



# The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

## Ebenezer

It was an extremely cold afternoon when I pulled up to the apartments in Aurora. Not an afternoon you would expect to see shoes sitting outside someone's door. But as I approached the apartment in which the Ebenezer Baptist Church was preparing to meet, there sat 20 or more pairs of shoes on the front stoop. I rang the doorbell as I slipped off my shoes and was welcomed by the deacon in whose apartment the congregation meets.

Pastor Debora Di and thirteen members meet in this little two bedroom apartment every Sunday.

They have 27 families that they consider a part of their congregation, but just the thirteen members at this point. The fellowship is important to them, even though they have had neighbors complain on occasion, even having had the police come to tell them to quiet down. But right now, this is where they have to worship, so they continue to meet.



Most of the families in this congregation have been in this country less than two years. Pastor Debora has only been here for about nine months. But for many of these, she was their pastor in the resettlement facilities in Thailand. Their fellowship is warm and genuine, filled with families. By families, I mean from cradle to seniors. The littlest ones sit on their parents laps and they all listen intently as the worship service begins, in Karen. John and I (Pastor John Sitner, Missions Pastor at Crossroads American Baptist Church) are allowed to sit in the few seats that are available, but we are also asked to bring the message for the af-

ternoon (there's a passage about that somewhere, be prepared in season and out of season!). We don't understand any of the prayer, but when the music begins the hymns are familiar to us—*Holy, Holy, Holy* and *Joy to the World*, along with more. The youth stand to sing special music—they do several different songs all done very well—some in their native language, some contemporary songs in English, but all done in a spirit that shows their love and devotion to Christ.

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**Wishing you and your family a Happy New Year!**

**ABCRM Board and Staff**

## Ebenezer

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After the service, we are asked to visit with the church about their needs and about how they can be a part of our Region. They share with us that their greatest need is a building in which to worship. Right now, they need it mainly on Sundays, but they can see a time when they will need a more permanent place. I promised to work with our churches to see if there would be some possibility on this (fair warning pastors), and promise also that we want to welcome them to our family and will be present as they have additional needs. They are especially concerned about getting Pastor Debora properly credentialed, and I assure them that we will work with them to make this happen. They invite us to come and worship with them on Christmas day, but both John and I have to decline because of family plans.



As we continue to build our relationship with this new congregation, I hope to share in

this experience with others of you. I guarantee you will leave their worship having been blessed and experienced God's presence in a powerful way.

*In Christ,  
Steve Van O*

## To the Future



“Run! The bus in here and unless you want to sleep in the barn with those horses you need to hustle.” What started as a mad dash up the huge hill quickly diminished into an exhausted trudge. My shouts of encouragement from my comfortable position at the top of the small mountain only helped a few; the rest strutted their way to the summit. One little girl stopped right in front of me, held up her foot for a short intermission, “Ms. Killi, I got mud on my shoes from the barn.” I responded, “Sorry to say, I don’t think that’s just mud.” Her nose wrinkled and her two friends giggled as she let out an “Oh gross.” I promptly reminded them the bus was still waiting and they quickly loaded up and headed off for the evening.

That day over 80 students ranging from 5 to 11 years of age came to Kodiak Baptist Mission. They took part in a wide range of activities, made some incredible memories and left feeling a bit more excited about life. I, along with a committed group work day in and day out with these students, investing more than just time into their lives. On this day it was evident that something momentous had happened. Wednesday, October 15, 2008, I got a glimpse into the future of Kodiak Baptist Mission (KBM).

I first must catch some of you up to speed. For many years, countless people have come to KBM for one reason or another. Children gather to take part in preschool, after school and the summer day camp programs. Activities are the base for many other groups as they ride horses or take on the challenge of our obstacle/ropes course and families have gotten the support they have needed through the Kodiak Island Food bank. However in recent years it has become increasingly evident that our 1930s facility is having a hard time keeping up with the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While dedicated Mission Teams have given hours of service helping bring us up to code, we still face insurmountable difficulties. These difficulties come with thanks however. If our programs were not busting at the seams and people were not investing their lives in the work being done here there would be no need to plug away in our efforts. As is, more children are learning about the man Jesus, and how much He loves them. Families rest assured that they will have food for their next meal; young adults are having life changing experiences by giving freely of their time and energy to serve and the list goes on. We have been blessed and with each hardship and find the opportunity to grow, change and develop into something the great carpenter could only construct.

