

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Black History Month

What would the Civil Rights Movement be without the brave men and women who fought for equal rights? These leaders dedicated their lives to ending slavery, segregation, and unfair treatment. We want to thank these great people.

FREEDOM RIDERS

For six months in 1961, Freedom Riders changed America forever. From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating Jim Crow laws, the Freedom Riders were met with bitter racism and mob violence along the way, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism.

Despite two earlier Supreme Court decisions that mandated the desegregation of interstate travel facilities, black Americans in 1961 continued to endure hostility and racism while traveling through the South. The newly inaugurated Kennedy administration, embroiled in the Cold War and worried about the nuclear threat, did little to address domestic civil rights.

Organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the self-proclaimed "Freedom Riders" came from all strata of American society—black and white, young and old, male and female, Northern and Southern citizens were joined together for a common cause of "equality." They embarked on the Rides knowing the danger while firmly committed to the ideals of non-violent protest. The Riders were aware that their actions could provoke a savage response. Moreover, they persevered and were willing to put their lives on the line for the cause of justice.

Each time the Freedom Riders met violence and the campaign often seemed doomed, yet new ways were discovered to sustain and even expand the movement. After the Klansmen in Alabama set fire to the original Freedom Ride bus, student activists from Nashville organized a ride of their own.

Later, Mississippi officials locked up more than 300 Riders in the notorious Parchman State Penitentiary. Rather than weaken the Riders' resolve, the move only strengthened their determination. None of the obstacles placed in their path weakened their commitment.

The Riders' journey made front-page news and the world was watching. Nearly five months of fighting, the federal government capitulated. On September 22, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued its order to end the segregation in bus and rail stations that had been in place for generations.

The Freedom Riders were a group of brave Americans who fought for civil rights. Their story is heartfelt and very touching. For more information about this remarkable and courageous journey, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders/people>. You can also check your local PBS station to see when their documentary will air in your area.



What's in this RMAB?

Building Bridges to Muslims Locally and Globally

[Page 2](#)

MLC Course Faith Seeking Understanding: A Short Introduction to Christian Theology

[Page 2](#)

Women's Winter Retreat

[Page 3](#)

ABCRCM Hosts Missionary Chuck Fox

[Page 3](#)

Financial Records: What to Keep...

[Page 4](#)

Teach to Reach

[Page 4](#)

The Power of Prayer With Action

[Page 5](#)

In Sympathy...

[Page 6](#)

America For Christ Offering Sunday

[Page 6](#)

2011 Annual Reports

[Page 6](#)

Rocky Mountain Prayer Guide

[Page 7](#)

Calendar

[Page 7](#)

Building Bridges to Muslims Locally and Globally

How do we witness to our neighbors who practice a culture distinctly different than our own? Even more, how do we witness if they adhere to a religion that is opposed to our faith? There is still a need for missionaries to go to other parts of the world, but we have to recognize the world is also coming to us. How we bridge the gap to the new cultures around us adds a whole new dimension to our Christian responsibility.

There are serious questions that we as Christians need to consider when many of our communities see Muslims moving into our neighborhoods. Last August many had the opportunity to attend a workshop led by Walt White



(pictured), ABC Global Consultant Missionary to indigenous Christians who live as a minority in countries dominated by other religions of the world. At the workshop we learned that like many Christians in this country, there are many Muslims who could be called “cultural” Muslims. That is, they practice a faith because it is part of their culture, but they are open to hearing the Gospel if approached in the right way because they don’t have a serious spiritual relationship to Islam.

We are now bringing Walt back for a second workshop in which he will focus on how we can effectively build bridges to the Muslim community either in our own neighborhoods or in partnership with other Christians in Muslim countries. This will be a dynamic opportunity to learn strategies reaching those we tend to ignore because we don’t know how to answer the questions of what to do or how to go about it. The first half of the workshop will focus on building those bridges to our neighbors. The second half of the workshop will look at effective strategies globally. If you attended the first workshop you won’t want to miss this second opportunity. If you didn’t attend, there will be enough connectedness that you will still be blessed by what you learn.

