. Come prepared to share whatever you are wild about!

Put the dates on your calendar—and come to Fort Collins for the ABW Ministries Conference on June 9-11.

More information and registration forms will be mailed. If you don't receive one, please contact Betty Moseley by phone at 970-221-0233, by e-mail at betbilmoseley@msn.com, or by regular mail at 2817 Wakonda Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

We hope to receive Your registration and to see You at Conference!

*Your sisters in Christ as we serve together,
Betty Moseley and Fran Lambert, Conference Co-Chairs*

2006 National Women's
Conference
“And He Will Lift You Up”

AND

“Like the Rock”
The National Gathering
for ABGirls
(for all girls who have completed grades 6-12)

Both conferences will be held
July 22-29, 2006
at Green Lake
Conference Center
Green Lake, Wisconsin

Complete information, registration forms, workshop registration forms, and scholarship applications are available at www.abwministries.org/upcoming_events.

Schweissings' Return to Bahamas Delayed

Dan and Estela Schweissing report: After Bahamian immigration lost our work permit applications, we resubmitted new applications on February 1, 2006. We are hopeful that the new work permits will be issued soon. In the meantime, Estela has had some new medical problems emerge and tests in late February confirmed that she will need surgery. We are now in the process of scheduling her for out-patient surgery which will likely take place in late March or early April. We will post more specific information to our newsletter list as it becomes available. Individuals and churches wishing to receive our latest prayer and news updates via e-mail may do so by signing up at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SchweissingsNewsletter/>.

Karen King Lecures To Be Hosted by The United Church of Los Alamos

Karen L. King, Winn Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Harvard University in The Divinity School, will present a special series of lectures at The United Church of Los Alamos, on May 12-13, 2006. She is the author of a number of books including *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle* and *The Secret Revelation of John*. Her teaching and research specialties within the history of Christianity lie in women's studies, orthodoxy and heresy, and the Coptic Gnostic literature.

Friday evening's lecture, "New Discoveries from the Egyptian Desert: The Changing Face of Christianity," will begin at 7:00 and is free of charge. Saturday's lectures, based on the two books above and other material, will explore more fully issues raised by these new discoveries and their implications for Christians today. They will begin with registration and refreshments at 8:30a.m. and end at about 4:00 p.m. The registration fee of \$40 (\$50 after May 1) for the Saturday lectures includes lunch and other refreshments.

All events will be held at The United Church of Los Alamos, 2525 Canyon Road, Los Alamos, NM, 87544, an ecumenical church affiliated with six denominations. For a program brochure and registration information, contact the church at (505) 662-2971 or visit the church website at www.losalamos.org/unchla/.

Northern Seminary President Announces Resignation

At its March meeting, the Northern Seminary Board of Trustees received and accepted the resignation of President Charles W. Moore, which will take effect June 5. Moore was Northern Seminary's ninth president and the first Northern alumnus (D.Min. '93) to serve in that office. During the June Commencement celebrations, the Board will host an event to honor Moore for his years of service and ministry at the Seminary.

During his tenure, Moore guided the Seminary through the post 9-11 uncertainties, expanded the donor base and oversaw increased enrollment. Moore will be remembered especially for his emphasis on the spiritual formation of students for ministry. Moore came to Northern after 11 years as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, Michigan. After five years at Northern, Moore has indicated a desire to return to pastoral ministry in the local church.

"I have appreciated the opportunity to serve God at Northern for the past five years," said Moore. "Having served a vibrant and growing evangelical congregation before coming to Northern, the possibility of returning to pastoral ministry was inviting. It has been a

joy to be used by God in the preparation of students for ministry. I look forward to Northern Seminary's continued growth and success!"

During this period of transition, John Kirn, Chair of the Board of Trustees, will serve as the seminary's chief executive officer. The Board will initiate a search for a new President soon. Details on the presidential search will be announced as they become available.

Northern Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is a graduate professional school for men and women planning to serve in the U.S. and around the world as pastors, chaplains, missionaries, educators and counselors.

Located in the western suburbs of Chicago, the seminary is ideally situated only 30 minutes from urban, suburban, and rural settings for ministry. Northern offers a Certificate in Christian Studies, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Christian Ministries, Master of Arts in Youth Ministry, Master of Arts in Worship and Spirituality, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

Colorado Council of Churches Update

In keeping with the purpose of the Colorado Council of Churches—to give witness to the unity and mission of Christ's Church in Colorado—the Council is comprised of two commissions which work in tandem alongside the full Council.

Christian Unity Commission

The Christian Unity Commission is again planning an Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks. In 2006, this service will be held on Sunday, April 16 at 6:15 a.m. For more information on the service at Red Rocks, go to <http://www.coloradocouncilofchurches.org/Easter.html>. The Unity Commission also continues its work to develop a video curriculum on the subject of Christian unity.