I know the work is only beginning, Lord only knows what the next five years will hold, but I am confident that our God will continue to build a strong heritage to share with more children and families. Soon it will have just been five years ago as I stood looking down the hill at a group of children full of passion and fervor. I’ll explain how many of those then small children have become some of our greatest helpers. Their interests were peaked and now they are actively involved in our obstacle/ropes course or horse program and of course the list will continue. Seeing the love of Jesus radiate from these children does more than make me feel good. It gives me hope for the years ahead and there is joy in that. Many of these children have such a long way to go, but I am confident in the foundation they have found in Jesus through the Kodiak Baptist Mission.

*Kelli Foreman  
Kodiak Baptist Mission Staff*

## Darryl Lynde Licensed as Lay Minister in Gillette, WY

On December 14th, First Baptist Church of Gillette, WY licensed Darryl Lynde as a lay minister.

Darryl is a lifelong member of First Baptist. His parents were members and active in the church as well. He is married to Sharon and has three children who are married. His son Darren is a veterinarian, lives in Gillette, and has two children. His daughter Shad lives in Billings, MT and has two children. Lyndee, his second daughter, lives in Vermillion, SD and has two daughters.

Darryl attended North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD and received a master's degree in counseling. He has had a Christian counseling office open in Gillette for the past 20 years. He felt that God

was calling him to share his faith and help others, so he pursued the licensing.

During the licensing ceremony the church congregation pledged to support him in his ministry. Darryl signed the ABC-USA code of ethics at the same time. He will be able to preach, baptize, perform weddings and funerals and perform counseling.

The congregation of First Baptist Gillette is very proud of Darryl and his desire to serve the Lord in a greater capacity. He is available to fill the pulpit if needed for your church.

*Cynthia Rigsby  
Lay-member  
First Baptist Church  
Gillette, WY*



**Pictured left to right:** Mark Nicholson, Joe Hallock, Bob David, Darryl Lynde, Nolan Bartz, Jay Eckhart, Richard Folkerts

## How Bethel Saved a Life

Mr. P. is a recently resettled refugee referred by Catholic Charities to Bethel Neighborhood Center for help with language interpretation and other resources. He is in his mid-30's with a wife, 2 young children, and several extended family members for whom he is the sole wage earner. Originally from Bhutan, his family was terrorized by "government officials" when he was 6 years old. The family fled to nearby Nepal where they lived in a camp until immigrating to Kansas City, KS in September. He taught math in the refugee camp and has studied the literature of his native Bhutan. He currently works at Triumph Foods (a pork processor) near St. Joseph, MO. Transportation to this job is provided by Jewish Vocational Services and is a 90 minute bus ride each way.

In mid-November Bethel had a Health Screening/Flu Shot Clinic staffed by KU School of Nursing students and faculty under the supervision of our nurse, Melinda Krautmann. When Mr. P., a recently resettled refugee, was

screened by the student nurses, his blood sugar level was over 400 and his blood pressure was high. He complained of blurred vision and headaches. With his cooperation an appointment was made for the following day at a nearby clinic. He was put on medication, encouraged to attend diabetes education classes, and given a follow-up appointment. Without this intervention, Mr. P. could well have gone into diabetic coma and died, not knowing what was wrong with him.

Bethel has worked with immigrants and refugees for 97 years. Our current clientele includes people from Burma, Thailand, Nepal, Malaysia, Eastern Europe, Mexico as well as those who have lived in the neighborhood for years. Our staff speaks at least 7 languages and has an amazing ability to communicate when we don't speak a language. For more information about Bethel, call 913-371-8218 or visit us on line at [www.bethelcenter.org](http://www.bethelcenter.org).

*Ed Baxter  
Interim Director  
Bethel Neighborhood Center  
Kansas City, KS*



[What's in this RMAB?](#)

RMAB 12/31/08

## News From Bulgaria



It seems only yesterday that we were writing our Christmas greetings to you for 2007! But another year has passed, and it is once again time to update you on the happenings in Bulgaria.

