

# The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

## ABCRM Mission Team in Thailand

<http://abcrmmissionexperiences.blogspot.com/>

Karen Van, ABCRM Region Administrator, is part of the mission team that went to Thailand on February 6. She sent an email with an account of the experience so far. Please read her account then go to the ABCRM Mission Experiences blog (<http://abcrmmissionexperiences.blogspot.com>) and read more from others on the team.

“What an amazing experience we are having. After two days of travel—Wednesday and Thursday—we arrived at our hotel in Bangkok at 2 am on Friday. To help fight the jet lag, we had a full day on Friday. Annie Dieselberg, an American Baptist missionary, met us at the hotel on Friday morning and took us to the morning worship service at Night Light Ministry (<http://www.nightlightbangkok.com>).

“Annie is the CEO of Night Light which was organized in 2005 to help women and children escape Thailand's large sex trade. This ministry started by taking in one woman and is currently assisting 78 women by giving them employment making beautiful jewelry. Not only do the women have employment but after 3 months are entitled to a health plan, savings program with a 5% company match, English classes and “Jesus 101.”

“Jeff Dieselberg, Annie's husband and fel-

low AB missionary, showed us around Night Light and shared successes and challenges of their ministry. They are combining running a jewelry business—to give the women a legitimate job—and providing them a place to learn about Jesus. We were impressed by Jeff and Annie Dieselberg, the wonderful staff of employees and volunteers, plus the women of Night Light.

There are some amazing stories.

“After a full day at the Center, we meet Annie and about 6 other women for dinner. This group gathers on Tuesday and Friday nights to go to the bars/sex

clubs to talk to other women. They listen to their stories and let them know that there are people who care. Through this outreach, over 100 women have come to Night Light and 25 have been baptized. Truly God is working at this place on earth.

“On Saturday, we left the huge city of Bangkok and flew to Chaing Rai (northern Thailand). While in Chaing Rai, Chuck and Ruth Fox are our hosts. They have been in Thailand for 8 years and work with people of the Akha villages. Sunday morning we attended worship services at an Akha village and enjoyed seeing the installation of their new pastor. He is the brother of a man who was installed as a pastor by a missionary in Burma years ago.

*Continued on page 2*



## What's in this RMAB?

**New Hope Calls Rev. Dr. A. Frederick Carroll as Their New Senior Minister**

[Page 2](#)

**Lauran Bethell Speaks About Sexual Exploitation at the New Baptist Covenant**

[Page 3](#)

**Baptisms**

[Page 3](#)

**Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century**

[Page 4](#)

**First Baptist Church of Gillette, WY Licenses Layperson to Preach**

[Page 5](#)

**Bonnie Brae Ordained Connie Fowle**

[Page 6](#)

Do you have something you think the Region should know about? Send your news to be published in the RMAB. Contact Jessica at [jfischer@abcrm.org](mailto:jfischer@abcrm.org) for more information.

## ABCRM Mission Team in Thailand

*Continued from page 1*

“What an impact American Baptists have had over the years in so many parts of Thailand. So many schools, hospitals, clean water projects, and many other life changing projects have been completed by American Baptists or American Baptist funds. The missionaries have worked with the local people on these improvements and it is amazing to see the extent of the ministry.

“We will be visiting two different schools. One is for missionary kids—where Ruth is principal and enrollment is about 80 kids K-12—and another Christian school built by American Baptists for hill tribe kids that has an enrollment of over 2,000. We will also meet with another American Baptist missionary here in Chaing Rai for lunch.

“Thailand is a fascinating place. You have large urban areas with traffic jams that can last hours, smaller towns with cell phones, internet, etc. and 20 minutes out of town a village without a good source for clean water. There are buckets for bathrooms and bottled water for drinking. Soon, part of the group will go to Sansuk, an Akha village, for our building project. The group will be there for 4 nights with no showers or normal bathrooms. It makes you thankful for the things we take for granted.”

