



August 15, 2006

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Educational Opportunity: Pastoral Care in Context

"You can't be in ministry without being a counselor. Whether one's ministerial self-image is as a counselor or not, others will see you that way. The only options are to be one who helps those in pain or causes more hurt by accident or lack of training.

*Jan McCormack
President of ABCRM
Director of Chaplaincy and
Counseling Training Centers
at Denver Seminary*

Under this guiding philosophy, the Department of Ministry has invited Jan McCormack and Gary Bowser to teach a short course on pastoral care. The class will begin with noon lunch on September 22 and end with lunch on September 24. It will be held at Foss Park, a beautiful retreat facility south of Denver, just minutes from highways 470 and 285.



Kemper Lodge at Foss Park

Who should attend? Candidates for region ordination, local church laity,

pastors who need a refresher course, anyone who works/visits in hospitals and nursing homes, as well as caregivers.

The course will cost \$175. This amount includes the course, two breakfasts, three lunches, one dinner, and housing for two nights on site.

The required text is *Doing What Works in Brief Therapy* by Ellen K. Quick. Participants are asked to skim the book before the course begins. This text may be purchased online from the Denver Seminary Bookstore (<http://www.denverseminary.edu/aboutus/bookstore>) at a 20% clergy discount.

In addition, the curriculum will include an article, entitled, "*There Is No Such Thing as a Resistant Client*" by Jan McCormack. Upon registering, participants will be sent this article to read before the course begins.

Questions? Please contact Nancy Darnell, chair of the ABCRM Department of Ministry (nrdarnell@fbc-boulder.org) or Wayne Dvirnak, ABCRM Staff (wdivrnak@abcrim.org).

Pastoral Care Teaching Team

Jan McCormack, Director of Chaplaincy and Counseling Training Centers and Assistant Professor of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling at Denver Seminary; Retired Air Force Chaplain; Faculty, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's "His Presence in Crisis" program; BGTC Rapid Response and ICISF Team Member; Board Certified Chaplain; Ordained by ABCUSA. Professional foci: Brief therapy, crisis, trauma, and disaster work. Education: Doctor of Ministry, Denver Seminary; Master of Divinity, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Gary Bowser, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Denver. Associate Executive Minister ABCRM for 7 years. Senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Longmont, Colorado for 12 years. With his wife, Carol, served in campus ministry at the United Ministries Center in Terre Haute, Indiana. Education: Master of Divinity, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; Doctor of Ministry, McCormick Theological Seminary.

Seniors: Come Along on a Journey to Higher Ground



September 12-14 are the dates for the 2006 Senior Adult Conference at Horn Creek Conference Grounds, west of Westcliffe, CO. *Journey to Higher Ground* is an appropriate theme as conferees gather in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains of southern Colorado.

All senior adults (age 55+) are invited and welcome. The conference is limited to 120 attendees, so register early.

Mary Hulst and Stan Slade will be the featured speakers for the event. Hulst is the senior pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver and vice-president of ABC/USA. Slade is the Interim Team Leader for the Mission Education and Communications Team for International Ministries, ABC/USA.

Conference flyers have been mailed out. Conference information is also posted on the ABCRM website: <http://www.abcrm.org/ministries/SeniorConfpdflyer06.pdf>. Visit the site to download the registration form and driving directions to Horn Creek Conference Grounds.

Two nights' lodging and six meals will cost \$104/person double occupancy; \$190/person single occupancy. Ken Pinkham is receiving registrations. If you have questions, contact Ken by phone at (303) 470-1306 or by email: ken.pinkham@earthlink.net.

RMAB 08/15/06

Wrap them in prayer as they go back to school

Most congregations *talk* more about prayer than they engage in prayer. While we sense that prayer is important, it isn't part of many congregations' DNA.

Author Jane Vennard, who will lead a Discovery Session at the 2006 Gathering on congregational prayer writes, "Prayer is often a low priority in our churches. We pray together on Sundays, maybe ask others to pray for those in need, or begin fellowship meals with prayer. But do we encourage an active vital prayer life within individuals and the congregation?"

We become a praying congregation by praying. And how can we *not* engage in an active vital intercessory prayer ministry for our children?

Second grade was a difficult one for our son. The atmosphere in the classroom was negative because the teacher really didn't want to be there. Consequently, neither did many of the students. While his grades remained good, it was obvious he didn't want to be in Mrs. J's classroom. We found out the same was true for other children in the class.

