



The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

ABCRM Goes Glocal / 2009 Gathering

Over 130 American Baptists came together at First Baptist Church in Pueblo, Colorado, October 16-17, for the annual Gathering of the American Baptists of the Rocky Mountains. They worshipped together, learned about local, national, and international missions, had Bible studies and workshops, listened to four missionary couples and keynote speaker Reid Trulson, Executive Director of International Ministries, and conducted the business of the Region. And in the hallways and around meal tables, they networked, fellowshiped, and renewed old acquaintances and made new ones.



The Gathering proper was preceded by a Pre-Gathering Mission Workshop held at Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West. The morning was devoted to an explanation of the Backyard Mission Project held in September in Fowler, Colorado. Ministry and Mission Coach Mike Oldham and Fowler Pastor Clint Walker led the workshop. The goal of a Backyard Mission Project is to jump start the church transformation process. It serves the community, builds relationships, and connects churches. A local church discovers community needs, selects projects that meet some of these needs, invites volunteers from nearby churches, organizes and completes the projects with help from the community and volunteers from neighboring churches, and celebrates the results. It is simple, but it is not easy. Mike and Clint led the attendees through the process and explained the top 11 (10 is too conventional) lessons learned in the Fowler project.

In the afternoon, there was a panel discussion by the four missionary couples (Tom and Terry Myers, Ketly and Vital Pierre, Dwight and Barbara Bolick, and Dan and Estela Schweissing), moderated by Ray Schooler from International Ministries. Each couple told stories of their own missionary work. After the panel, each missionary couple led a workshop about mission work in their field. We heard inspiring stories of the difference American Baptist missions make in the lives of people from the indigenous Mapuche peoples of Chile to the Roma of Eastern Europe. The combination of presentations of the Backyard Mission Project with workshops by IM missionaries vividly illustrated the Gathering theme: "People Going Glocal."

Thursday evening the Mission Dinner was held at La Renaissance Restaurant, in a historic church building in Pueblo. After a delicious buffet dinner, retiring pastors and new pastors in our Region were honored. Reid Trulson gave the address on "Our Mission Roots as American Baptists," telling stories of the beginning of our overseas missions and highlighting the life of Eugenio Kincaid and his ministry in Burma.

On Friday morning, Ketly and Vital Pierre led a Bible study about how Jesus came to 'walk in our shoes' illustrated with stories from their work in Bluefields, Nicaragua. Music for each of the worship sessions was led by Angela Faison and the musicians and singers from Old Landmark Baptist Church. The first business session included the report of the nominating committee and reports by the Executive Minister, Steve Van Ostran, highlighting the work of the Region staff with local churches, leaders, and in mission, and by the Board President, Cynthia Rigsby. Stephanie Conley, one of our youth representatives to the Biennial, reported on her experience. Pastor Kim Skattum from

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Crossroads Baptist invited the Region to hold the next Gathering at Crossroads Baptist Church on October 7-9, 2010.

Lisa Harris from National Ministries led a session on Children in Poverty. National Ministries is focusing on action in three areas: quality public education, access to health care, and livable wages.

During the afternoon, a variety of workshops, ranging from Economic Development on a Budget to Outreach to the Urban Community were offered to the attendees. In addition, this provided time to view the displays of 15 exhibitors.

The American Baptist Women's Ministries hosted the evening banquet. Terry Myers, Colorado native and IM missionary to Bulgaria, spoke on the problem of human trafficking.

In the evening program, Reid Trulson brought the missions story up to date, speaking on "Where Missions is Today." He described seven ways in which American Baptist missions are meeting today's needs. He also explained several ways in which individuals and churches can support our missionaries.

Saturday began with Bible study led by Dwight and Barbara Bolick. Dwight focused on Luke 4, expanding on the text of Jesus' sermon in Nazareth from Isaiah 61, while Barbara turned to the story of the raising of Jairus daughter.

The second business session discussed the financial and investment statements and the budget for 2010. Bob Blake was informative, instructive, and humorous. Persons rotating off the Region Board were recognized.