Please keep those that are a part of this mission team in your prayers. They will be returning Feb. 19. Keep track of their progress and journey on the [ABCRM Mission Experiences blog](#).

If you are interested in attending one or more of the remaining three mission trips ABCRM is sponsoring you can find more information at <http://www.abcrm.org/mission/missionexperiences.htm>.

## New Hope Calls Rev. Dr. A. Frederick Carroll as Their New Senior Pastor



Reverend Dr. A. Frederick Carroll has dedicated his life to moving disenfranchised communities to higher heights in spite of this generation’s wave of violence and destitution in places where hope has been buried and spiritual warfare is not recognized. It’s Rev. Carroll’s dedication that has brought him successfully through Oakland’s grievous neighborhoods and public school system as a youth, onto earning several graduate degrees from honorable universities to educating, healing and ministering in the same type of neighborhood that he struggled in as a youth.

Growing up in a family that moved from one end of the U.S. to the other, due to pastoral callings of his prophetic father, Rev. Benjamin Carroll Sr., Rev. Carroll knows what it is to be a “Preacher” in the Southeast as well as the Northwest. From his many years of learning under America’s most profound pastors, Rev. Carroll has been effective in guiding others into God’s purpose in spaces and places where many have left forgotten. Following the footsteps of his father, Rev. Carroll has proclaimed his purpose to minister the word of God and has prepared himself through extensive education and practical experience to directly address the issues

of self-destruction and spiritual corruption that haunts our urban communities.

At age 20, in his junior year of college, Rev. Carroll acknowledged his calling to the gospel ministry. Preaching his first sermon on the last Sunday of 1989 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Oakland. It was here he began to construct a Holistic ministry model intended not only to bring people to salvation, but to encourage and mobilize communities to

positive action. After earning his B.S. in Psychology in 1991, Rev. Carroll enrolled in the Master of Divinity Program at the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Carroll finished enough units in the first two year’s of his Master’s program to use his last academic year to return home completing a year long intern under Rev. Dr. Gillette O. James of the Beth Eden Baptist Church in Oakland. In 1999, Rev. Carroll earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. His Dissertation entitled: *Spiritual Development Among Inner-City Youth is a guidepost for a Youth Ministry in the Urban Environment.*

On Sunday January 6, 2008 Rev. Dr. Carroll preached his first sermon as the Senior Pastor-elect of New Hope Baptist Church. He is succeeding the much loved Rev. Peters at that church.

Rev. Carroll is married to the former Ms. Katresa M. Williams & they have one daughter Amber Marie Carroll.

*Submitted by  
Rev. Mary Tellis  
ABCRM*

*Ministry and Mission Coach*

# Lauran Bethell Speaks About Sexual Exploitation at the New Baptist Covenant



American Baptist International Ministries' Global Consultant, Lauran Bethell (*right*) called on all Christians to address the international crisis of women and girls who are trafficked into prostitution, during a panel at the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant meeting in Atlanta on Jan. 31, 2008.



The New Baptist Covenant is an informal alliance of more than 30 racially, geographically and theologically diverse Baptist

organizations that have come together to form an authentic and genuine prophetic voice for Baptists in North America. The Covenant event, inspired by prominent Baptist and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, has participants who have committed themselves to their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

Formed in 1814, International Ministries is the oldest Baptist mission agency in North America. The organization serves the more than 5,800 churches of the American Baptist Churches USA. Globally, International Ministries partners with more than 500 educational institutions and 125 hospitals and medical facilities. More than 2,200 volunteer, short-term and long-term missionaries work together with some 15,000 trained national workers, who serve about 22,000 congregations and nearly 3,000,000 baptized members.

*International Ministries  
Surprised by God's People. Come.  
Grow. Change.*

[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)

Trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation typically grows out of economic need where teenage girls are required to help their families earn income to help provide for food and basic necessities, according to Bethell. She calls for all Christians to, "reach into the dark with the light of God's love" to address this problem.

