



October 15, 2006

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Calvary Baptist Church Hosts Retirement Celebration of Mary Hulst's Ministry

More than 700 people assembled at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver on October 1 to witness a celebration of ministry honoring Mary Hulst as she retired after 28 years of service. Along with congregants, friends, and family, denominational colleagues Desmond Hoffmeister, ABCRM Transitional Executive Minister, and Roy Medley, General Secretary, ABC/USA joined together to applaud a stellar career of service beginning as Calvary's director of children's ministries in 1978. Hulst graduated from Iliff School of Theology in 1985, was subsequently ordained, taking on ever more challenging roles of staff pastor and then interim pastor upon the retirement of LaRue Loughhead.

In 1993, Hulst became senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Denver. She holds an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from AB Seminary of the West. Her 2005 appointment as vice president of the American Baptist Churches USA testifies to her continuing commitment to the denomination.

Rarely has a church experienced such a long period of uninterrupted service by a single pastor. When

Hulst acceded to senior pastor at Calvary, she was the first woman to lead a large American Baptist church. Known for her ministry of personal, nurturing care, she is also revered for her creative and engaging preaching style, teaching acumen, and an ability—with efficiency and grace—to guide and challenge a 700-member congregation while overseeing church business, a 52,700-square-foot facility, and performing denominational responsibilities.

The hallmark of Hulst's ministry was a focus on equity, diversity, and inclusiveness for all God's children. Under her direction, community action, world interaction, peace, justice, and growth became Calvary cornerstones. Accomplishments during her tenure include: reactivating the Early Learning Center, singles' ministries, senior wellness programs; a complete revamping of Calvary's organizational structure; leading mission trips to more than 20 countries; instituting a missionary-in-residence program; implementing proactive solutions to risk management; building and dedicating Calvary's Foot of the Cross Courtyard columbarium; and initiating innovative worship, such as youth

worship leaders, the annual Festival of Lights, Easter sunrise service, summer outdoor worship services; and weekly Internet worship broadcasts.

As part of Hulst's legacy, strong pastoral and lay leadership are already in place, prepared to continue and enhance existing ministries while the pulpit committee searches for her replacement. Calvary Baptist Church of Denver rejoices in the blessings of a rich past and reaches confidently to the future in its 125th anniversary year.



Mary and Jack Hulst

*Submitted by Jackie Howard
Marketing Director
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Book Signing to Be Held at Opening of the 2006 Gathering

Take advantage of the opportunity to purchase Judson books at the 2006 Gathering and have them signed by their authors. A book signing will be hosted by Kim Shimer, Sales and Promotions Manager at Judson Press. It will take place at the Radisson Hotel at Denver Stapleton Plaza at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 20 prior to the opening business session.

Plan to get an autographed copy of J. Alfred Smith's newest book, *Speak Until Justice Wakes*, and Jan McCormack's book, *The Work of the Chaplain*, the newest book in Judson's "Work of the Church" series. Ingrid Dvirnak will be available to sign copies of the previously published Judson book, *The Work of the Clerk*. ABCRM contributors to Brad Berglund's *Reinventing Worship* will also be on hand to sign books.



Are You an Owner or a Steward?

Recently I was part of a group of international students who visited the Mennonite Central Committee Relief Center in Lancaster County, PA. We toured the warehouse, stopping at different sections where the tour guide explained the process of how they receive, package, and dispatch the contributions of people's clothes, blankets, school supplies, and other items to different parts of the world.

The tour guide shared stories of the impact their efforts were making around the world. We heard of how the quality of people's lives and communities were improved, and how the ministry of the Mennonite Central Committee brings dignity and hope to the lives of many people.

Everyone in our group was inspired by what we saw, heard, and felt. This experience vividly placed the world and its needs before us.

Sometimes living here in the wealthiest country in the world can make a person become oblivious to God's world and people's needs. God has certainly blessed this country with many resources. To what extent do we use this blessing to bless others? An even more pertinent question may be, "Do we give out of our abundance or our surplus?"

Gary DeLashmutt of Xenos Christian Fellowship in Columbus, OH, writing on stewardship, reminds us of a basic biblical teaching that God is the owner and we are merely stewards of those blessings. Our understanding or lack thereof affects how we view giving to ministry and mission.

The Owner Says:

My material resources belong exclusively to me.

I may use my resources however I wish.