So we got through the year on the wings of prayer. Before the bus arrived each morning, we prayed with him. We sang a song about God being greater than anything or anyone else. We literally wrapped him in prayer, and I believe it gave him courage to face each day with more confidence.

Many of our children will be returning to school this month. Let's

pray for them. Here are some simple suggestions:

- Hold a prayer walk in the geographical area of the school(s) where the children of your church will be attending.
- Have a "Blessing of Backpacks" during the Sunday morning worship service. Let the kids know you're serious about praying for them.
- Organize prayer teams to support each of the children's Sunday church school classes and youth groups.
- Lift up the school administrators, teachers, aids, and support staff who are part of your congregation. Have them stand and pray for them by name during the service of worship.
- Hold a prayer vigil before the school year begins, but don't stop there. Remember, school lasts for nine months, and in some locales, it's in session year-round.
- Start a "Moms (or Grandmoms) in Touch" group to pray for the children throughout the year.
- Remember the college students too. Scholarships, letters, and care packages are nice, but prayer is priceless.
- And pray for healthy families, and the special needs of single parents.

Let's wrap our children in prayer as they go back to school!

Ingrid Dvirnak
ABCRM Newsletter Editor

In the Meantime. . .

Your pastor resigns and moves on, and you prepare to continue the ministry of your local church until you once again call a pastor. Where do you go in the meantime? To *Interim Ministries-ABC* or to a free-lance interim pastor living in the area. The work of the interim minister is vital in the ongoing life of the local church.

The American Baptist program called *Interim Ministries-ABC* will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year. Begun in 1977 under the title, Ministers-at-Large Program, *Interim Ministries* provides pastoral leaders and interim resources to American Baptist Churches. The current director of the program is James Munroe.

Interim Ministries-ABC partners with ABC Regions for excellence in interim leadership for local congregations. It is the intent of Interim Ministries-ABC to tap the potential of transition times, help churches renew after the loss of a pastor, assess the congregation's strengths and weaknesses, help reset healthy patterns for operations and relations, and find satisfaction in preparing the church for its next pastor. *Interim Ministries-ABC* is the only national office of any mainline denomination to offer such services.

We are fortunate to have a large number of retired pastors living within our Region. Fourteen are in *Interim Ministries-ABC's* active files while others are available to serve as free-lance interim ministers.

Richard Goins serves as a free-lance interim minister at American

Baptist Church in Fort Collins, CO. For Richard and Eila, it was a welcome opportunity to return to the Rocky Mountain Region. Richard Goins served as Area Minister and Minister of World Mission Support in the Region from 1976 - 1984. Their home at the time was in Casper, WY.

The Fort Collins interim assignment is Richard's third, having previously served for 15 months at First Baptist Church in LaCrosse, WI, and as Interim Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin. He had determined not to do any more interims, "unless someone from the Rocky Mountains called. And six weeks later Don Lambert called!"

When asked what he sees as the rewards of interim ministry work, he was quick to answer, "The people I meet and work with." On the flip side, interim ministry can have negative aspects as well. For Richard, it's being away from home and the difficulty of keeping medical appointments.

Currently, there are 16 people serving as interim ministers in ABCRM:

- Anne Dondapati, Aurora Community Church, Aurora, CO
- Charles Kenyon, FBC/Cañon City, CO
- Don Emanuel, Bethany Baptist Church/Colorado Springs, CO
- Richard Goins, American Baptist Church/Fort Collins, CO
- Rodger Harris, FBC/Fowler, CO
- Litton Logan, Sombra del Monte Christian Church/Albuquerque, NM
- Dwight Neuenschwander, FBC/

Grand Junction, CO

- Ken Pettis, FBC/Austin, CO
- Stan Smith, Berkeley Baptist Church/Denver, CO
- Chuck Shipman, FBC/Pueblo, CO
- Bill Stoddart, FBC/Hotchkiss, CO
- Larry VanSpriell, FBC/Greeley, CO
- Jim Watson, FBC/Cheyenne, WY
- Mike Wick, FBC/Olathe, CO
- Slayden Yarbrough, Church of the Master/Denver, CO
- Gerry Zordel, FBC/Brighton, CO

Pastors who are about five years away from "retirement" or a change in the way they do their vocation are encouraged to get training in the specifics of interim ministry and to apply to *Interim Ministries-ABC*. For more information, visit <http://www.interimministries-abc.org/>

Free Hymnals and Bibles Available in ABCRM Office

106 Hymnals:

PRAISE: Our Songs and Hymns

© 1976 by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.

