

# The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

## Rev. Dr. Steve VanOstran Installed as ABCRM Executive Minister on July 13, 2008

Sunday afternoon, almost 100 people joined the ABCRM staff and Board members at the installation of Rev. Dr. Steve VanOstran as Executive Minister of this Region.

The service was held at Crossroads Church North Campus in Thornton, CO. Many of those that attended came from as far Wyoming and as the Colorado Western Slope.

Greetings were brought from the ABC-USA by Dr. Donald Scott (Associate Executive Minister and Minister of Mission Support of ABC of Indiana and Kentucky), Ms. Susan Gillies (Executive Minister of ABC of Nebraska), Rev. John Williams (Executive Minister of ABC of Central Region), and by ABCRM's own Rev. Dr. James D. Peters, Jr. (General Board Member).

The True Light Baptist Church Choir along with Brad Richardson of Crossroads, lead those that attended in some wonderful worshipful songs at the beginning and the end of



the service. True Light Choir (*pictured below left*) also sang two songs to worship God.

Rev. Joe Kutter (*pictured right*), Steve's pastor from First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, gave the installation message. He centered his message around the verses in Ephesians 1:15-22, fo-



ocusing on verse 22. "And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church."

Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries from ABC-USA, charged the Region to uphold the values of the Region while cooperating with Steve as the new Executive Minister.



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## VanOstran Installation

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Rev. Dr. Mary Armacost Hulst, President of ABC-USA, charged Steve with his responsibilities as the Executive Minister of ABCRM. Richard Schweissing led the Responsive Covenant of Support by ABCRM Members. Rev. Kim Skattum, of Crossroads Church lead the opening and closing prayers.

A reception followed the service for people to meet and greet Steve, his wife Deb, and their three children. Steve is looking forward to working hard for and with the Region.

The Region wishes to thank the Executive Minister Search Committee for their excellent choice for Executive Minister. The Region would also like to thank Rev. Kim Skattum and Crossroads Baptist Church for hosting the service.



Richard Schweissing led the Responsive Covenant of Support by ABCRM Members at the installation.



Steve's wife Deb laughs with Tam VanSpriell and Rev. Jeff Woods.



Rev. Dr. Steve VanOstran greeting Rev. William Golson.

### ABCRM Training Academy presents The New Testament

Make sure to register for the ABCRM Training Academy class "The New Testament." This class fulfills requirements for ABCRM Regional Ordination and is open to everyone and anyone that would like to take the class. New preachers, pastors, evangelists and lay leaders are encouraged to attend the class.

The class will be held at the ABCRM office on August 15-17, 2008. The cost, which includes housing for two nights, three lunches and one dinner is \$225. The cost is \$125 if housing is not required.

The instructor will be Dr. Sam Williams, member of First Baptist Church of Colorado Springs, CO and a retired professor at Colorado College. **Register by Tuesday, August 5.**



## The Message is in the Music

True Light Baptist Church, the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains and Elitch Gardens are teaming up to sponsor the 2008 *Gospel on the Green: The Message is in the Music!* This event is a fantastic opportunity for you to invite people of all nationalities and denominations, especially the unsaved, to our church grounds to experience the healing power of the Word through song. *Gospel on the Green: The Message is in the Music* takes place on **Saturday, August 9** at True Light Baptist Church and will feature an array of Christian music from a variety of local and national artists.

**New this year will be the Gospel on the Green Youth Explosion at Elitch Gardens!** Talented youth from across the state will converge on the grounds of Elitch Gardens to spread the gospel through song, dance, a human video and more! A citywide youth choir under the direction of national recording artist, Cinque Cullar from Chicago, IL will climax the evening.

**GOTG** will kick-off on Saturday, August 9 at 1 pm on the grounds of True Light Baptist Church located at 14333 Bolling Drive in Denver. This event offers something for the entire family. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an outdoor music festival, food and non-food vendors and a spe-



cial area for the kids!

Join us for **Sunday Morning Worship at True Light** featuring the *Gospel on the Green Community Choir* at both 8 am and 11 am services. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday, July 29, Thursday, July 31, Tuesday, August 5 and Thursday, August 7 at 6:30 pm.

Purchase your tickets early for our *Gospel on the Green Youth Explosion* at Elitch Gardens. The event will take place on Sunday, August 10, 2008 from 3 pm until close. Tickets for admission to the park and the event can be purchased at the church for a discounted rate of only \$23.00. There is still time for youth to register and participate in this phenomenal mass choir. Contact us for a registration packet.