A.J. and Nathan continue to stay busy, and keep us busy, with their many activities. Two events happened with them that remind us of the passing of time—A.J. started high school and Nathan became a teenager. Both boys played soccer this fall, but now with different schedules and tournaments. Nathan traveled with his team to Kiev, Ukraine for their tournament, while A.J.'s team stayed closer to home, playing in Belgrade, Serbia. Both boys had the opportunity to travel to Lithuania in February for a Math Counts competition, and did well. Currently they are both playing basketball, with Tom helping to coach the middle school team. In addition to school activities, the boys enjoy attending Sunday School at our church, and hanging out with other MKs (Missionary Kids) at a local youth group.

We enjoyed a visit from Terry's parents last December and January. We were able to take them to some different places in Bulgaria, and also made a trip to Greece to show them the tomb of Philip II of Macedon, and to see the spectacular rock monasteries of Meteora. It was wonderful having family here for the holidays!

We were able to travel to Colorado in

August to see friends and family due to the generosity of family members. It was wonderful getting to see our parents and all of our siblings. During the time there, they were able to surprise Terry's mom with a party for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Terry's main ministry focus has been with the literacy program that she started at Sofia Baptist Church. This fall the program was expanded to meet twice a week. This is an outreach to the Roma kids in the neighborhood around the church. On any given day there are between 6 and 12 children attending. The meetings are often chaotic as the meeting space is small and manners are lacking, but it is so encouraging to see kids progressing in their reading, writing and math skills.



Tom continues his work with animal projects and small business development. Work continues on the small dairies to achieve the final European Union classification. Enough progress has been made to allow the dairies to sell their milk, but there is more work to do for the final step which will allow them to receive a higher price for their milk.

In addition to our normal ministries here in Bulgaria, we made a trip to Prague during the summer to attend a security training seminar and missionary fellowship with our International Ministries colleagues from Africa and Europe. The security training was beneficial and necessary, but the highlight of the week was the time of fellowship with our colleagues, some of whom we had never met. The 18 MKs had a great time together as well. While in Prague, Terry and Tom celebrated 25 years of marriage and our colleagues were kind enough to

perform a second marriage ceremony for us. We made a quick one day trip from Prague to Poland to allow Terry to finally get to visit the area where the world famous Polish pottery is made. And of course we came home with a few pieces—our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift to ourselves.



Next year will once again bring changes to the Myers household as we head back to Colorado for our year of home assignment. We will likely be based in Fort Collins again and be traveling from there. This is a year earlier than we had planned, but after much consideration decided that it would work the best for both of the boys' schooling. The schedule will allow A.J. to be in the U.S. for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and then finish 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> back here in Bulgaria. It will also allow Nathan to complete all four years of high school in Bulgaria. Please contact us via email ([myersbulgaria@msn.com](mailto:myersbulgaria@msn.com)) if you would like to schedule us to speak to your church of group. We'd love to visit you and share about Bulgaria.

"For unto us a Child is born, to us a song is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6

*Tom and Terry Myers  
(A.J. and Nathan)  
ABC-IM Missionaries  
Sofia, Bulgaria*

## News from Thailand

Greetings! As the year comes to an end, we want to take this time to reflect on the year past and share our hopes and plans for the new year to come. We have just shared our first Thanksgiving with extended family in five years, and are reminded how grateful we are for how much we have been blessed by friends and family over the years. We also want to acknowledge the many ways God has been faithful.

Many of you know that we are coming to the close of a 6-month "home assignment" in the US. After each term is spent "out in the field," International Ministries missionaries spend a period of time sharing about their work at American Baptist churches around the US, as well as reconnecting with family and friends. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time spent both with family and the churches we have visited. We appreciate very much the interest and support that we have felt from so many.

First, we'd like to give you an update on our family. Our oldest daughter, Rachel, is currently in her third year of study in anthropology at Eastern University, outside of Philadelphia, PA. She is very active on campus as a student chaplain, teacher's assistant, and working in the Admissions Office. Rachel has had an interesting summer and fall which included a 3-week stay in an Akha village, a missions project with missionary children at a conference held outside Amsterdam, Holland, and emergency surgery at the end of October. She has recovered well, and we are grateful for the many expressions of love and support that she has received.

