



May 15, 2006

# The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

## J. Alfred Smith to be Keynoter at 2006 Gathering

The Gathering Planning Committee met on May 9 at the Region office in Centennial, CO. Under the leadership of Larry VanSpriell, the committee continued its work to plan the October 20-21 event to be hosted by New Hope Baptist Church of Denver. The committee is pleased to announce that J. Alfred Smith will be the keynoter for this year's Gathering and clergy/spouse event.

J. Alfred Smith, Sr. is a visionary and the senior pastor of the historic Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, CA. He serves as Distinguished Professor of Christian Ministry and Preaching at the American Baptist Seminary of the West and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. He is also currently a Visiting Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. He has served as an Acting Dean of the American Baptist Seminary of the West and as a member of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

Smith is a past national president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC), and a past president of the American Baptist Churches of the West (ABCW).

For two consecutive years, he was named one of *Ebony* magazine's "Most Influential Black Americans" and was among the magazine's "Top 15 Greatest Black Preachers of 1993."

Pastor Smith is a man filled with "the milk of human kindness and compassion." He champions the causes of the poor, the down-trodden, the left-outs, and the left-behinds. He is a voice for the disliked, the disaffected, the displaced, the disdained. He uses the pulpit to uplift the poor in spirit, the broken-hearted, and the afflicted. He also challenges the rich and comfortable to get up and get out of "their lazy chairs of religion."

He is a bridge builder who feels as comfortable with common ordinary folk as with the movers and shakers of the world. A vocal opponent of the Apartheid Government of South Africa, Dr. Smith Sr. testified before the United Nations in New York City on April 14, 1989 in an effort to end Apartheid in South Africa. He is a prophet and a leader who inspires and challenges the people to dare to be what God wants them to be.



Smith is also a teacher who instills not only intellectual knowledge, understanding, and character in his listeners by "making it plain," but also a "can do" attitude. He is a man who preaches the Gospel—and lives—the Gospel.

He is a prolific writer, having published 16 books. His newest book, *Speak Until Justice Wakes*, will be available in the fall of 2006 by Judson Press.

## 2006 GATHERING

October 20-21

Theme:  
*Got Water?*  
John 4:13-14



**COME  
AND BE REFRESHED!**

## Update from Dan and Estela Schweissing

We are pleased to announce that our work permits have been approved, Estela's medical clearance has been reinstated, and we are scheduled to fly back to the Bahamas on Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>.

If you live in the Denver area, we are requesting help with the following:

(1) We are tentatively planning to move out of our apartment and put all of our furniture and personal belongings into storage on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>. If you, or anyone else you know, are available to help out by lending an extra hand or vehicle, please let us know.

(2) If you or anyone you know is in the market for a new used car, our 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix is now for sale. It has 103,000 miles—mostly highway mileage, minor interior and body wear, and is in excellent mechanical condition. All this can be yours for the low price of just \$5000.

We can be reached at either [dan@haitianministries.net](mailto:dan@haitianministries.net) or 303-431-1792.

Please update your address books to reflect this new mailing address:

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel M. Schweissing  
American Baptist  
International Ministries  
SB-51486  
Nassau, New Providence  
The Bahamas

*Dan and Estela Schweissing*

## Reflections on Our Teaching Mission to St. Vincent

On February 29 Andrea and I left a cold Denver airport to venture to the nice warm island of St. Vincent. It was warm, not only in temperature, but also in the welcome we received from the students and staff at the Windward Islands School of Evangelism. This school is a Bible college for those called to ministry in the Windward Islands and other islands in the Caribbean.

Our purpose in going to St. Vincent was to serve as visiting teachers at the school. We shared our faith and learned from our students as well.

Andrea taught worship and music each night. Her classes were opened up to local church leaders. Andrea writes, "I was overwhelmed with the students and their acceptance of us as their teachers. While I taught worship and private music lessons to the students, I also was able to meet with worship leaders from the congregations and find what their needs were. They knew many of the same contemporary choruses that we sing, but were not as familiar with many hymns. I was able to work with them to use more scripture in their worship time and also to weave appropriate hymns together with the choruses."