I am not accountable to anyone else for how I use my resources.

The Steward Says:

My resources belong to God, who is the owner of all things. God has temporarily entrusted these resources to me.

I should use God's resources to advance God's priorities.

I will give an account to God for how I use God's resources.

How do you view yourself—as an OWNER or a STEWARD?

My experience at the MCC Relief Center afforded me the opportunity to see first hand how a part of God's family is living the principles of stewardship. Will you join me in making this your prayer? "Lord, you have blessed me with so much. Now help me to be a blessing to others. Amen."

*Submitted by Rodney Ragwan
Global Mission Partnership Specialist
and Doctoral Student at Palmer Theological
Seminary in Philadelphia*



Christian Education in the Small Church Intensive Course to be Offered in June 2007

The Lifetime Theological Education Department of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA has completed the first Summer Collegium residency and are preparing for the 2007 event. The theme of the 2007 Summer Collegium is "Christian Education in the Small Church." The dates are June 20-28, 2007. Immediately following this is our ABC Biennial which will be held in Washington, DC, so the dates couldn't be more convenient.

The Summer Collegium is an intensive, nine-day residential program for clergy and spouses from small churches of all Christian denominations. Experts in the area of small church ministry lead workshops on relevant topics, such as change and conflict, technology, finances, and spiritual resources, and participants enjoy some time in the nation's capital.

Included in the Summer Collegium is a one-day Small Church Religious Arts Festival on the grounds of the seminary, intended to hold up and celebrate the arts and crafts of small congregations.

The Summer Collegium is fully funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which allows the seminary to offer the opportunity to 25 clergy each summer at *no cost to them*. This includes transportation, meals and lodging, books, pulpit supply, and child care. (So this would also enable an ABCRM pastor and spouse to attend the ABC Biennial less expensively.)

In 2006 they welcomed 25 pastors (including four who were locally ordained) and 21 spouses. Four of the participants were single from nine denominations in the United States and Canada. They had a faculty of 25, including two artists-in-residence and two chaplains, who helped participants focus on the uniqueness of small congregations and gave them new tools to do effective ministry. Participants and faculty were encouraged and enriched by their time at the Summer Collegium.

For more information on the Summer Collegium, please visit their web site at www.vts.edu/education/collegium. You may email your questions to SummerCollegium@vts.edu, or call (703) 461-1752. The Project Manager of the Summer Collegium is Marilyn Johns.

Late registrations and walk-ins are welcome at the 2006 ABCRM Gathering October 20-21, 2006
 hosted by New Hope Baptist Church in Denver with meetings at the church and the Radisson Hotel at Denver Stapleton Plaza.
 Go to www.abcrm.org/annual_gathering.htm for details.



U of CO Hospital ACPE Center Announces 2006-07 Sessions

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Center of University of Colorado Hospital will offer CPE Sessions from November 6, 2006 - March 30, 2007 and from January 8 - April 27, 2007.

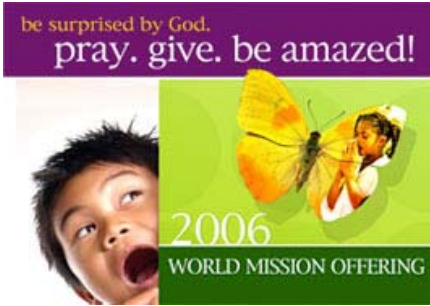
The Department of Spiritual Care Services at the University of Colorado Hospital is an accredited ACPE Center for clinical pastoral education (CPE) offering Level I, Level II, and Supervisory Education. They offer the rich and stimulating environment of a teaching hospital and supporting out-patient clinics. The UCH world is one of diverse heritage, culture, faith expression, religious association, and socio-economic condition whether you are dealing with patients and families, faculty and students, or hospital staff.

Tuition for one ACPE/CPE Unit is \$1,200 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit due from the student upon acceptance into the program and the balance due when the session begins.

Additional information is available at <http://www.uch.edu/pastoralcare/>.

For information regarding the November 6, 2006 - March 30, 2007 Session, contact Jessica Evans-Tameron at (720) 848-4063.

For information about the second session, contact Elizabeth Pexton at (303) 372-8257.



**October is
World Mission
Offering Month.**

Will you take the challenge?
 (\$3 x 12 months x
 # of congregants = Be Amazed!)