Justice Commission

The Justice Commission

- endorsed legislation for the protection of hospice workers providing palliative care;
- is drafting an ethics paper on the subject of immigration which will be discussed by the Executive Committee, Denominational Executives, and later the full Council;
- continues to research the issue of electronic funds transfer policy for state prisons in Colorado;
- supports and promotes the prevention of homelessness by encouraging churches to mentor homeless families in Denver, Brighton, Salida, and Trinidad;
- endorsed HB 1113, the Colorado Clean Air Act which will allow Colorado to set higher standards than the federal standards;

- is researching the issues of minimum wage, both locally and nationally, and
- has agreed to support the Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action which is planning a conference in May to address the Sudan issue.

Full Council

The Council sponsors periodic meetings of judicatory executives to foster communication and local cooperation. The last meeting was held at the ABCRM office and was hosted by Desmond Hoffmeister, Transitional Executive Minister.

In order to help develop congregational cultures of non-violence, the Council is proposing the adoption of "Hands and Words Are Not for Hurting." This program includes the pledge: "I will not use my hands or words to hurt myself or others." The Council also encourages individual commitment to this program.

Jim Ryan, Council Executive, held a meeting with newspaper religion editors, encouraging them to meet with local pastors from each denomination to cultivate awareness of the grassroots issues facing both clergy and congregations.

In its March 2 meeting, the Full Council spent time on long-range planning and visioning. The process will be continued by the Executive Committee and at the next Council meeting.

*Submitted by Gordon Kieft
ABCRM representative
on the CCC Executive Committee*

New Directions for Camp WYOBA

ABCRM is the process of evaluating the Region's camping ministry. In order to accomplish this task as it relates to Camp WYOBA, the WYOBA Task Force invites comment and instruction from all American Baptist churches in Wyoming.

At least one representative from each Wyoming church is invited to attend a discussion and planning session on April 1, 2006. This session will be held from noon to 4:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Casper. Lunch will be provided.

Any person who has been touched by the ministry at Camp WYOBA or has a heart for camping ministry on Casper Mountain is encouraged to attend. The Task Force especially encourages the attendance of pastors and moderators from each church.

Please e-mail Task Force Chair, Deanna Dyer, at the following address ddyer@caspercollege.edu or call 307-259-6639. Reservations are necessary for the meal.

Position Opening

The Camp WYOBA Task Force is seeking a camp administrator for the 2006 camping season (May 15 - September 15).

Please contact Deanna Dyer (information listed above) if you or someone you know might be interested in this position.

**See Camp WYOBA's website for current information:
www.wyoba.org.**

Widen the Community

Brother Roger, founder of the international ecumenical community we know as the Taizé Community, was stabbed to death last summer. His successor, Brother Alois, reported the following:

The afternoon of the day he died, August 16th, Brother Roger called one of the brothers and said to him, “Note down these words carefully!” There was a long silence while he attempted to formulate his thinking. Then he began, “to the extent that our community creates possibilities in the human family to widen. . .” and he stopped there, too exhausted to finish his phrase.”¹

What did he mean by “widen”? Brother Alois believes he probably wanted to say: “Do everything possible to make more perceptible for everyone the love God has for every human being without exception, and for all peoples.” In order to do that, we must open ourselves more to God’s presence. Yes, “widening” begins with us and within us as we cultivate kindness toward those around us.

Isn’t God calling us to “widen” our ABCRM fellowship as well? In many instances, survivalism and an inward focus has eroded the vitality of the local church. If we were to adopt an attitude of “widening,” we will welcome the alien and the alienated, and hostility will be transformed to hospitality. Trusting in the power of the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit, let’s adopt an attitude of “widening” to become a regional community where all of God’s children find welcome.

Ingrid Dvirnak
Newsletter Editor

¹The Letter from Taizé, http://www.taize.fr/en_article2964.html

A Cloud of Witnesses: Celebrating American Baptist Women’s History

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. . .” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

In 1987 the U.S. Congress declared March to be Women’s History Month. It said, in part, that American women of every race, class, and ethnic background helped found the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways. . . . American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of our nation’s life. . . providing the majority of the nation’s volunteer labor force and have been particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the country. . . . [Women have] served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement. . . . Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history.

This is also true of women in our churches. Women have been active, vibrant people of faith, working to help the ministry of their churches at home and abroad. We in American Baptist churches are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. The problem is that they have often been left invisible. As the author of the letter to the Hebrews suggests, when we name for ourselves the witnesses who have gone before us, we are strengthened to follow God’s call in our own time.