### Volunteer Opportunity:

We need your help! Gospel on the Green needs approximately 150 volunteers for tasks such as:

- Greeting volunteers and guests as they arrive;
- Monitoring the church grounds;
- Meeting with guests who request prayer or spiritual consultation;
- Security and incident management;
- Facilitating children's games and concessions;
- and more...

A minimum of 2-hours commitment is required for all volunteers (some positions require more time than others).

### You Can Volunteer More Than Your Time!

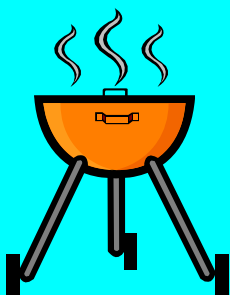
The Gospel on the Green Organizing Committee would be pleased to accept donations in the form of money, equipment use, products, or in-kind services.

For tickets to the Youth Explosion at Elitch Gardens or for more information about Gospel on the Green, call True Light Baptist Church at 303-375-0754 or leave a message at 303-380-0396.

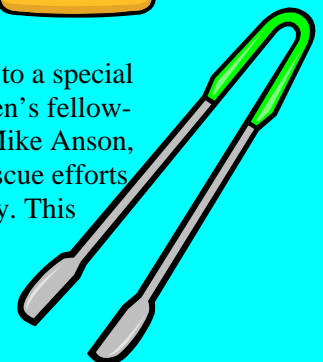
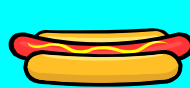
*Gospel on the Green: The Message is in the Music!*

Karen Shields  
GOTG Event Director

## Men's Fellowship Time in Cheyenne



First Baptist Church of Cheyenne Men's Fellowship invites all men to a special event. Saturday, August 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. FBC will be holding a men's fellowship barbeque. The barbeque will be featuring the special speaker Mike Anson, a member of the New York City Fire Department and part of the rescue efforts of 9/11. Come and enjoy good fellowship and hear Mike's testimony. This event will be held at First Baptist Church 1800 E. Pershing Blvd. Cheyenne, WY. The meal will be provided. Please RSVP to Stan at 307-761-0369.



Gina Gibson  
Member FBC Cheyenne

## ABCRM Missions Team Completes Successful June 19-30 Trip to Bulgaria



Thanks to great support from our ABCRM special-interest ABC-IM missionaries Tom and Terry Myers in Sofia, a six-person mission team from Colorado and Wyoming successfully completed the June 19-30 ABCRM Missions Experiences trip to Bulgaria. Team members included Sherry Wilson and Karla Davis from First Baptist of Laramie, Kent Oakes from Calvary Baptist in Denver, and Dwight and Aladine Neuenschwander, and team leader Kerry Hassler from First Baptist of Boulder.

The Bulgaria mission team arrived in Sofia on June 20 and stayed in Sofia for two days to recover from jetlag. The team spent time preparing for the upcoming Guliantsi Vacation Bible School sessions they would help conduct and see a few sights around Sofia. They also met Pastor Teddy Oprenov of the Sofia Baptist Church—the Myers family home church in Bulgaria—and took a tour of the new SEBC church facility currently being built.

After attending Sunday morning services at the current Sofia Baptist Church, the mission team traveled to the northern Bulgaria city of Guliantsi with the Myers family and Bulgarian translator Katya Raichinova. Team members helped conduct morning Vacation Bible School sessions led by Katya from June 23-26 at the Guliantsi Baptist Church in support of Pastor Ivan Vassileff. The mission team enjoyed getting to meet and have fun with the over 20 Bulgarian and Roma kids who attended the VBS sessions each day.

During the afternoons in Guliantsi from June 23-26, team members worked at a nearby preschool to assemble new playground equipment, and paint playground equipment and the preschool's fence. The preschool director was very thankful for all the improvements made by our mission team, with a local TV station showing our work as part of

the evening news during the week. We also improved the grounds surrounding the Guliantsi Baptist Church by spreading gravel for a new parking area from Tuesday through Thursday.

On Friday, June 27, the team went to the nearby city of Pleven to assemble new playground equipment and paint a fence for an orphanage that cares for Bulgarian and Roma children of primary school age. We especially enjoyed meeting some of the orphanage kids who greeted us with big smiles and hugs.