I taught classes on the Life of Christ, Romans, and Minor Prophets. The time spent with each class and student birthed deep relationships in Christ.

The opportunities for learning were the best part of the trip for me. In addition to the hours we spent teaching, Andrea and I had time to meet people in the markets and on the street. Experiencing their culture helped us understand the students much better.

Students come to the school from Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, and St. Vincent. All of the students work hard preparing for tests, memory work, and writing papers just as they would in any college. Each student is also required to cook, do dishes, and regular chores as part of their tuition arrangements. Tuition is paid by their home church and also by churches stateside as well.

Windward Islands School of Evangelism is 25 years old and was started by a missionary couple by the names of Bob and Jackie Muter. They first served as missionaries in Jamaica before coming to St. Vincent. The school not only serves as a Bible college, but also as a church planting school. The president of the school, Simeon Norton, is a graduate of the school.

In the 20 years that I have known Dr. Norton, he has accomplished much for his Alma Mater. Many of the students that he has taught have planted churches in the Caribbean. He also has planted a church on St. Vincent and currently serves as pastor of that church. It was at his invitation that Andrea and I went to teach on the staff of Windward School of Evangelism.

Andea and I praise God that we were able to make this trip and to touch the lives of the students as well as encourage the teachers on staff. It is an experience that we will always remember, and we look forward to the opportunity to serve there in the future.

*Submitted by Brian High*

*While participating in this mission, Brian and Andrea were both serving at First Baptist Church, Cheyenne, WY. Brian is currently the pastor of FBC/Clay Center, KS.*

## First Baptist Church of Denver Listed on National register of Historic Places



The First Baptist Church of Denver at 14<sup>th</sup> and Grant celebrated its designation on the National Register of Historic Places April 30<sup>th</sup> with a ceremony dedicating its newly mounted National Register plaque. The church was founded in 1864 and its present building was built in 1937. The Georgian Revival style church, with its distinctive steeple, is one of the best examples of its style in Denver. It is also on the Colorado State Register of Historic Places. A plaque for the state register was also dedicated.

The church, which was founded by a congregation of nine people during the Civil War, has welcomed such notable figures as U.S. President Warren G. Harding, Martin Luther

King, and George Beverly Shea, longtime singer with the Billy Graham Crusades. For 17 years during the 1980s and 1990s, the church was used as a homeless shelter. By 2000 it was in dire need of restoration work. Most of the work has been completed, thanks to more than \$171,000 in grants from the Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund. The current pastor of FBC/Denver is Gary Bowser.

*Submitted by Slayden Yarbrough*



Participants at the dedication of historical plaques (*above left*) at First Baptist Church of Denver on April 30<sup>th</sup>. *From left to right*: Helen Bingham, Carrie and Stephen Schmeltekopf (donors of plaques); Gary Bowser, pastor; and Slayden Yarbrough, chair of the Historical Preservation Committee.

## Southeast Cluster to Hold Prayer Breakfast

The Southeast Cluster Churches are invited to participate in a time of prayer and fellowship on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

at First Baptist Church of Colorado Springs.  
Both laity and clergy are encouraged to attend.

## The School for Discernmentarians

July 10-14 & 17-21 in Albuquerque

The School for Discernmentarians is a training in the art of spiritual discernment for individuals, churches, and organizations.

The first week is geared toward personal decision making, while the second week focuses on corporate decision making.

*Discernment is a process that seeks God's longing for our individual and corporate lives.*

Led by **Judith Todd** and **Val Isenhower** (American Baptist) of *Water in the Desert Ministries* and held at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Albuquerque, NM.