As an American Baptist International Ministries' missionary, Lauran Bethell helped establish the New Life Center in Chaing Mai, Thailand, which serves young women and girls who are sold, tricked or willfully drawn into prostitution. The New Life Center provides Christian education as well as literacy and job skill training. In 2001, Bethell moved to Prague, Czech Republic, where she now serves as International Ministries' global consultant to encourage and facilitate Christ-Based ministries which address the exploitation of women and children.

Joining Bethell on the Sexual Exploitation panel was Charity Marquis, director of Night Light USA. Located in Los Angeles, Night Light USA was formed as an extension of Lauran Bethell's ministry in Thailand and is creating a market for jewelry made by Thai women who have fled the sex trade. Also participating were Rev. Lia Scholl, director of Star Light Ministries that serves women who work in the sex trade and strip clubs in Richmond, VA, and Susan Omanson, director of the Be Free Ministry, which serves women in the sex trade in Sioux Falls, SD.

Let us celebrate with these new members of God's family and of the churches of this Region.

**First Baptist Church, Lander, WY** on December 9, 2007:

- Valerie Gray
- Gia Gray
- Alexis Gray

**First Baptist Church, Delta, CO** on December 16, 2007:

- Larry Brown
- Chris Koehler
- Brett Hermes

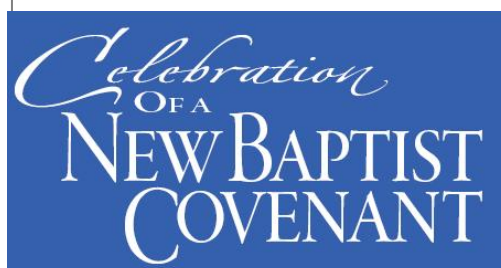
**First Baptist Church, Grand Junction, CO** on January 13, 2008:

- Walter Meders
- T'Anni Meders

**First Baptist Church, Cheyenne, WY** on February 3, 2008:

- Amanda Travers
- Trinity Johnson

*Share the names of those who have been recently baptized in your church with the ABCRM family. Send information to the RMAB editor at [jfischer@abcrm.org](mailto:jfischer@abcrm.org). Names will be published at least once a quarter.*



# Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century

## Defining the Problem

*Human trafficking* is the use of violence, coercion, or deception to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, or receive people for the purpose of exploitation. This exploitation can include prostitution, forced labor, slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs.

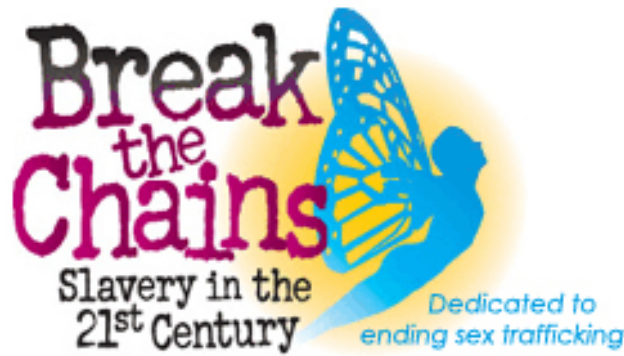
*Sex trafficking* is for the purpose of commercial sex acts. The economic interests may be for money, or for other commodities (food, shelter, drugs) that mainly benefit the exploiter and deny the rights of the exploited. Sexual exploitation includes stripping, live sex shows, pornography, prostitution, and trafficking for these purposes. It occurs within and across national boundaries.

## Scope of the Problem

Sex trafficking is a global issue and it affects all walks of life. Those living in poverty are the overwhelming majority of those victimized by traffickers; but traffickers themselves range from husbands or other male relatives to organized crime to government officials and the military.