**Paul Martin to Retire as
Pastor of Macedonia Baptist
Church**

In a prepared statement read to the congregation of Macedonia Baptist Church of Denver, Paul Martin, their pastor for the last 16 years announced that he will be retiring effective March 1, 2007. He will preach his last sermon in that capacity on Sunday, February 25, 2007.

Pastor and Sister Martin said in a joint written statement that they wished all of the members of the congregation well and thanked them for their support and love over the last 16 years. Their prayer was that through a national search for a new pastor, God would give Macedonia another pastor after God's heart.

Macedonia will immediately establish a Pulpit Search Committee using the guidelines of the American Baptist Churches USA.

Pastor and Sister Martin are planning to return to California to enjoy the opportunity to travel and to work as the Lord directs both of them.

**First Baptist Church of Fort
Morgan Observes 100 Years
of Sharing**



First Baptist Church of Fort Morgan was begun as a result of the efforts of Rose J. Clark, a Baptist missionary from Kalamazoo, MI. Rose gathered the charter members and did the initial work to organize the church. She was assisted by the Executive Secretary W. F. Riples from the Colorado State Convention. Sixteen people signed the charter. The first pastor of this church, C. M. Sheriff, began his ministry on November 4th, 1906.



Today, 100 years later, Tom Wheeler serves as the pastor at FBC/Fort Morgan. The congregation hosted a weekend celebration which was attended by many locals as well as out-of-town visitors, former members, and pastors.

and present a certificate from the American Baptist Historical Society commemorating the 100 years of sharing.

Various musical groups participated in the celebration, including a children's choir (pictured at the right).

Other weekend activities included a cornerstone ceremony, evening concert, tour of nearby historic places, chili cookoff, and fellowship dinner following Sunday's services.



Northern Front Range Cluster Program Highlights Mission



The Northern Front Range Cluster of ABCRM churches gathered on Sunday afternoon, October 1, 2006 for a time of re-acquaintance and fellowship. The gathering was hosted by the Region’s third oldest church, First Baptist Church of Greeley. The Greeley hosts introduced their new pastor and wife, Paul and Barbara Brigham.

Sixty-four representatives from nearly all the churches of northeastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming were present, including seven current pastors and two interim pastors, as well as a Region cluster coach. The program featured music by praise group leaders from Greeley and Longmont. Tom Wheeler, pastor of FBC/Fort Morgan, convened the session and introduced keynote leaders from FBC/Loveland. Pastor John Turnage and lay leaders spoke and



presented a PowerPoint program about their mission experiences in Central and South America supporting AB missionaries.

The meeting concluded in the fellowship dining room with a light finger-food supper provided by various individuals from the churches. Cluster churches anticipate future gatherings for continued fellowship, training, and outreach in their geographical area.



*Article submitted by Don Lambert
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*Photos supplied by Tom Wheeler
Pastor, FBC/Fort Morgan, CO*

Using *RMAB* to the Max

From time to time, we have suggested ways for ABCRM churches and members to “use” this newsletter. While you receive publication information which is sent to you in your inbox (or you may receive this newsletter by mail upon request), we hope the newsletter doesn’t stop there. We want you to send it on electronically, print it out, make copies, distribute them among your church family. In whatever way you can, please share this newsletter.

Here are some additional ideas suggested by Vernon Vinzant of First Baptist Church in Casper, WY:

- For churches that routinely mail church newsletters, the ABCRM newsletter (or portions thereof) could be included in that mailing at little or no additional cost.
- Copies of the ABCRM newsletter should be distributed to all in attendance on a given Sunday. Placing copies in the narthex for attendees to pick up is generally not as effective as handing out copies.
- Churches may regularly include articles from the ABCRM newsletter in their own church’s newsletters and/or church bulletins. Yes, permission to reprint anything in the Region newsletter is granted. You will find record of this permission on the back page of each issue.
- Churches are encouraged to routinely include an item in the church bulletin telling of the availability of each newsletter and where it may be found on the internet.

We appreciate and affirm these suggestions. Others are welcome. If you have a communication idea that works or a story to share with the ABCRM family, please send it to ldvirnak@abcrm.org.

RMAB 10/15/06

Because You Give to American Baptist Missions. . .