Does observing women’s history month mean that we’re ignoring the histories of Baptist men? Certainly not. One historian, Joan-Kelly Gadol, has suggested that we need “doubled vision.” She suggests that with one eye we look at the achievements and records of men, largely public, and with the other we focus on the dynamics and stories of the women of our history, largely private. Only when we are able to see clearly with both eyes are we able to truly appreciate the fullness of our history as Baptists.



Musings on Tribal Theology (Part 4)

(This article is the fourth in a series written by Ahao Vashum, our global mission partnership specialist.)



Tribal theology, like any other contextual theology takes seriously the socio-political context of the people. It holds the human situation as the starting point for theology with the aim being to develop a theology that is contextually relevant, meaningful, and empowering to the people. The act of doing theology can be understood as reflections on the faith of our fathers and mothers. However, more often than not, theology reflects the Christian traditions (biblical and Christian traditions) in their strict sense. Very little importance is given to the traditions of our own fathers and mothers. Tribal theology affirms the goodness of tribal culture. It reiterates the faith that God has been and still is present in the cultural life of the tribal people. Tribal theology affirms that as much as there is a need for cultural transformation in and through Christ, Christ is in people's culture too. Christ is, indeed, a Christ of culture, but he is also a Christ above culture.

The origin and development of tribal theology is fairly recent, having taken shape in the later part of the 80s and the early part of the 90s. As a contextual theology, tribal theology seeks to reflect on the faith experiences of the tribal people on the one hand, and reappropriate the cultural values for theological reflection on the other hand. Additionally, the critical point of departure for tribal theology is the matrix of tribal worldview.

The tribal worldview is characterized by the inter-relatedness of all things, and it recognizes and values the harmony between humanity and nature. And so creation, and not human beings, serves as the starting point of tribal theology. The entire reality of life, including our understanding of God and spirituality has to be seen within the perspective of our relationship with all of creation.

Tribal theology is also a theology of liberation. As a liberation theology, it seeks to take seriously the liberating messages which are essential to the Bible for our faith reflection and articulation. God's act of liberation in the Exodus event and throughout the history of Israel, the prophetic messages of liberation in the Old Testament, and above all, Jesus' own declaration of his ministry as that of bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, and sight to the blind, demand that if a tribal theology is faithful to the liberative act of God, it must be a theology of liberation and healing.

The tribals in northeast India long for liberation in all dimensions of life – politically, socially, economically, religiously and morally. Politically,

the existence of a number of so-called insurgent groups who operate in a high state of tension with the pervasive presence of Indian armed forces often leading to violence and bloodsheds and human rights abuses mark the extremity of the volatile situation of the region. Factional violence, ethnic clashes, and tribal feuds have brought untold sufferings into the lives of the people.

Another problem is that today more than ever the region is faced with the grim situation of suffering from HIV/AIDS infections. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the North-east region is considered to be one of the highest of any region in India. We need liberation and healing from all the structural, corporate, and social sins in addition to our personal sins and aggressions. We need the spirit of reconciliation and peace to prevail among our people. Therefore, tribal theology must be a theology of liberation and healing.

Tribal theology is also necessary for the sake of establishing and maintaining our tribal Christian identity. This Tribal Christian identity can emerge only when we are willing to respectfully reclaim our cultures and histories in the light of our faith expression. Additionally, tribal theology seeks to challenge tribal Christians to approach the scriptures in the light of tribal situation and cultural values. Tribal theology as a living theology attempts to bring meaning and relevance to our tribal life and world.

(This series will be continued in future issues.)

Need a suggestion for a VBS project?

Children in your Vacation Bible School can help meet the needs of other children in the United States and around the world. Adopting a special VBS project is a great way to help kids (and adults too!) learn about American Baptist-related mission. Choose one of this year's projects as a special emphasis during your VBS program, encourage children to contribute to the program, and pray for the needs of children in the project you choose.

Some examples this year include:

- giving money to buy songbooks and Bible for new Christians in Nepal,
- helping children in the Dominican Republic get coloring books and crayons,
- helping buy gallons of interior paint for the gym and staff housing at Hopi Mission School in Kykotsmovi, AZ,
- sending children at the Valley Christian Center in Phoenix, AZ to summer camp or on a field trip,
- collecting money to buy preschool supplies for the Kodiak Baptist Mission in Alaska.

A Vacation Bible School Mission Projects flyer highlighting needs at American Baptist-related mission locations in the United States and around the world is available through your church office.

**Or you may call (800) ABC-3USA, ext. 2195
about available international projects
and ext. 2073 for information about national projects.**

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Desmond Hoffmeister:
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Ingrid Dvirnak:
Newsletter Editor

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American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
6855 S. Havana Street, Ste. 220
Centennial, CO 80112