The same workshop will be held at two locations on successive days. You can choose to attend the workshop at:

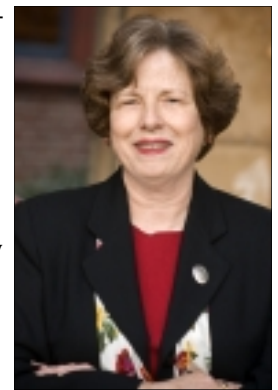
- Crossroads Church, Northglenn, Colorado on February 25th, 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- First Baptist Church, Grand Junction, Colorado on February 26th, 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided.

Cost for either workshop will be \$8.00 per person. Complete the attached form and mail it to the site you choose to attend no later than February 20th. You can also register for the Crossroads site online at www.crossroadsabc.com/missions.

*Richard Schweissing
Crossroads Baptist Church*

MLC Course Faith Seeking Understanding: A Short Introduction to Christian Theology

The Ministerial Leadership Committee of the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains is sponsoring a course titled **Faith Seeking Understanding: A Short Introduction to Christian Theology**.



This course will be held Friday through Sunday, February 24-25, 2012. This course will be taught by Margaret McManis, Associate Professor of Historical and Theological Studies at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, and held at the Region office located at 9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite 170, Centennial, CO 80112.

This seven-session course provides an introduction and opportunity for discussion regarding the following foundational aspects of Christian theology:

1. The Task of Christian Theology
2. Christianity’s Earliest Theologians: Paul and the Four Evangelists
3. Christology and the Old Testament
4. Christology: The Person and Work of Christ
5. Ecclesiology: “The Church is Not Incidental To God’s Purposes”

During the course sessions, participants will explore these topics through a combination of lecture, film, individual reflection, small group activity, and large group discussion.

Cost is as follows:

- \$275.00 which includes housing and meals
- \$125.00 which includes meals only

This course is open to everyone — new preachers, pastors,

evangelists, and laity and it will also fulfill requirements for ABCRM Regional Ordination.

For a course syllabus and registration form, please contact our office at (303) 988-3900. **Registration deadline is Friday, February 10, 2012.**

Women's Winter Retreat

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of Colorado is sponsoring a Women's Winter Retreat February 17-19, 2012. This year's theme is "Living Your Story for His Glory!", and will be presented by the State Coordinator for Personal Development LaRose Karr.



LaRose Karr leads women's Bible studies in her home church, First Baptist Church in Sterling, Colorado. LaRose and three members of immediate family work for Sterling Correctional Facility. Working in Corrections teaches her daily to rely upon the Lord and be in tune with His leading and voice while putting her trust in His protection.

The retreat will be held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Cost is \$35.00 plus room cost (\$110-\$153). For more information and registration forms, please contact Betty Moseley at betbillmoseley@msn.com or (970) 221-0233.

ABCRM HOSTS MISSIONARY CHUCK FOX



ABCRM is hosting Chuck Fox, missionary to the Akha people of Thailand, for the month of February 2012. He will be visiting churches speaking about the mission work and future plans. His first engagement will be at Trinity Baptist Church, on Friday, February 3, 2012. The church will host a

potluck dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. with the church providing the meat as well as side dishes. Anyone attending is encouraged to bring either a salad or dessert to complete the meal. This dinner is our opportunity to get to know

Chuck and his work through his after dinner presentation. The work of our missionaries is very important to the fulfillment of the ministry of Jesus Christ in our world today. We pray you will be able to support this important work with your attendance.

Put these date son your calendars and announce it to your congregations.