For more information log onto [www.waterinthedesert.org](http://www.waterinthedesert.org), call 505-899-3738 or e-mail [H2Ointhedesert@aol.com](mailto:H2Ointhedesert@aol.com).

Interested, but can't fit the July dates into your schedule? The same training will be offered by these trainers August 14-18 & 21-25 in Burlingame, CA (San Francisco Bay Area).



## Women Impacting the World. . .in and through Missions

### Colorado AB Women's and Girls' Conference

All women and girls from all over the Region are invited.

June 9-11, 2006  
American Baptist Church,  
Fort Collins

#### Mission Speakers:

Terry Myers (Bulgaria)

Judy DeRolf (Japan)

Ruthann Stevenson

(International Ministries Staff)

#### The conference will include:

Wide variety of workshops  
Worship and Bible Study  
Activities for the Girls  
Missions Mini-Mall  
Opportunities to share  
a talent or hobby

#### Bring a teddy bear for the special White Cross Project.

For teddy bear bulletin insert and White Cross information, contact Yvonne Whisenhunt, [rywhiz@msn.com](mailto:rywhiz@msn.com)

#### For registration forms, lodging information, and other additional information,

contact the registrar:

Bonnie Glass

[bqhaven@aol.com](mailto:bqhaven@aol.com)

970-532-0565

104 E. Indiana Avenue,  
Berthoud, CO 80513

## Jim Maas Ordained at West Alameda Baptist Church



In an intimate service that filled the tiny chapel of West Alameda Baptist Church to overflowing, Jim Maas was ordained to the position of minister by the members of his home church in Lakewood, CO on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The ordination service began as a part of the offertory with a challenge to the ordinand given by Tink Tinker (Osage Nation), Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions at Iliff School of Theology. This challenge was answered by Jim with his a capella singing of "Here I Am, Lord."

Jim answered the questions of the Covenant of Ordination administered by people who were significant in Jim's ordination journey and representing a myriad of Christian traditions. Jim was then vested with robe and stoll by his mother and eldest daughter.

In order to acknowledge the love and support that he had received from his congregation, Jim went one-by-one to each member of the congregation to receive their individual blessing before he bowed before the ordained members to receive their blessing during the Ordination Prayer that was read by the congregation's pastor, Jim Elland.

Following the ordination procedure, Jim led the congregation by serving the Lord's Supper as his first official act as an ordained minister.

Jim has been a member of WABC since 2003, where he completed an internship with the Iliff School of Theology as a student minister. Jim graduated in May of 2005 with his Master of Divinity. Jim is a native of Wisconsin, where he spent the first 18 years of his life before joining the U.S. Air Force. After his military career, Jim lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming for a number of years before moving to Denver to complete his seminary education. Jim is currently seeking to serve a rural congregation somewhere in the Rocky Mountain Region.

## Amanda Halliburton: On Campus at USF



Amanda "Mandy" Halliburton is the Mabel Bolle Scholarship Recipient from ABW Ministries of Wyoming. Mandy is a student at the University of Sioux Falls and the daughter of Mike and Reba Halliburton, who serve at FBC/Lander, WY. RMAB interviewed Mandy about campus life and her educational plans.

**RMAB: What's your major? What are your educational goals?** My major is elementary education. After college I plan to attend seminary and earn my masters in religious education. I would like to become a children's minister and also work with the growing Hispanic population in the United States.

**RMAB: Why did you choose USF?** I chose USF because it is an excellent college for teachers. The education program here gives students a lot of hands-on experiences in schools, such as teaching lessons, observing classrooms, and interviewing current teachers.

I also chose USF because it is a Christian school in more than just its name. For example, faculty and staff genuinely care about the students and each other, creating a strong sense of community. They also encourage each student to follow God's plan for his/her life, which encourages spiritual growth and maturity. I think

all of these elements combine to make USF a great place to attend college!

