

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Being “Todah” is in the Bible

“Todah,” no, not the word today, but Todah. Todah in Hebrew is “thanks.” Too often thanks is just a word, but it is really to be used as gratitude from the heart.

We are in what many call the Thanksgiving Season. This is prelude to the Christmas Season which traditionally begins with the first Sunday of Advent. This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 30.

The problem is that Thanksgiving and Christmas are not seasons but lifestyles. We celebrate the Birth of Jesus who came that we might have life. Jesus is therefore to be involved in everyday life and not limited to just



one day of the year or one day a week. He is an everyday presence. Because of Jesus we can and are thankful everyday. Look at the daily need provided to you. Look at the peace and blessings we experience everyday.

First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to “give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s Will for you in Christ Jesus.” So you see, thanksgiving is a lifestyle. Check the following verses that show being thankful as a lifestyle.

Being Thankful is a lifestyle:

- Of humility— “To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:



‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ‘I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’” - Luke 18:9-14

- Of withholding nothing— “As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘I tell you the truth,’ he said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.’” - Luke 21:1-4
- Of spiritual growth— “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” - Colossians 2:6-7

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ABCRM Hires Interim Ministry and Mission Coach for Wyoming

On November 1, 2008, ABCRM hired Dr. William G. Mankin as an Interim Ministry and Mission Coach to serve Wyoming.

Bill Mankin is a member of the First Baptist Church of Laramie WY, where his wife, Mary Beth, is the pastor. Bill was raised near Memphis, TN and educated at Rhodes College and the Johns Hopkins University where he received a Ph.D. in Physics in 1969. He spent his entire career at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder CO, where he made ground-based, airborne, and satellite measurements of the chemistry of the upper atmosphere, primarily for understanding the ozone layer.



He retired in 2003 to move to Kansas City, KS, where Mary Beth (pictured left) was a student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a Senior Scientist Emeritus at NCAR. While at Central Seminary, he audited a number of classes and helped teach Environmental Ethics.

He has been an active American Baptist layman all his adult life. In the First Baptist Church of Boulder, he held numerous offices and taught an adult Sunday School class for 25 years. He has participated in a number of ways in the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains,

including seven years as Treasurer. He has been on the Board of Directors of Central Seminary for 16 years, six as chair. He has served as the receiving treasurer in Laramie and has taught Sunday School.

His outdoor passion is white water rafting. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, reading, and cross country skiing. He is happy in his role as a pastoral spouse. He and Mary Beth have two children, David, a software engineer for Google in Mountain View, CA, and Emily, a graduate student in neuroscience at the University of California in San Diego.

He is looking forward with anticipation and a bit of nervousness to his new role, serving the pastors and churches of the Wyoming Cluster as a representative of the Region. If you would like to contact Bill, you can email him at bmankin@abcrm.org or call the ABCRM office at 303-988-3900 for his voicemail.



He retired in 2003 to move to Kansas City, KS, where Mary Beth (pictured left) was a student at Central Baptist

Todah

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- Of acknowledging the Lord— *“Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’ When he saw them, he said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten*

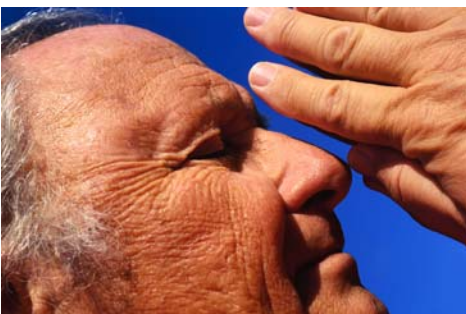
cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then he said to him, ‘Rise and go; your faith has

made you well.’” - Luke 17:11-19

- Of experience the Lord— *“I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, O God, protect me. I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.” - Psalm 69:29-30*
- Of witnessing— *“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” - 1 Chronicles 16:8*
- Of victory— *“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 & “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?” - 2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

May we be thankful everyday.

Pastor Dave Davis
First Baptist Church
Lamar, CO



Calvary Baptist Denver Holds Installation for Rev. Henderson and Rev. Jernberg

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

REMEMBER with LOVE
GIVE with GRATITUDE

Since 1935, American Baptists have contributed to special offerings received in their churches for retired ABC ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977.

Through this annual offering, American Baptist congregations say thank you in a tangible way to the denomination's retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses. The offering provides them with:

- Emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need; and
- "Thank You" checks, based on 15 or more years of ABC service.

Receipts from the 2007 RMMO totaled \$1,568,678, a 3.54% increase over the 2006 receipts of \$1,515,025. Of this amount, \$702,427 was made available to meet immediate emergency and special financial needs.