Compiled by John W. Peterson and Norman Johnson.

Edited by Norman Johnson.

51 Bibles:

41 Regular Print
10 Large Print

New International Version
© 1984 by the International Bible Society

If interested, please call the Region office at (303) 988-3900.

Reflections On Being a Camp Counselor

I have been attending Camp WYOBA since I was in the fourth grade. I became a counselor there after my junior year in high school. In the past I only counseled at Junior High and Junior camps. This year I decided to do three camps: Junior High, Junior, and Primary.

This year as a counselor at camp, I learned that God is around you all the time. You just have to be paying attention by watching and listening carefully.

While I was at Junior camp, I had what I call a "God moment" on Thursday night after the talent show. It had begun raining, so we sang in the rain. When we were done with the songs, it stopped raining. I looked up at the sky and saw that the clouds had moved, the stars were out, and the wind had stopped. I simply knew God was there.

While working as a counselor, I have learned from the themes, the messages, and the campers. Even though being a counselor may be difficult at times, it is still fun and rewarding because I see the campers wanting to know more about God—and I am with them during that spiritual experience. I also enjoy making new friends and creating lasting memories. After completing three weeks of counseling at WYOBA this year, I'm already looking forward to being a counselor at all three camps again next year.



*Maggie Harrop
FBC/Laramie, WY*

WYOBA Primary Campers P.R.A.Y.

Primary campers at Camp WYOBA, under the directorship of Liz Adams of Gillette, WY (soon to be from Helena, MT), learned about prayer. In a shortened week of camp activities, which began on Sunday, July 30, and ended on Wednesday, August 2, nine- and ten-year-old children from around the state of Wyoming experienced the camp setting on Casper Mountain as a place to get better acquainted with American Baptist camping and with God.

The P.R.A.Y. curriculum helps children learn to **P**raise, **R**eport (confess), **A**sk (for their own needs and needs of others), and **Y**ield (trusting God to answer prayer). Sunday evening the campers made noisemakers to use to praise God around the campfire. Monday morning found the group creating prayer journals. All during their days at WYOBA, they were learning, experiencing, and practicing prayer in a variety of settings.



Prayer is a focus Liz Adams believes is crucial to the spiritual development of children. For them to know they can talk to God anytime and anywhere is an enormous comfort for anyone in this



stress-filled world. Liz has worked as a nurse and as a child protection officer with the Department of Family Services in Gillette. She has witnessed the trauma that children experience and has a passion to help them move through the difficult times.

Liz has planned Primary Camp at WYOBA for eight years. She says she always leaves her week of camp with more than what she brings in. For her, directing camp is

a restorative experience. Liz says, "Children this age give so much. In addition, the adults with whom I work [during this camp] exhibit such deep commitment, and their commitment seals mine."

When asked what her hope and prayer for Camp WYOBA is, she said, "I think we need to do a better job of publicity. People are blessed by working at camp and kids are blessed by coming to camp. Let's share this good news!"

"ABC Reads" Invites Churches to Unite Around Shared History, Identity, Beliefs

Judson Press, a publishing ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, has announced "ABC Reads," an emphasis designed to bring together American Baptists — literally and figuratively — through the power of a book.

To kick off the first year-long "ABC Reads" campaign, Judson Press will take readers *Down by the Riverside* with Everett C. Goodwin's 2002 title by that name. Subtitled *A Brief History of Baptist Faith*, Goodwin's slight volume is 134 pages, including its bibliography and index. American Baptists across the country are encouraged to obtain a copy of the book and set aside a time, with another person or persons such as an established church group (Sunday school class, youth group, cell group, women's or men's group or Bible study) to read the book — or to establish a group for this purpose.

"*Down by the Riverside* takes us back to the very foundations of our faith," said Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, National Ministries' Execu-

tive Director. "We get to start on page one again, and consider the development of Baptist principles, the issues Baptists faced, the theology Baptists embraced."

Judson Press has released a companion study guide, new this year, for Goodwin's book to enable individuals and small group participants to build on the book's content in reflecting on questions such as, "What does it mean to be a Baptist?" and "How does my Baptist orientation influence my perspectives on other beliefs?" The eight-session study guide provides the opportunity to explore and discuss both the surprising and potentially challenging aspects of a Baptist perspective on Christian faith.

The two book set is available at the special price of only \$10.00 (regularly an \$18.00 value) during the year-long ABC Reads emphasis (July 1, 2006 - July 1, 2007). To order or obtain a complete catalog of Judson resources, call 800-458-3766 or visit Judson's newly redesigned website at <http://www.judsonpress.com>.