**RMAB: What's the best part of campus life right now?** The best part of campus life is living in the dorms. Most people think that is strange, especially since you usually have to live in a tiny space with a roommate. But where else can you find people willing to go play on the snow piles in the Walmart parking lot at midnight? Living in the dorms has allowed me to develop friendships with many types of people and participate in many fun activities, so I think it's the best part!

**RMAB: In what extra-curricular activities are you involved?**

I am involved in many activities outside of school. At church I am a leader for the third grade group in AWANA, which is a midweek children's program. I also attend a college group and have started playing guitar with the praise team for Sunday night worship. I work at Hawthorne Elementary School in the English Language Learners department, where I help teach lessons and translate for Hispanic children. I also tutor Spanish and help with freshman orientation at USF.

**RMAB: How has your faith been shaped/deepened during your years at USF?** My faith has been strengthened in many ways since coming to college. God has helped me to redefine the direction of my life and understand more of my purpose. God has also used my roommate to teach me patience, school bills to show me that God will provide, and large homework loads to teach me about priorities. God also constantly reminds me that the most important thing in my life has to be my spiritual relationship. I am looking

forward to seeing what else God will teach me in the next few years!

**RMAB: What have been some of the surprises along the way during your time at USF?** I have been surprised at how many times I have changed my major! I started out as a biology/chemistry secondary education major, but changed it before even arriving on campus to media studies (production of television, video, radio, and newspaper). Then, at the beginning of this year, I changed it again to elementary education. For awhile I was very confused — was I unable to hear God's voice clearly about God's direction for my life? But soon I discovered that God was guiding me all along. For example, if I hadn't been looking for a good teaching college in the beginning, I probably would not have chosen USF. As a media major I was able to take a lot of hands-on classes and learn many new skills — skills that will be invaluable to me in future church ministries. Now, as an elementary education major, I am learning about working with kids, which is very important for a children's minister. I guess this just shows that even if I don't fully understand why God is doing something, I'll be on the right track as long as I faithfully follow God's leading!

**RMAB: What would you like to tell the ABW Ministries of Wyoming scholarship contributors?** Thank you — your generosity is truly appreciated! When I made the decision to attend USF, I prayed that God would provide me with financial support, and you are part of God's answer! I am very thankful that I have been able to attend this university. My experience here has stretched and strengthened my faith, and I know that God is using my time here to prepare me for something awesome in the future. Thanks for helping make it possible!

## Free Curriculum Samples Available for Hands-On Review

Recently, Judson Press' new Christian Education Catalog arrived in the mail at your church office. In it you will find details about the various lines of curriculum suggested for use in American Baptist churches. Many free samples are available by going online at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) and clicking on "Free Downloads."

If you're thinking about making a change in the curriculum you use in your Sunday church school and are considering the *Seasons of the Spirit* line, the Region office has an array of samples for you to peruse. You are welcome to pick them up or call (303-988-3900) and have them sent to you. The samples are available on a first-come, first-served basis and need not be returned.

*Seasons of the Spirit* is a lectionary-based curriculum that offers an engaging and uplifting quarterly resource reflecting the seasons of the church year. At the heart of the program is the integration of worship, learning, and serving.

Respected author and teacher, Marcus Borg, has this to say about the series: "When people ask me to recommend a Christian education program that reflects and embodies the emerging Christian paradigm that I also speak of as 'transformation-centered Christianity,' I always commend *Seasons of the Spirit*."



## Oscar Lopez to be Installed on May 21



Region churches, particularly those located in the Metro Denver Cluster, are invited to the installation service for Oscar Lopez. This service will celebrate the beginning of *International Palabra de Fe*, the first Hispanic church in our Region. Come and celebrate the arrival of Oscar and Vianey.

The service will take place Sunday evening, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Aurora Community Baptist Church, 11430 East 19th Avenue, Aurora, CO.

The Lopezes have started an English class for the Latino community as well as their radio ministry. You may hear Oscar Lopez Monday through Wednesday on the radio at 6:30 a.m. on AM Station 1220.