The last Saturday of the Bulgaria mission trip was spent seeing sights in central Bulgaria with the Myers family and Katya, including the historic city and fortress ruins of Veliko Tarnovo—the medieval capital of Bulgaria—the quaint village of Etera with its many traditional crafts-making shops, and the beautiful “Shipska” Orthodox cathedral. The team returned to Sofia to again attend June 29 Sunday services at the Sofia Baptist Church. This was followed by a last-day visit to the beautiful Rila Monastery in southern Bulgaria that dates back over 1000 years. We sadly shared our last meal together with the Myers and Vassileff families along with Katya at the Myers' Sofia home on Sunday evening. All in all, our Bulgaria mission trip was a wonderful ABCRM missions experience.

To read a detailed account of the June 19-30 ABCRM Bulgaria mission trip that includes many photos, go to the ABCRM Missions Experiences blog at <http://abcrmissionexperiences.blogspot.com/>.

*Kerry Hassler  
Team Leader  
Bulgaria Mission Experiences Team*



## 2008 ABCRM Gathering

Please watch your mail and listen at your church for more information about the ABCRM Gathering. The Gathering will be in Cheyenne, WY this year and will feature your new Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Steve VanOstran as the evening worship preacher.

This year's focus is on "Healthy Congregations: Being the Body of Christ From Here to the Ends of the Earth." Workshops will be focused around that theme.

The Pre-Gathering workshop will feature Rev. Harry Riggs and will be focused on Acts 2:42-47. The Christian Comedian, Bob Smiley is also coming in for the Thursday night Clergy Appreciation Dinner, which everyone can attend.

Watch for more information to come on all these events scheduled for October 17-18, 2008.



## American Baptist Leaders Endorse New Structure

Representatives of the General Executive Council gave a full presentation of the proposed governance structure for American Baptist Churches USA at the morning plenary of the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA.

The new structure eliminates interlocking mission boards but maintains interrelatedness through a Mission Table and Mission Summit held in conjunction with the denomination's Biennial Meeting. A notable difference is the process of selecting board members that allows for matching interests with board service and includes an orientation prior to commencing service. The denomination's commitment to diversity would be reflected in board members being selected from churches of different sizes and locations; across age groups, geographic regions, ethnicities, and economic classes; having differing physical abilities.

A proposed smaller board would reduce the expenses associated with holding meetings and administering the expansive mission of American Baptist Churches USA. In lieu of representation on a larger board, the Mission Table provides a means by which churches relate to the mission together, expressing their accountability along

with their intentions for ministry involvement.

The president of the Board of National Ministries, Annie Marie LaBarbour, said, "I think people have heard each other and presented a divergence of opinion to create the best possible product for this time. It is a platform from which to develop the denomination more thoroughly toward what is right for us in the 21st century. I support this proposal and believe it will support us as we move forward."

The Rev. Dr. James McJunkin, executive minister of the Philadelphia Baptist Association also voiced his support: "I want to move forward as American Baptists. The structure won't change what we do, we will. If I'm going to live out my faith through American Baptists I need to be diligent, sincere and intentional — I pledge myself to it."

While General Secretary A. Roy Medley is certain there will be "tweaking" of the proposed structure, he said "The General Executive Committee worked for the best possible process in making this recommendation." He commented on the careful balance being struck between autonomy and interdependence.

"The current structure has bound us up in some ways. But in moving toward autonomy, we keep the interdependence that we value as well. We're American Baptists before we're regions or national boards. We are first and foremost 'us'."

Mary Armacost Hulst, president of the General Board, said, "My local church in the new structure would be taken seriously. We would have a very strong voice that is central when we gather together to suggest ideas and implement ideas and vision for the denomination. Actually, representation could be even broader than it is now." Hulst said the Leadership Pool is a database that will be kept current and used to bring in representation from the local churches. "All of the boards combined would give the representation," she added.

Dr. Reid Trulson, executive director of International Ministries, called the structure a "federation model" that he believes will position American Baptist Churches USA for the greatest impact in missions in its cultural context. "The central principle we observe in global mission is the need to understand the culture and to take appropriate actions," Trulson said.

*American Baptist News Service*

# Baptisms

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

## First Baptist Church Cheyenne, WY:

Dennis Nelson  
Tiffany Nelson  
Joshua Logan  
Abby Logan  
Vern Meyers  
John Marshall  
David Patrick Nokes



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.

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*Discover your PASSION!  
Realize your MISSION!  
To reach the world with the  
LOVE of Jesus Christ!*

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