The Gathering closed with a final worship service. Reid Trulson brought the third of his historical series of messages entitled, "The Future of Missions." He challenged his listeners to believe that we're not done with missions yet. There is still much to be done in this world for Christ. The worship ended with a moving communion service led by the Executive Minister and the Ministry and Mission Coaches. Then with some reluctance, people said their final goodbyes and began their journeys back to their own personal mission fields.

*Bill Mankin
ABCRM Ministry and Mission Coach*



Pictured
Bill Prather, Bill Johnson, Bill Wolfe,
Alvin Wilkerson (front)

SoulJourners Retreat

On September 1-3 over 60 participants were stretched and challenged by the speakers and workshop leaders during those three days focusing on the theme *Covenant Connections: Then and Now*. Dr. Slayden Yarborough (pictured right) led on three Bible studies using Jeremiah 31 as our focus. Our missionaries, Tom and Terry Myers



helped us learn more about their varied ministries in Bulgaria. Hal Aqua, a member of B'nai Havorah, a Reconstructionist community in Denver; Dr. Mary Hulst, pastor emeritus of Calvary Baptist Church and present President of ABC-USA; and the Rev. Mary Beth Mankin pastor of FBC Laramie, Wyoming led us in worship. One participant said this retreat was "a blessing in many ways."

Other leaders who added to this "blessing" were the Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, Region Executive Minister; Dan and Estela Schweissing, ABC missionaries; and Anne Jernberg, pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Denver. We welcomed back as pianist for the retreat, Lois Oswalt as she joined John Pipe in leading music.

We received 33 evaluations back and 32 of them checked off either "very good" or excellent in rating the

quality of the event. One evaluator noted "I learn something new at each retreat."

Leaders also commented on their sense of satisfaction and participation in the retreat because all those present were active participants who came together and seemed to be joined together in spirit, mind and body. The theme aided the leaders in sharing God's steadfast love through the thousands of years that God through the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ has helped keep us moving forward as God's people.

Once again, the people at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs were most helpful, very hospitable and provided excellent meals. Join us next year, September 14-16. Pray for our steering committee as they plan for this event.

*John Pipe
Retreat CoChair*





November

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11: 6 (NKJV)

Prayer Emphasis:

As we give thanks this month for God's wonderful provisions, let us pray that our churches and ministries of the ABCRM will rise up with new faith to face the future. Let us give thanks for all that He has done for us in this past year, but continue looking ahead with renewed faith to all that God wants us to do.

Please pray for these churches:

- † Abundant Life Baptist, Denver, Pastor William Rooks
- † American Baptist, Ft. Collins, Pastor Bill Prather
- † Audubon Heights Baptist, Co Springs, Pastor Earl Delph
- † Aurora Hills Baptist, Aurora, Pastor Charles Clark
- † Berkeley Baptist Church, Denver, Pastor Tod Shook
- † Bethany Baptist, Co Springs, Pastor Donald Emanuel
- † Bethel Baptist, Casper, Interim Minister Helen Schindler
- † Bethlehem Baptist, Pueblo, Pastor John Richardson Jr.
- † Bonnie Brae Baptist, Denver



Please pray for this leader:

- † Rev. Steve Van Ostran, Executive Minister

Young Adult Late Night Skate

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

11 P.M.—1 A.M.

@

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HOW TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
- Count your gains instead of your losses.
- Count your joys instead of your woes;
- Count your friends instead of your foes.
- Count your smiles instead of your tears;
- Count your courage instead of your fears.
- Count your full years instead of your lean;
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
- Count your health instead of your wealth;
- Count on God instead of yourself.

~~Author Unknown~~



Bethel Neighborhood Center

Since last summer, there is no sign of slowing down at Bethel Neighborhood Center (BNC). BNC produced its own promotional DVD, participated in Central Area Betterment Association (CABA) parade, organized a new neighbors welcoming service, went on field trips like Powell Gardens and Jamesport, MO, roller-skating, and educational field-trip to Kansas City Star office. BNC senior adults, new neighbors (refugee families), and youth are enjoying their activities.