Trinity Baptist Church
1418 Griffith Way
Douglas, WY
307-358-0547 (Rachel Crockett)
February 3, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Bring a salad or dessert for the potluck

First Baptist Church Loveland
Speaking during Morning Service
1003 W. 6th Ave.
Loveland, CO 80537
970-667-4418
February 5, 2012

First Baptist Church Boulder
Speaking during Morning Service
1237 Pine St.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-6530
February 12, 2012

First Baptist Church Fowler
Speaking during Morning Service
422 Main St.
Fowler, CO 81039
719-263-4935
February 19, 2012



Financial Records: What to Keep and For How Long

Are you being buried in paper but are afraid to throw anything out? Many churches keep everything and others might toss paperwork as soon as the new year starts. Here are some general guidelines to help determine what to keep and for how long.



Permanent files:

Corporate charter, Articles of incorporation, By-laws, minutes of church and board meetings, documents relating to tax exempt status, copyrights, trademark registrations, licenses, patents, year-end financial statements, deeds and mortgages.

Seven years:

Accident reports and claims, accounts payable (computer runs of AP, invoices, expense reports), bank statements, account receivable ledgers, sales tax returns, personal property tax returns, general journals, employee personnel records after termination, contracts and leases, automobile logs.

Four years:

Payroll tax forms, W-2, W-4, 1099 and 941. *Note: the IRS doesn't have a limit of what years they can investigate in cases of fraud, attempt to evade taxes or failing to file a return.*

Three years:

Bank reconciliations, duplicate bank deposit slips, expired insurance policies, petty cash vouchers, internal audit reports and working papers.

One year:

Personnel employment applications and purchase orders.

Many businesses and churches are scanning important documents and storing the "soft" copy files in addition to the paper version. This provides a great backup just in case something happens to the hardcopy. When you get rid of the paperwork you are no longer required to keep, it is best to shred it.

*Karen Van
Region Administrator*



Teach To Reach The Event – 2012

Making Every Ministry Moment Count

Are you a Pastor, Ministry Director or Church Teacher?

Find out how to ENERGIZE your TEACHING MINISTRY at TEACH to REACH

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2012 - 9AM-11AM (Registration is from 8:30am-9:00am)
Denver First Church of the Nazarene, 3800 E Hampden Ave, Denver, CO 80113**

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE...



MELANIE ARMOR
Christian Ed Director & Workshop Facilitator



WILLIAM J. FAISON
Sr. Pastor (Landmark Ministries)
& ABC Churches Minister's Council



THOM CORRIGAN
Author & Former President
of Pilgrimage/NavPress Training

Now more than ever people are in search of significance.

Strong teaching ministries help them find answers.

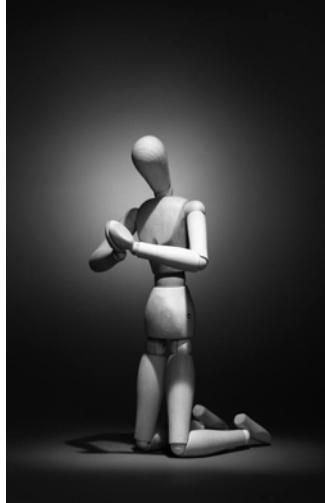
Without a strong and vibrant church wide teaching ministry your congregation may quickly become stagnant.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT THIS FREE EVENT, CONTACT US TODAY!
VISIT US AT WWW.TEACHTOREACH.ORG TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE - OR CALL 303.317.5482
(SPACES ARE LIMITED SO HURRY AND RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!)

"Teach to Reach is a comprehensive training program providing tools and resources for Christian Education."

The Power of Prayer With Action

On September 29, 2011, gunmen broke into the home of Rev. Emmanuel Pierre, Executive Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Haiti. Forced to turn over what money he had the gunman then kidnapped Rev. Pierre and took him to their place of hiding. His wife and 12 or 13 year old daughter were left behind unharmed. For a day he was held in a small room with his hands and feet bound, tape over his eyes and mouth. Loud music was played in the room so he could not hear the conversations in the other room. Providentially, the music came from a local Christian radio station and gave Rev. Pierre comfort as he awaited his fate.