### Voice Your Opinion!

The General Executive Council (GEC) is in the process of revisiting several major questions about the covenantal relationships in our denomination. In April the GEC met to identify a focus on leadership, representative process, structure, and national service to regions. In June and September the GEC will be continuing its work in drafting new covenants in these issue areas. The GEC would very much appreciate your input to help guide them in their work. Please take a short time (approximately 15-20 minutes) to answer a survey and provide your insights to these important issues. The survey may be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=851392094822>

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The first quarter's mission giving report for the Region is available at [http://www.abcrn.org/communication/mission\\_giving.htm](http://www.abcrn.org/communication/mission_giving.htm)

*If you have to ask, you have never been.*  
**United Church's 2006 Mission to Mexico**



The T-shirt slogan, "If you have to ask, you have never been," says a lot about the 21<sup>st</sup> annual United Church-sponsored Mexico Mission trip. A pack of 65 privileged youth and adults were introduced to some of the poorest of poor living in the large Juarez dump. There they toiled for a week in wind and dust, and discovered new meanings for "gift."

Strong shelters built with mostly unskilled labor became an incredible life-changing gift to the recipients. Two, the size of large tool sheds in the USA, provided a major upgrade over partial cardboard and pallet shacks that the families put together on two meager \$80-a-week salaries. The third was double that size and replaced a patched wood hut the back wall of which was a large pizza sign. Barely keeping out the elements, this had served as home for Pastor Arnulfo.

"I really enjoyed getting to build for a pastor this year. We got to see the faith and passion of the people much more deeply, and it really touched me," related one student. In turn, it was a gift to the pastor to see people of such diverse faiths working together. Robert Wittwer, a professional designer/builder, said, "It is a joy to work with these youth who, unlike professionals, cared about the whole project's outcome."

Versatility and flexibility are valuable and necessary gifts in Mexico. The slab was poured and, partial wall frames were made when the pastor said he did not want a center wall. Quick, careful reworking of plans yielded a laminated beam made from the cement slabs' wood forms. Traces of cement left on the wood spoke of the ingenuity and determination alive in such limited working conditions.

Finding hidden strengths was a gift for most campers as they lived in a dirt field camp, ate dust, used the infamous baños and bucket showers, and worked harder than they do during the rest of the year. Many were new to construction such as foreign students Katrin Vatiska of Finland and Midori Ohira of Japan.

The dedication of the buildings along with the presentation of handmade quilts, crosses, and, of course, the house keys became the most meaningful moment for many of the youth. Passionate and joyful singing by the Mexican families brought tears to eyes, making discomfort and hard work seem trivial.

*Submitted by Terry Langham  
 Mission Team Member,*

*The United Church, Los Alamos, NM,*

To view additional trip pictures, visit:  
[http://www.abcrm.org/mission/  
 UnitedChurch\\_LosAlamos.htm](http://www.abcrm.org/mission/UnitedChurch_LosAlamos.htm)

**Stan Smith Installed  
 as Interim Pastor  
 at Berkeley Baptist  
 Church in Denver**



On Sunday, April 30, Stan Smith was installed as Interim Pastor at Berkeley Baptist Church in Denver, CO. It is a homecoming of sorts for Stan, because he previously served as Berkeley's pastor from mid 1976 to 1981. In addition, he was ordained there on October 3, 1976. (He left Berkeley to join the staff of Calvary Baptist Church in Denver.) The congregation gathered to welcome him back as their interim for an intended period of two years.

Wayne Dvirnak, Ministry and Mission Coach for the Northern Front Range Cluster, participated in the service of installation. He delivered the Charge to the Minister and led in the Words of Installation. The installation prayer was offered by Sara Jane Manczur.

Other participants in the service included Marjorie Roberts, Rod MacKenzie, Lowell Roberts, and Alan Barnes. "The Faithful Five," a group of guitarists from the congregation, played several numbers during the service of worship.