A case in point: the United Nations was forced to undertake drastic measures to overhaul its system of monitoring gross abuses by its military and civilian personnel in light of 150 allegations of sexual exploitation on the part of peacekeepers stationed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In October 2004, the UN Secretary General dispatched a team to DR Congo to conduct an assessment of the magnitude of the problem. In its internal report, the team concluded there was "zero compliance with zero tolerance," referring to the official policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. The cases involved rape and prostitution with children and adult women for money, food, or jobs. (United Nations: Office On Drugs and Crime. *Trafficking in Persons*. 2006)

But there are also signs of hope. In 2004, the Scout Movement, which incorporates nearly all public school students across Indonesia, began an anti-trafficking campaign in Indramayu, West Java, where many young women and girls fall victim to trafficking. The Scout Movement provides anti-trafficking education to 25,000 students in the Indramayu area. They are considering expanding the program to other districts and instituting an anti-trafficking merit badge to encourage more Scouts to learn about and promote anti-trafficking efforts.



These are just two examples of what is happening regarding the issue of sexual trafficking around the world. But this isn't just a problem "over there". It's in our own back yards. Estimates from the U.S. government state that approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the U.S. each year, primarily from Latin America, Eastern and Central

Europe, and Southeast Asia. ("Sex Trafficking of Women in the United States: International and Domestic Trends," Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, March, 2001). This number does not include U.S. citizens who are trafficked domestically or moved out of the country.

Researchers and law enforcement officials admit that exact, reliable figures are almost impossible to achieve due to the secretive nature of the problem. Victims are afraid or unable to come forward. Traffickers become more sophisticated in their methods all the time. Inevitably, therefore, whenever a statistic is cited it is often followed by the qualifying statement that the reported numbers are assumed to be lower than the reality. The reality is that human trafficking rivals drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade for the top criminal activity globally, and places third in generated revenue world-wide.

The website for Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century ([www.abwmbreakthechains.org](http://www.abwmbreakthechains.org)) has many other resources and recommended reading lists that you may use to educate yourself on the issue.

## The Impact of the Problem – A Guide for Prayer

Here are seven items to consider. *Use these as guides for prayer, perhaps choosing one each day of the week or praying repeatedly for one item over the course of a week or more.*

- Consider how destitute living conditions unleash a desperate spiral where persons can be misled or coerced into committing their lives to prostitution with promises of a better life in a better place. **Pray** for poverty throughout the world, that God's justice may reign. **Pray** that God will help guide you in knowing what you can do to help alleviate the plight of the poor.

*Continued on page 5*

## Break the Chains

*Continued from page 4*



- Consider how slavery is called by other names: prostitution, exotic dancing, massage, mail-order brides, and so forth. Have you always assumed women chose those professions? Consider, even if they did actively choose the profession rather than being forced into it, whether they felt they had any other viable alternatives. **Pray** for your own attitudes, that your eyes may be opened and your heart softened.
- Consider that many brothels exist in areas surrounding military bases, that law enforcement officers and government officials are sometimes involved in trafficking themselves, that men go online to plan vacations through sex tourism websites. Some convince themselves the women really want to be there, others don't care. **Pray** for the "johns"—the only way trafficking will ever be eradicated is if the demand no longer exists.
- Consider the health risks of prostitution, foremost of which are premature death. The top causes of death for prostitutes are homicide, suicide, drug and alcohol related problems, and HIV infection. The homicide rate among active female prostitutes has been shown to be 17 times higher than among the general female population (Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2004). **Pray** that medical professionals will be educated in the signs that a patient is a victim of trafficking; that women and girls will be able to find healing.
- Consider that a significant number of those who end up in prostitution were sexually abused as children; that U.S. citizens who are trafficked are often runaways; that traffickers often prey on the vulnerable through offering promises of love or simply good-paying jobs. **Pray** that our families may be healed and strengthened, that victimized children or teens may find help through healthy relationships, that women will have positive options for employment.
- Consider that many young girls (from toddlers through teenagers) are handed over to traffickers by family members because of a devaluation of females in their society, poverty, or debt bondage. **Pray** that cultural attitudes may develop respect for all, regardless of gender or age. **Pray** that parents will be educated to recognize the danger of trafficking and have their awareness raised as to its existence. **Pray** that parents may be released from their own addictions or their own poverty.
- Consider many modern-day abolitionists who serve in red light districts, government offices, schools, NGOs, faith-based ministries, and other areas of influence. They may work towards stronger laws or current laws being upheld more stringently; they may offer employment alternatives to women and girls in the streets; they may counsel or provide medical care to victims; they may pray and build relationships. **Pray** for the women and men at work to eradicate slavery. **Pray** that God may guide you in knowing how you can also work towards abolition. **Pray** for American Baptist Women's Ministries efforts through the "Break the Chains" mission project.