Open Musical Auditions for the 2007 Biennial Meeting

The 2007 ABC/USA Biennial will be held in Washington DC, June 29 - July 2, 2007. The Biennial Planning Committee hopes to highlight the musical talent of all groups in the ABC family all across the country. They are anxious to secure audition materials (audio tape, CD or DVD) from many artists and musical groups. The deadline for receiving audition materials is September 15, 2006.

While the Biennial budget cannot cover travel expenses for musicians, the ABCUSA travel office can help you identify affordable housing near the meeting site. Detailed information concerning the schedule and rehearsals will be shared early in 2007 with those selected to perform at the Biennial

For details about submitting audition materials, visit <http://www.abc-usa.org>.

Church World Service Needs Baby Kits

Due to current needs in Lebanon, Church World Service has issued an appeal for Baby Kits. A baby kit consists of the following items:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two shirts
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a knitted blanket)

Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Include \$2.00 per kit for processing/shipping. Pack kits in boxes with only one type of kit in each box.

Or you may choose to give a donation of \$39, which will allow Church World Service to provide a new Baby Kit for an infant in a mother and child care program.

Complete the Kits Coupon available at http://www.churchworldservice.org/pdf_files/GiftHeartCoupon.pdf and enclose a copy in the top of each box before sealing. Indicate the type of Kit clearly on the outside of the box. Secure the boxes with packing tape.

Ship all kits prepaid to:

Church World Service
Brethren Service Center Annex
601 Main Street
P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188

(Please include both the P.O. box and the street address on boxes.)

For additional information on Church World Service, visit <http://www.churchworldservice.org/>

One house at a time, Christians are rebuilding the lives of the “least of these.”

A Little Is A Lot!

The problem with disasters is our short attention span. Whether in response to the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean, the earthquake in Pakistan, or Hurricane Katrina, we immediately—and compassionately—pour out millions of dollars. Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for compassion fatigue to set in. We return to the routine of our lives or our attention shifts to the next tragedy.

After Katrina, every news outlet had daily “ground zero” reports from New Orleans to Pass Christian. Gradually, the reporters returned to Iraq or Washington D.C. or Colorado Springs. Today very few reporters are seeking the story, because it is no longer “news.” Many Americans assume that since “New Orleans is open for business,” things have returned to normal along the Gulf Coast.



While the media has turned to the next story, the Church remains as the only organization that has not forgotten the people of Gulfport. FEMA and other government agencies are widely criticized by the local people. The Church, however, is seen as doing

Silence prevailed as the bus passed through parts of New Orleans. Several of the neighborhoods looked as if Katrina had hit only the week before. Entire apartment complexes and shopping centers looked like ghost towns. Others, however, seemed to be untouched by the winds and flooding caused by Katrina.

right things, in right ways, for right reasons. Christians, regardless of denomination, continue to come from across the country to rebuild the lives of those devastated by Katrina. Church buildings remain devastated while Christians seek first to rebuild the homes of those who were most devastated. Repeatedly, local people tell how government and big business failed the people, but the Church has been there for the long haul.



The Gulf Mission Project Team set out for Gulfport, MS on July 22, 2006. Twenty-three youth and adults from five different churches felt the call of God to remember “the least of these.” We loaded luggage, tools, and the team on the bus at the New Orleans Airport and headed for Gulfport.

At first glance, Gulfport did not look as bad as New Orleans. Like New Orleans, parts of Gulfport seemed to be untouched by

Katrina. The closer we got to the Gulf, however, the more we realized how much of the town was still devastated. White FEMA trailers, blue tarps, piles of debris, and vacant houses where families lived less than a year ago were the norm.

The strangest contrast seems to be the rebuilding of the big casino on the Gulf. While millions of dollars are being poured into the casino, Christians are slowly rebuilding the lives of the “least of these”— one house at a time.

In the story of rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, there are thousands of heroes who will receive little recognition. One of these is Elijah Mitchell who served as the pastor of two small Methodist churches whose buildings were both destroyed by Katrina. Today, he and his wife, Miriam, serve as

coordinators for the United Methodist Committee on Relief for southern Mississippi. Since the third day after Katrina, they have been working 16 hour days, seven days a week, coordinating the rebuilding effort.