Meet Tatiana and her parents, Jelo and Mariana. They raise wheat, corn, and sunflowers, all of which they feed to their animals, including milk cows, pigs, and chickens. This summer they were able to raise enough



feed for their animals to get them through the upcoming winter because American Baptists provided them with money to buy fertilizer which helped them increase their production.



Veska and her husband Ratcho are pictured at left along with A.J. and Nathan Myers. Veska and Ratcho live in the town of Dobrich in northeastern Bulgaria. They also own a small plot of land, about seven acres,

near the village of Kremena, some 20 miles from Dobrich. Because of the generosity of American Baptists they were able to participate in a cooperative that raises sunflowers for oil. The income they earn from their portion of the sunflowers will be used to supplement their combined monthly pension of 205 Leva, or about \$117.

Missionaries Tom and Terry Myers live and serve in Bulgaria. Their ministry and the lives of those with whom they work are enriched as we give to the World Mission Offering.

Because You Give to American Baptist Missions. . .

Dan and Estela Schweissing help to equip the leaders God is raising up for Bahamian churches. Dan describes one of those new leaders:



Most students who come to study with us at Atlantic College are tired of business as usual in the church. More precisely, they're tired of the church as business. Saturated by the "name it and claim it" teachings of prosperity theology from the United States, many Bahamian churches have become platforms for self-seeking pastors and church leaders to get rich at the expense of their congregations while ignoring the rampant poverty, social ills, and spiritual decay of the communities they serve. The entering students may not be able to say just what is wrong in the church, but they come hoping that they will someday be able to provide a different kind of leadership.

Maria Bowe was raised Roman Catholic and attended Catholic schools. She discovered her vocation to serve the poor as a young adult working in her church's soup kitchen ministry. But she began to question many of the doctrines and practices she had grown up with, and eventually walked out of the church one day during mass. By that time, Maria was a housewife, the mother of two small children, and a psychology student at St. Benedict's College in Nassau. Shortly after leaving the Catholic Church, she began attending a Pentecostal/Charismatic congregation and enrolled in the theology program at Atlantic College.

Her studies at Atlantic College reinforced Maria's commitment to the poor, and added a passion for evangelism—leading her to do an internship in evangelism through one of Nassau's inner-city churches. Maria's contributions to our classroom discussions of Bahamian church life were insightful, frequently illuminated me as well as her fellow students. Two years after graduating as her class salutatorian, God has used Maria to start a new ministry in a storefront in an inner-city Nassau neighborhood largely neglected by social services. Named Zoar—after the village where Lot and his daughters took refuge while fleeing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:23)—this ministry emphasizes evangelism, discipleship, mentoring at-risk youth, and counseling victims of sexual abuse.

God is using Maria to surprise Bahamian churches with new models of ministry, a much-needed alternative to business as usual in the church!

Trulson Nominated as Next IM Executive Director

The committee formed to conduct the search for the next Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries (IM) has unanimously chosen Reid Trulson as its nominee. The action of the committee culminates a six-month search process, which will bring Trulson's nomination to the full ABC General Board and the IM board for election on November 15, 2006.

Ray Schooler, IM's President, expressed gratitude for the work of the committee, saying, "The search committee members gave themselves wholeheartedly to this effort. . . . We are deeply grateful for God's leading throughout our work, and also very appreciative of the selfless service Roy Medley graciously rendered to the committee."

Medley expressed his own enthusiasm for the nomination of Trulson, saying, "Reid has won the respect of Baptists throughout Europe and the Middle East with whom he has worked closely as a missionary and staff person, as well as the respect of our American Baptist family. He will provide strong leadership to our international mission."

Trulson brings to the executive directorship a great depth and breadth of experience in the life of ABCUSA and IM, having served over 20 years in local church ministry and over 11 years with IM in international mission (five years as a missionary in Europe and six years as a member of the home office staff). During his years in local church ministry, Trulson served on both regional and national boards as President of the ABC/WI and as the President of IM.

Visit the ABCRM 2006 Gathering Webpage!

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

The 2006 Gathering is October 19-21!

**Access all the information you need about the Gathering
on the ABCRM website.**

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](#)
- [Download documents in preparation for the Business Sessions](#)

**Registration
remains open!**

Remember, registration is available online at
http://www.abcrm.org/annual_gathering.htm



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**Our mission is to partner
with congregations
and leaders to discover
their passion and realize
their mission to reach
the world with the love
of Jesus Christ.**

Discover your **PASSION**
Realize your **MISSION**

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