The kidnapers contacted the President of the Board, Pastor Gedeon Etienne, and negotiated a ransom of \$10,500, a huge sum of money in poverty stricken Haiti. Unknown to the kidnapers, the police had tapped the phones and followed every detail. Even more providential, the local chief of police happened to be a member of the same church as Rev. Pierre. Very quickly over 50 possible suspects or criminals who might be aware of the kidnapping were rounded up. The chief of police was very direct: "Someone has my pastor and I want him back. If you know anything and don't tell it will go very bad for you."

Meantime, fearing what might happen if this news became public a very carefully worded confidential email went out through International Ministries which partners with the Baptist Convention of Haiti asking for prayer and stressing the need not to allow this to become public. Christians across the globe were praying for the safe return of Rev. Pierre.

When the ransom drop was made police arrested the commander of the group. The driver escaped and when the other kidnapers heard of the arrest they began to look for ways to escape. The man guarding Rev. Pierre set him free before he, too, fled. Although somewhat disoriented Rev. Pierre made it to a road where a passerby assisted him.

It should be noted that kidnapping people who may be connected to an organization or someone who has money has happened many times in this poverty stricken country. Many people have pressured the pastor to leave the country but he said, "God has saved me to serve Him here and not in the States." He has refused to leave Haiti. He and his wife have grown and are growing in their faith in God.

Rev Pierre later wrote the following after this experience:

"Through this event, God has allowed me to have a new experience with Him and to attain a new dimension in my relationship with Him. Truly speaking, I thought myself at the end of my ministry. My age of course, illness,

economic constraints, crisis everywhere, so many deadlines, I felt completely overwhelmed, and I was only ready for being crushed by the weight of my heavy responsibilities. Ironically, it is in this crucial moment that God chose to put me to the test and to make me realize that those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; that His silence in difficult times does not mean that He abandons us. His intervention on my behalf in those circumstances shows His faithfulness to me and His immeasurable love to me. In response, I want to be more loving to Him and more faithful to Him through my renewed commitment to serve

Him in establishing His kingdom. I covet your prayers, as I want to keep my promise to my God. I take this opportunity to thank you for your support, your fervent prayers that led to my liberation. Please share my gratitude with all those who prayed for me. Thousand thanks and may God bless you!"

*Submitted by Rich Schweissing
Crossroads American Baptist Church*

God is like . . .

Bounty. . . .

*He is the quicker
picker upper.*

Can handle the tough jobs.

*And He won't
fall apart on you.*

In Sympathy

The American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains extends sympathy to the families of Jack Stephenson and Betty Shoaf.

Jack Francis Stephenson, of Bellingham, WA, passed peacefully away on Sunday, January 8, 2012, at the age of 82. He married Lorraine Kettleleson Stephenson in Indianapolis in 1956, and they spent 54 years together, sharing a strong Christian faith, and a love of their children and grandchildren. They enjoyed traveling, and often combined vacations and family visits with service work around the world. Lorraine preceded Jack in death in May of 2010. Jack graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and from Northern Seminary in Chicago. As an American Baptist Minister, he served churches in Terre Haute and Smith Valley, IN, and in Longmont and Colorado Springs, CO. He and Lorraine retired to Ferndale in 2005, and became very active and beloved members of the First Baptist Church of Bellingham. An active and vigorous man for most of his life, Jack enjoyed the outdoors and spent many hours fishing, hiking, camping, and enjoying nature. He led trail camps for Black Forest Baptist Camp in Colorado for many years, and volunteered time helping to build houses, schools and churches in Alaska, Nicaragua, and Louisiana, among other places. Jack was an avid reader and life-long learner, interested in topics as varied as history, aviation,



Democratic politics, and classical music. He loved to laugh and to make others laugh.



Betty Shoaf of Grand Junction, CO passed away on January 24. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Grand Junction. A memorial service is being planned for March 8, 2012.