by Dawn Doerr

[www.abwmbreakthechains.org](http://www.abwmbreakthechains.org)

## First Baptist Church of Gillette, WY Licenses Layperson to Preach

On February 3, 2008, David Bradberry was granted a license to preach by the First Baptist Church in Gillette, WY. The Board of Deacons and Rev. Mark Jervis presented the license to David during the worship service. A vote was taken on this matter at the church's Annual Business meeting on January 27, 2008 and passed with a two-thirds majority.



David joined the congregation of First Baptist in 1986. He has been active on the Deacon Board, the Trustees Board, sings in the choir and currently is the Financial Secretary. He also leads the congregational singing on Sunday mornings when he is available.

With the granting of the license David has also signed the ABC-USA Code of Ethics as required by the church. He will be able to preach, perform funerals and weddings, perform the ordinance of baptism and communion. He has been traveling to Story, WY and Hulett, WY the past several months to preach on some Sunday mornings.

David is married and has two children. He and his wife were married by Rev. Wayne Dvirnak during the time Wayne was pastor in Gillette. David works for FedEx and his wife Jane is a public health nurse. His daughter is a senior in high school and his son is a sixth grader.

The congregation of First Baptist Church is proud to be able to recommend David for the license.

*Submitted by  
Cynthia Rigsby  
ABCRM  
Vice President*

## Bonnie Brae Ordained Connie Fowle



On Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 2007, Connie Fowle was ordained at Bonnie Brae Church, Denver, CO. This is a full ABCUSA ordination. Those participating in the celebration included Rev. Jan McCormack, Rev. Mary Hulst, Rev. Nancy Darnell, Rev. Chi-eng Yuan and Rev. Timothy Reed.

Connie graduated from Denver Seminary in 2006 with an MDiv and an MA in Counseling. Connie is in the chaplain residency program at Swedish Hospital.

Connie was employed Swedish Hospital as an R.N. while she attended seminary. Connie, and her husband Peter, a Liberty graduate, have been active in Bonnie Brae Church. Connie has worked with the youth, visited shut-ins, and they both are on the Council. We at Bonnie Brae Church are thankful for their ministry and look forward to their ministry with great anticipation.

*Submitted by  
Rev. Timothy Reed  
Pastor  
Bonnie Brae Church*

*The Rocky Mountain  
American Baptist*  
is published by the  
American Baptist Churches  
of the Rocky Mountains  
[www.abcrm.org](http://www.abcrm.org)

**Larry VanSpriell**  
Interim Executive Minister  
[lvanspriell@abcrm.org](mailto:lvanspriell@abcrm.org)

**Jessica Fischer**  
Communications Specialist  
[jfischer@abcrm.org](mailto:jfischer@abcrm.org)

*Publication dates are the  
15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> of each month.*

*Deadlines for submissions are  
the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

*Reprint permission is granted to  
ABCRCM churches.*

*Discover your  
PASSION!  
Realize your  
MISSION!*

American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains  
6855 S. Havana Street, Ste. 220  
Centennial, CO 80112  
Phone (303)988-3900  
Fax (303) 988-0620