## Monte Vista and Center Churches Install Pastor

Betty Weaver began her ministry with the First Baptist Churches of Center and Monte Vista on November 1, 2005. On March 5, 2006 the congregations held an installation service.

The theme of the service centered on partnership between the two churches, the people and the pastor, and the churches and communities. Bob Frykholm, ABCRM Senior Resource Team Member who worked with the search committee, gave the message: "The Church: Synergy of Pastor and People."

Several members of both churches read selected scriptures. Mike Oldham, Ministry and Mission Coach for the Western Slope Cluster, led in the Words of Installation. Loyde Kinser led in the Laying On of Hands and prayer. At the close of the installation, communion was celebrated by the worshipers.

Betty's son, James Weaver, of Dallas, TX, also attended the special service.

### Free Office Furniture

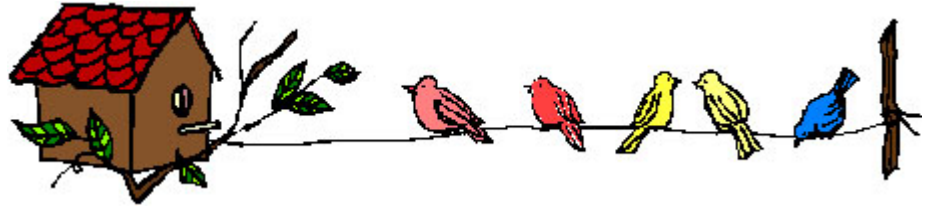


The Region office has several used desks, office chairs, metal cabinets, bookcases, and metal file cabinets that we would like to give away to ABCRM churches or church members. If you are interested, please contact Richard Salcedo at the Region office 303-988-3900 ext. 13 before June 10.

*"for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come. . . ." (Song of Solomon 2:11-12a NRSV).*

## A Prayer in Springtime

Over the past few weeks as we have traveled from one part of the Region to another, we have been struck by the unfolding of spring. In some areas, spring has draped the land in its fresh colors of green, white, pink, purple. In others, there is just a creeping of color into a land still winter-tinged. This visual of the earth's renewal reminds us once again of our spirit's renewal as we proclaim as a people, "Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen Indeed!"



*Gracious God, it's hard to have a heavy heart when all around us, the earth is waking again in the rhythm set by the power of your creation. Thank you for the reminder of new life, of new beginnings, of new hope.*

*And even when that's the case, we find it difficult to see the buds of spring when we hear of those killed by roadside bombs at the hands of people who seem to be about death and dying instead of hope and peace.*

*It's hard to find the beginning of the greening of the earth when colleagues we cherish lose their jobs, choose to separate from the denomination's family, face illness and death, or struggle with seeing their place in ministry when every dollar feels as if it's been taken away.*

*It's hard to feel the warmth of the sun when we know our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world have a daily struggle to simply make it through another day.*

*Help our heavy hearts, O God. Hear our pain and our struggles. Help us know and feel the arms of your love surrounding us. Help us claim the promise that we are not alone.*

*O God, help us accept the challenge of bringing hope to the hopeless, of bringing food to the hungry, of bringing community to the lonely, of bringing health to those sick in mind and sick in body, of bringing sanctuary to those in harm's way. We do see the renewal of life and know that the life of spring is ours as well when we join ourselves to your vision for a kingdom of peace, of justice, of righteousness, of hope. Amen.*

*Adapted from a prayer written by Mary Jane Pierce Norton  
The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church*

When was it  
that we saw  
you...  
thirsty?  
— Matthew 25:37

### It happens every day.

Usually we handle it so quickly and routinely that it hardly registers in our consciousness. “It” is thirst. Such an ordinary part of life that we—at least those of us reading this—rarely stop to think about it.

### We’ve become a hydration nation.

Our doctors tell us to drink eight glasses of water a day. Our weight-loss gurus tell us hydration is key to burning calories. Our televisions urge us to consume a vast array of liquids, from beer to coffee to soft drinks to... water.