Rebecca, our second daughter, just graduated from the Family Learning Center of Chiang Rai in Thailand in June with high honors. At the beginning of August, she applied to Messiah College outside Harrisburg and was enrolled by the end of the month! She is hoping to continue there in their nursing program. She is experiencing the normal first-year-student challenges of adjustment to roommates and understanding the expectations of the professors, while also dealing with some of the things that "third culture kids" often face when coming back to the States after a long period abroad. She also holds

a campus job, working in the cafeteria.

Kenny, now 16, is a sophomore in high school, and has been such a good sport this fall, as he has juggled educational requirements that have included 3 classes at a local Christian school, 2 classes by e-mail with teachers in Chiang Rai, and 1 with me at home. With our speaking schedule, Kenny has spent a good deal of time with his grandparents and aunt and uncle and cousins. It has been a unique opportunity for him to really get to know them better, and them, him!

As far as our work and ministry go, our past four and a half years in Thailand have been full and exciting. We've seen growth in the drug rehabilitation program, regionalization of the Bible training program, development of the story-telling program, the increase of self-sufficiency programs in terms of coffee planting, pig-raising and handicraft development, an increase in educational support for children and young adults, and relief for women and children in emergency situations. It is encouraging to see villages being strengthened in faith and in self-sufficiency.

Over 200 opium addicts have been freed from their bondage to opium, and at least half have come into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. Bible training sessions are being held in local villages, attracting villagers from that district, and expanding exposure of the gospel to more and more people. Flannel board, the use of pictures depicting the Bible in chronological terms, and dramatic presentations are all methods being taught and employed throughout the villages. Villages and pastors are raising pigs and three villages have embraced the planting of coffee for income. The Akha Craft program has 6 full-time employees who help assemble the exquisite needlework done by over 100 women in villages into beautiful products sold to bring much-needed income into their homes, villages and churches. Villages have been provided with clean water systems. Children from four villages and an additional 100 students in grades K-12 are being educated with the support of sponsors through the STEP program. Several books are beginning to be translated and distributed to Akha pastors to provide them with re-



source materials, and new churches are being built.

In addition to these activities related to our work with the Akha Churches of Thailand, Ruth has also been working in a full-time capacity with the Family Learning Center of Chiang Rai, a Christian home school co-op, primarily for missionary children. For the past two years, she has been serving as the Principal there, and is continuing in this role during the transitional period as the school develops into an international school. It is exciting to be part of helping full-time Christian workers respond to God's calling in northern Thailand by providing a quality Christian education for their children, while also seeing the Thai students also come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ!

We anticipate that we will continue working with the ministries described above over the course of our next assignment in Thailand. We will leave Pennsylvania around the middle of January, 2009, and plan to be in Chiang Rai until July of 2011. This term will be shorter than our past two, but the end of it will coincide with Kenny's graduation from high school. We will then have a full year of US/PR home assignment until June of 2012, during which time we will travel to churches to continue to share our work and ministry.

As we enter the Christmas season, we are enjoying not only the snow and other evidence of winter at our doorstep, but also the programs and celebrations which remind us once again of the amazing gift that God has given to us in His son Jesus Christ. We hope you will have a wonderful Christmas and a new year full of joy and laughter!

*Love in Christ,  
Chuck and Ruth Fox  
(Rachel, Rebecca and Kenny)  
ABC-IM Missionaries  
Chiang Mai, Thailand*

## Seminar Rescheduled

The *Parenting Made Easy* seminar, presented by Rev. Dr. Ray Lincoln, has been rescheduled for January 17, 2009 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at First Baptist Church of Longmont, CO.

Attention Grandparents! The seminar *Be The Best Parent (Grandparent) You Can Be!* Understand your child(ren) as God has created them. Pre-register by January 11 and receive a \$5 discount. The cost is \$30 per person (\$25 with discount by Jan 11) or \$45 per couple (\$40 with discount by Jan 11). To pre-register call Mary Jo at 720-271-1221 or call the church at 303-776-1128.



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*Committed to the Gospel!*  
*Learn It, Live it,*  
*Share It, Be It!*

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