Ira is another unrecognized hero. He was the construction supervisor for the projects worked on by the Gulf Mission Team. Ira was on his seventh trip to Gulfport, this one for five weeks. On his first trip down, he stayed at the local Days Inn and could see daylight through the ceiling in his room. Ira seemed to be full of boundless energy. Behind the scenes, however, he was tired and worried about his wife who remained in northeastern Pennsylvania and who was struggling with health concerns. Ira was torn between returning home to take care of his wife and the pull to stay and do the work of Christ in Gulfport.

To this list, we add those people of the Gulf Coast who took the worst that Katrina could give them and



today are survivors. After a year, these people are still struggling to put their lives back together.



ABCRM churches can also add their own mission team to the list of heroes. For five days, the Gulf Mission Team toiled in the heat and high humidity of Gulfport, MS. They hung drywall, painted, installed tile, worked on electrical projects, hung doors, and even cleaned out a refrigerator. More importantly, for a brief moment, they became part of the lives of several families in Gulfport and Waveland. They didn't complain (at least not very often). They didn't quit. At the end of the week, they were tired and most were ready to go home.

The work the team did is small in the face of the devastation. If, however, it is added to the work of thousands of other Christians from across the country, Christ will be honored and glorified. People will slowly return to their homes and regain their dignity. The true value of the Team's work was measured in the tears of thanks that were shed by the families on whose houses they worked.

*Mike Oldham
Ministry and Mission Coach
Western Slope and SE CO/NM*

Remembering "One of the Least of These"

I was amazed by the strength and courage that kept Mercedes going during and after the hurricane. She lived only a couple of blocks from the coast, yet her house was not completely destroyed. A condominium fell behind the houses on her street and protected them as they lay in the path of Katrina. Four feet of water filled her house requiring all the flooring, furniture, sheet rock, and kitchen appliances to be replaced.

Mercedes had evacuated her home before the storm, but returned two days later to find major damage rendered by the wind and water. This little 70-year-old lady loved her flower garden. After the storm she filled 70 garbage bags with debris from her yard after the storm. Her hard work of filling and dragging bags down the street to be picked up by the trash collectors landed her in the hospital for six weeks suffering from a serious respiratory infection.

While she was in the hospital, her children remodeled most of her house. A Catholic youth group had planted new flowers in her garden, and a Methodist youth group added more landscaping.

Our mission team hung curtains, shelves, and installed new doors on her closets. More than anything, Mercedes just wanted to sit and visit. She showed us pictures of all her children and grandchildren. I will always remember her friendly, smiling, wrinkled face—aged by years of hard work and living in the hot, muggy environment of coastal Gulfport, MS. Her toothless smile and twinkling eyes will be embedded in my mind forever.

*Barbee Stanfield
Gulfport Mission Team Participant
FBC/Jackson, WY*

Much more at <http://www.abcrm.org/GulfMissionProject.htm>

Jhonatan's Shoes

Brianna Berglund participated in IM's Xtreme Team to Bolivia this summer. In the following article, she shares one of her many experiences with her ABCRM family. Brianna writes:

*I want to take you to a place;
come with me.*

*I want you to meet my friend
Jhonatan; come meet him.*

*I want you to Xperience; come be
open.*

I want you Xamine; come learn.

*I want you to love; come with
Christ.*



On July 11, 2006 in Cochabamba, Bolivia the Xtreme team visited a ministry known as Jireh. It is run by a lay pastor named Thomas. This place is a safe house for street children. Here they are fed, educated, taught about Christ, and given health care. They are also taught to work. Their work is shining shoes—shining strangers' shoes for one *Boliviano* or 12 cents. This day

Nico, the Bolivian seminary student I spent a week with, and I joined Jhonatan.



Jhonatan is ten years old. He is short with brown hair, brown eyes, brown skin, and a beautiful smile. Like the others, Jhonatan shines shoes for a living.

We walked to the center plaza of Cochabamba and it began. As Jhonatan headed out, I stood back and watched. I was hesitant. I didn't want the people to stare at me, ignore me, or treat me as a dog, as they did Jhonatan. I quickly felt guilty for wanting to be anywhere but there. I was uncomfortable. I was getting angry and then weary. As I watched the people on the benches and the business men and women reject and ignore Jhonatan, I saw myself. I realized that if I were back in the States and a small, dirty boy came up to me in the park or walked into my office and asked to shine my shoes, I would have reacted the same way I was now seeing these people act. But this

time was different—it had to be different.