The BNC senior adults and youth enjoyed their preparation as well as their participation at the CABA Parade on September 12, 2009. BNC made one of the most beautiful floats of the day.

BNC participants wore multi-colored t-shirts with different puzzle-piece designs and they were distinct and colorful. "The enthusiasm, the fun, and the



smiles on the face of the participants made the parade worth participating," says Rosa Macias. Bethel had two vehicles, three youth bike riders, one motor scooter, and a walking unit. Four youth proudly held the BNC banner as they walked down Central Avenue. It turned out to be a memorable day for the participants.

Bethel Neighborhood Center Church had a welcoming service for their new neighbors on Friday, September 25, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Their new neighbors comprised mostly of refugees coming from Myanmar (Burma) and Bhutan. More than 120 people attended the welcoming service. Since many of them do not drive yet, Bethel staff made many trips to transport them to and from BNC. BNC also welcomes Rev. Tim Schwartz as a new program staff person. Rev. Schwartz worked as an English teacher in Thailand for two years and he brings a variety of ministry experiences, which will assist him in carrying out his work at Bethel.

Volunteers from Heartland Baptist Fellowship of Harrisonville, MO cooked the welcoming meal at Bethel and served everyone with love and smiles. Our new neighbors brought their ethnic food and the fellowship hall was filled with laughter and the sweet smells of different types of ethnic food. Following the dinner, the congregation sang Bethel church members' favorite song, "Amazing Grace How

Sweet the Sound." Rev. Mang Sonna gave a welcome speech and led the sharing of joys and concerns for the evening. Pastor Reuben Diyali and his daughters surprised the audience with their wonderful Nepali and English songs. After Grace Fuller read John 1:1-14, Pastor Brian Hedges of Heartland Baptist Fellowship brought the message for the evening, "Meet Your Maker." He stressed on the importance of meeting our maker. Pastor Reuben interpreted the message into the Nepali language. In his speech on behalf of the new neighbors, Bhola said, "Thank you so much for welcoming us into your community. We feel at home at Bethel Center and we are very happy for Bethel ministry. We found a new community here." The crowd enjoyed the dance performance of Hema Gautam, and Geeta and Meena Khanal. Rakmi Shaiza and Beverly Bailey handed out 60 bags of school supplies to the refugee children and youth. They were all so happy that it was almost impossible to end the program right after handing out school supplies.

Mang Sonna
Executive Director
Bethel Neighborhood Center



Together In THE LORD

Mark Your Calendar
for an Extraordinary Event!

Come to Orlando in January, 2010!



Together In THE LORD

Ministry Renewal Conference
Presented by American Baptist Churches, USA
January 4-7, 2010

Speakers and preachers include

Miroslav Volf (Yale Divinity School)
Shane Claiborne (The Simple Way)
Trinette McCray
Marvin McMickle

***Guest Musician – Rev. Joel Sierra
from Monterrey, Mexico***



For more information and to register, go to www.abc-usa.org.

JOIN US!!

Thailand Mission Trip February 3-17, 2010

Team members will do work projects involving Mike and Becky Mann's Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP) ministries and the New Life Center in Chiang Mai. The team will be divided into three crews.

Clinic Crew team members (some medical training required) will give medical exams and/or do minor injury treatment at an ITDP tribal village medical clinic. Construction Crew team members will help pour a concrete floor and do framing at an ITDP coffee-processing facility near the above medical clinic. And Crafts Crew team members will help women at the Chiang Mai New Life Center by teaching and doing crafts projects.

The mission team will also visit ABC-IM missionaries Annie and Jeff Dieselberg in Bangkok, and Chuck & Ruth Fox in Chiang Rai, to learn about their ministries.

Estimated Cost per Person: \$1900-2150

Trip Application Deadline: November 15, 2009

Participants needed for this trip: 6-9 participants

Contact: Kerry Hassler, kerryhassler@comcast.net or 303-665-7487

Participating Missionaries: Jeff & Annie Dieselberg, Mike & Becky Mann,
Chuck & Ruth Fox

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

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