The balance of the receipts was distributed by The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) on behalf of American Baptists in the form of Thank You checks: 3,232 checks were distributed in 2007, ranging from \$50 to \$382. The average check was \$268.

The RMMO will be taken by most ABC congregations on Sunday, December 7, 2008.

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REMEMBER with LOVE
GIVE with GRATITUDE

November 9, 2008, Calvary Baptist Church of Denver held the installation service for Rev. Brian Henderson and Rev. Anne Jernberg. They were both called to Calvary after the retirement of longtime Senior Minister Rev. Mary Hulst.



Pictured left to right: Kevin Jonell (Co-Chair of Pastoral Search Committee), Rev. Brian Henderson (Senior Pastor), Rev. Anne Jernberg (Pastor), Rev. Warren Risch (Pastor), Rev. Carla Randle (Pastor)

Prior to being called to Calvary, Brian Henderson served as pastor of Upper Merion Baptist Church in King of Prussia, PA, for nine years

after having been

the congregation's pastoral intern for four years. Brian is a graduate of Eastern College and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Brian and his wife Tara are currently enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry program in Marriage & Family at Palmer Theological Seminary from which they anticipate graduating in May 2009. Brian, Tara and daughters Ana and Naomi enjoy traveling, camping, hiking, reading books, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Anne Jernberg comes to Calvary from the Wilshire Baptist Church of Dallas where she completed a two-year pastoral residency program, a unique opportunity funded by the Lilly Endowment. Previous places of ministry include The Memorial Church in Harvard Yard and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Anne received a bachelor's degree in religion at Austin College of Sherman, TX, and her Master of Divinity degree at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA.



Baptist by birth and active in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship all her adult life, Anne enjoyed serving as the director of spiritual life at Harvard Divinity School, which nurtured her ecumenical and interfaith spirit. Willing to try almost anything, Anne especially enjoys yoga, reading, writing, traveling, poetry and quotations, outdoor activities and a good strong cup of coffee.



The installation included special guests from the ABC-USA and the ABCRM. Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary of ABC-USA (pictured left) gave the installation sermon. Rev. Dr. Mary Hulst, Calvary's Pastor Emeritus and ABC-USA President, and Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, ABCRM Executive Minister (pictured



right), each gave a challenge to the pastors.

*Jackie Howard
Calvary Baptist Church
Denver, CO*

ABCRM Mission Experiences for 2009

Please note the change in the Thailand Trip application deadline. Join ABCRM Mission Teams on mission experiences in 2009. Three mission experiences have been scheduled. You can find more information about these mission experiences at <http://www.abcrm.org/mission/missionexperiences.htm>.

Thailand Feb. 11-25, 2009

- Hosting Missionaries - Chuck and Ruth Fox
- Estimated cost per person - \$2,000
- Limit of Mission Team participants - 8
- Trip Application Deadline - **December 21, 2008**
- Mission leader - Kerry Hassler kerryhassler@comcast.net



Murrow Indian Children's Home April 19-25, 2009

- Hosting Missionaries - Joan Brown
- Estimated cost per person - \$225 plus meals and incidentals
- Limit of Mission Team participants - 8
- Trip Application Deadline - February 16, 2009
- Mission leader - Jenita Calton mjmjpack@vcn.com



Bahamas May 9-16, 2009

- Hosting Missionaries - Daniel and Estela Schweissing
- Estimated cost per person - \$1,600
- Limit of Mission Team participants - 6
- Trip Application Deadline - February 9, 2009
- Mission leader—Rich Schweissing rschweissing@msn.com



Seminarians and new Pastors Receive Orientation to ABC Life

A group of 103 seminarians and 52 ministers new to ABC met at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin, for the October 16-18 2008 Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) Conference.

"It was excellent and overwhelming," said Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Brockport, New York. "It was one of the best experiences of my life, and I really enjoyed the preachers during the worship services, for they were authentic to their diverse styles and were well prepared."

The OTABL Conference, with Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board's Education Director and Corporate Secretary Holly Bean as Coordinator of the Planning Team, offered participants an opportunity to be introduced to, and develop an understanding of, American Baptist identity, mission, and future as people of God.

"The weekend left me with a passion as I live out my life to be the hands and feet of Christ alongside my American Baptist sisters and brothers," said Rev. Ryan Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, IN.

ABC's President, Rev. Mary Hulst, participated in the program with a number of other national staff persons and spouses of seminarians and new ministers. Rev. Hulst recalls that her favorite quote was from a young man who said to her, "ABC is a different and great denomination. I am proud to be part of it." Also in attendance was General Secretary Dr. A. Roy Medley, along with program board directors and staff from International Ministries, National Ministries and the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

One of the stated goals of the OTABL Conference was to delight in the Lord through worshipping in a variety of forms. The daily worship experience led by Brad Berglund and his worship team provided a wide variety of worship styles. "Whether staff, student, or pastor, I give praise to God," said Linwood Carter, second year seminarian from Shaw University Divinity School, "for the fellowship and worship I experienced in the beauty and serenity of Green Lake. God has great hands and feet working for Him here on earth."