I was now trying to be in Jhonatan's shoes rather than my own middle class white woman's shoes. With each step that Jhonatan took, he pulled my heart closer and closer to his until I was sitting right next to him. I began to learn. I watched his strokes, I watched the order of brushes and rags, and I watched his pace.

We had entered the court yard of one of the business buildings in the town, when I looked down and noticed something. Jhonatan's shoes were dirty. My first thought was, "A shoe shiner can't have dirty shoes." But this birthed the question "Well, who is going to do anything about Jhonatan's shoes, let alone care about them?" Then came the next question, "What am I going to do now?"

I looked around to make sure I would not interfere with any possible business and tapped Jhonatan on the shoulder. Through sign language I asked him if I could shine his shoes *por favor* (please). This immediately brought a shake of the head, so I let it go quickly, almost embarrassed for asking. Then I almost felt grateful. But in a short while, Jhonatan stopped, looked back up at me, and said (not in English), "Yeah, ok."

I found a bench and had him hop up on it. He handed me the box and my turn to work began. I took out his tiny bench and sat down to take out the tools and position his foot on the box. He was now the rich business man, and I was the one whom he

could choose to treat like a dog at his feet. I looked up at him and saw him much differently than before. He was tall and had dignity.

After I had finished my job of polishing, I was about to stand up when a business man asked me to stay seated on my little bench and polish his shoes. I went on to explain in my broken Spanish that Jhonatan was my teacher and would do a much better job than I. As Jhonatan and I switched places for Jhonatan to shine that man's shoes, his and my status changed once again. I was not just a fellow shoe shiner to him. We had progressed one step further. I was even "lower;" I was his student. This relationship gave him even more reason to be dignified and placed him at a higher "status" than I.



It is now weeks later and I am still frustrated, struggling, and doing some major Xamining. I weep for Jhonatan because of the way people treated him and chose to see him. I weep for him because he is ten years old and is working—working so

hard for so little. I weep for him because he cannot go out and play. I weep for him because he does not have parents who will provide for him. I weep over the people on the benches and the intense injustice I see there. I weep at my inadequacies and helplessness. I lament for Jhonatan. I lament for all the Jhonatans of the world. I Xamine my priorities, values, and commitments, and I Xercise my faith to find God.

I write about my Xperiences as a frustrated and broken person faced with many choices. I can choose to become numb and freer from pain, I could consume myself with lamenting and shrivel in sorrow, or I could find a way to be raw with God enveloping that rawness in such a way that I am never alone. I can now step further into Jhonatan's shoes.



To read other Xtreme Team members' blogs, visit <http://www.xtremeteamonline.org/index2.html>

The Xtreme Team Mission Adventure is an exciting opportunity for American Baptist young adults (ages 19-29) to Xperience global mission like never before. Take some time to check out the Xtreme Team mission, read journals and see pictures from past teams and view the latest news from the 2006 Bolivia and Brazil teams.



I am a 10-year-old boy in Bolivia. What is my life like? Do I feel loved? Do I feel sorry for myself? Are my friends my family? Do I have dignity? I have learned a lot about what it really means to step into someone else's shoes.

What do I see in Jhonatan's shoes? Do I see my family? Do I see the role I play in my family? Do I feel the dignity of being apart of providing for my family?

How might you jump into another's shoes and give that person dignity? The young boy on the street, the homeless man in the park, the CEO of your company, the cranky person in the back row of church, your mother-in-law, your sister or brother? How can we give the people in our life whom we destroy in our minds the worth and dignity that God gives them?

Go in love. Love your way into seeing.



*Brianna Berglund
2006 Xtreme
Team Member
Centennial, CO*

Visit the ABCRM 2006 Gathering Webpage!

http://www.abcrm.org/annual_gathering.htm

In case you missed it the first time around, you can access information about the Gathering on the ABCRM website. On the Gathering page, you'll find links to the following topics:

- New Hope Baptist Church of Denver to Host 2006 ABCRM Gathering
- "Got Water?" Is the 2006 Theme for the ABCRM Gathering
- J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Will Be Keynoter at 2006 Annual Gathering and Clergy/Spouses Event
- 2006 ABCRM Gathering Schedule 2006
- Discovery Session Information
- Clergy and Spouses Pre-Gathering Event
- Online Registration Form for 2006 Annual Gathering and Clergy/Spouses Pre-Gathering Event

Remember, registration is now available online!



The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

is published by the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains

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Publication dates are the 15th and 30th/31st of each month.

Deadlines for submissions are the 10th and 25th of each month.

Reprint permission is granted to ABCRM churches.



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