All of this is such a routine part of our lives that we rarely stop to think about the amazing amount of work that has gone into making water come out of the faucet when we turn the tap. We take for granted that two or three entire aisles of our supermarkets will be crowded with a huge array of bottles and cans. We no longer even notice the water bottles that somehow in the last decade have sprouted at the ends of the arms of nearly everyone.

And then Katrina hit the Gulf coast. Suddenly we *saw* how precarious life becomes when the systems we take for granted break down. We *saw* the paradox of people desperately thirsty while surrounded by

water. Salty seawater. Contaminated waste water.

Our radios, computer monitors, and television screens were suddenly filled with the sights and sounds of suffering. Water-caused destruction. Water-borne disease. Lack of safe drinking water.

American Baptists *saw* those thirsty people. We joined with millions of others to respond with amazing generosity. In just a few short weeks, American Baptists gave over \$3.5 million to help the Gulf coast hurricane victims.

Part of what made that generosity so amazing was that it came when many of us were still giving to help the survivors of the Asian tsunami. American Baptists also *saw* those thirsty people, and responded with over \$2.5 million of assistance to those whose lives had been washed away by that powerful wave.

When you use *One Great Hour of Sharing* to respond to a crisis, your gifts both meet emergency needs and work on long-term solutions to the causes of those needs. Your gifts in response to the tsunami and the Gulf coast hurricanes provided immediate assistance and will also be at work in the affected areas for years to come.

When we *see* suffering people, we respond. When the news media focus on a crisis and provide us with gripping images and stories of people suddenly in need, we *see* those people and we are moved to help them.

Can we *see* people whose suffering is not just critical...but chronic? Can they emerge into our awareness without an emergency? Will we let the Spirit of God give us eyes

to *see* and hearts to *respond* to those whose suffering is not on the evening news?

The systems we take for granted—the systems that make clean drinking water come out of our faucets and place a huge array of liquids within our reach almost everywhere we go—those systems do not exist for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

When you give to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering, your gifts testify that you *see* people in need, even when they are not on TV.



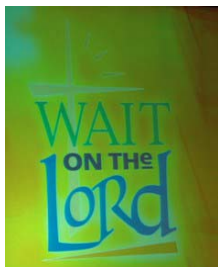
First, your gifts help to address the needs of those who cannot count on the same kinds of systems that make our lives what they are (safe drinking water, secure shelter, economic opportunity, effective healthcare). Second, your gifts enable emergency response agencies to prepare to act quickly when the next wave, flood, famine or earthquake hits.

### “When did we see you thirsty?”

Ask God to let you *see* thirsty people—in the U.S. and around the world. When you *see* them, give to the *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

**Remember to promote *One Great Hour of Sharing* during May.**

## Wait on the Lord—a Spiritual Oasis



*Wait on the Lord* was a Spiritual Formation Conference presented by the American Baptist Churches for all ministers and lay ministers. It was held in Orlando, FL, April 17-20.

ABCUSA General Secretary, Roy Medley, called it a “Spiritual Oasis” for God’s workers. He went on to say, “Many would wonder why those in ministry even need spiritual refreshment. After all, doesn’t that come from the activities we participate in day in and day out? But you and I know what it is like to face the ‘press of the crowds’ as well as the press of our calendars, the press of expectations (our own as well as others), and to feel the power go out of us as we minister to others.

“ . . . These were days set aside for going deep into ourselves, into our relationship with God, and our relationship with others.”

ABCRM attendees were Brad Berglund, Bob and Gretchen Garcia, Desmond Hoffmeister, Mike Saylor, Ahao Vashum, Daryl Walker.



*The Rocky Mountain American Baptist* is published by the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains

**Desmond Hoffmeister:**  
Transitional Executive Minister  
**Ingrid Dvirnak:**  
Newsletter Editor

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