The next OTABL meeting is scheduled for January 4 to 8, 2010, when another similar group will be combined with seminarians and ministers new to ABC at the Ministers Council gathering in Florida.

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National Ministries Board Resumes Work to Streamline Structure and Financial Challenges



The Board of National Ministries convened November 12-13 at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, Pa., to resume the work it began in June to streamline its organizational structure. In addition, the board heard reports from Dr. Aid-sand F. Wright-Riggins III (pictured left), National Ministries' executive director, and

Michaele Birdsall, treasurer and CFO (pictured below), about current financial challenges facing its ministry.

With the dramatic changes in America's economy precipitated by the unexpected collapse of several Wall Street financial institutions, Wright-Riggins pointed to "job losses, home foreclosures and a decline in personal investment wealth" as reasons for the continuing decline in mission giving to National Ministries that have contributed to a budget shortfall.

On a brighter note, Wright-Riggins acknowledged the longevity of the Baptist General Tract Society (1824), The American Baptist Home Mission (1832) and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society (1877), the three venerable American Baptist institutions that formed National Ministries and are still standing through its good works. "We have reason to celebrate our continuing role in transforming lives as we seek to be of service to those affected by this economy," he concluded.

Treasurer Birdsall reported that in spite of the current financial challenges, "National Ministries is not in financial crisis." She cautioned, however, against a continuing dependence on unrestricted reserve funds to balance the budget—calling the practice "unsustainable."



"National Ministries is very strong financially. We are in a position to look ahead and see the warning signs—and start taking some strategic action and making some difficult choices now—so that, in the next

several years, we don't reach a crisis point. As stewards of this organization, as we look at the generations that will come behind us, we want to leave them with a financially strong organization similar to how we found it when we came," Birdsall said.

Citing a \$1 million gap between the organization's income and expenses, Birdsall said that National Ministries would have to take immediate and deliberate steps to "increase income and reduce expenses." But given a bad economy, she said results may not be apparent before 2010.

Following Birdsall's report, the board approved National Ministries' 2009 budget, which included funds from unrestricted reserves to meet the shortfall. A three- to five-year plan will be developed to address National Ministries' continuing financial stresses and bring expenses in line with income without use of reserve funds.

Later, the board heard from the Rev. Eddie Cruz, newly appointed associate executive director for Mission Interpretation and Development, who introduced the 2009 America for Christ Offering theme: With Willing Hands: Serve. Sacrifice. Surrender. Cruz also outlined his plan for fundraising and donor cultivation.

In other business, the Policies and Resolutions Committee placed before the board for first reading a resolution, "Seeking Racial Parity in the Criminal Justice System," that outlines injustices experienced by African-Americans in incarcerated populations. "...Followers of Jesus the Christ are charged with protecting the humanity of all people," the resolution states. "When we become aware that injustice is being perpetuated by the system of justice, we must speak out."

Also, board member Dr. Jerry Cain, president of Judson College, Elgin, Ill., announced that all of the 16 American Baptist-related colleges and universities in the United States (including Judson) were listed in the most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings: five in "Tier 4"; three in "Tier 3"; two in "Tier 2"; and six in the "Top Tier."

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nationalministries.ORG



Pastor Gina Gibson (FBC, Cheyenne) put together a list of churches, people, and things to pray for each month of the year. This will be a monthly installment. Use this prayer guide to lift up in prayer your brothers and sisters of the Rocky Mountain Region. Prayer is powerful and prayer changes things.

Prayer Guide for December 2008

Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Might God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Prayer emphasis:

Please prayer for our churches and ministries of the ABCRM to be filled again with

wonder for the Baby in the Manger. Pray that we will bow before the Lord each day so that we may receive His grace daily to live as we should. Pray that visitors to our churches during the holidays will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for these churches:

- Calvary Baptist—Cheyenne, WY
- Calvary Baptist—Denver, CO
- Chaffee Community Baptist—Denver, CO
- Community Baptist—Glenrock, WY
- Community Church—Moab, UT
- Crossroads American Baptist—Northglenn, CO

Please pray for this leader:

Jessica Fischer—ABCRM Communication Specialist

If you would like more information about this prayer guide, contact Gina Gibson at FBC, Cheyenne, at 307-632-9334.

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Committed to the Gospel!

*Learn It, Live it,
Share It, Be It!*

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