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP



Open My Eyes,
My Heart,
My Hands
MARK 10:46-52

AFC'12

America for Christ Offering 2012

**America For Christ Offering Sunday
March 4, 2012**

America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that engage discipleship across the United States and Puerto Rico—through evangelism training, missional church learning experiences, discipleship resources, youth initiatives, volunteer ministries and disaster response, plus initiatives that fight poverty and so much more. To learn ways that your church can get involved, give, and more, visit

www.abhms.org or abc-usa.org.

Watch the Mail for your 2011 Annual Report

It is that time of year again to collect your church data to update our Region office data and National registry. We know that this process takes some time to complete, but the information is useful to assess the health of our denomination. It helps us plan for future mission and ministry, so your reports are important!

National has heard both your and our requests and responded by creating a shorter form. We are hoping that this will help all of you to complete your reports.

2011 Annual Report's were mailed on Friday, January 20. Please take the time to complete it and send it in early.

We thank all of you for your support to our Region.

2011 Annual Report
ABC of the Rocky Mountains
April 30, 2012
Thank you for your commitment!

Calendar



February

Pray God's Word. Many people hesitate to pray because they aren't sure what to say or ask for. Learn the art of expressing God's heart with your own words. As you form your own prayer in keeping with the vision and truth of the Scriptures, you will find that your prayers begin to align with God's heart and purpose. You'll find confidence to pray some very specific things with persistent, long-term vision.

—from *Seek God for the City 2010* by Waymakers

Revival Prayer Focus:

"Lord Jesus, You know our hearts. Surely You see that although our love is erratic, and imperfect, we do indeed love You. We have perceived only a small bit of Your great love. As You promised, reveal Yourself to us. Prevent us from attempting to be religious over-achievers, vainly trying to make a new life happen by our own energies. Your resurrection life is the only hope we have of truly living Your life to the fullest."

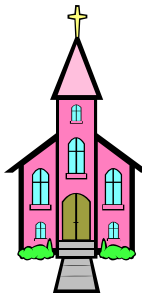
Pray:

- † For God's love to be revealed afresh to hardened backsliders
- † For struggling believers to be encountered by Christ with heart-changing clarity, so that they are renewed to live in Christ's power.

—from *Seek God for the City 2010* by Waymakers

Take Time this Month to Pray for:

- † FBC, Center — Pastor Betty J. Weaver
- † FBC, Cheyenne — Pastor Jason L. King
- † FBC, Colorado Springs —
Pastor Mike Sayler
- † FBC, Delta — Pastor James Conley
- † FBC, Denver — Rev. Kay Farley
- † FBC, Dolores — Pastor Walther Olsen



Please pray for these ABC leaders:

Regional:

- † Bill Mankin, Ministry and Mission Coach

National:

- † For all ABC-USA Regional Executive Ministers

Praying "Outside the Walls":

Pray and ask the Lord to show you someone who is feeling unloved or lonely. Consider inviting them to your home or out for lunch as a means of reaching out to a hurting sojourner.

February

- Feb. 3 (Fri) Potluck for Church Fox at Trinity Baptist Church
- Feb. 5 (Sun) Chuck Fox speaks at FBC, Loveland
- Feb. 12 (Sun) Chuck Fox speaks at FBC, Boulder
- Feb. 14 (Tue) Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17-19 ABW Colorado Winter Retreat (Fri-Sun)
- Feb. 19 (Sun) Chuck Fox speaks at FBC, Fowler
- Feb. 20 (Mon) President's Day
- Feb 24-26 Faith Seeking Understanding: A Short Introduction to Christian Theology (Fri-Sun) MLC Course
- Feb. 26 (Sun) First Sunday of Lent

March

- Mar. 3 (Sat) Teach to Reach, The Event — 2012 Denver First Church of the Nazarene
- Mar. 4 (Sun) America For Christ Offering Sunday
- Mar. 11 (Sun) Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 18 (Sun) AB Women in Ministry Sunday
- Mar. 23-24 Region Board Meeting (Fri-Sat)
- Mar. 23-Apr. 1 Chiapas Mission Trip for Young Leaders

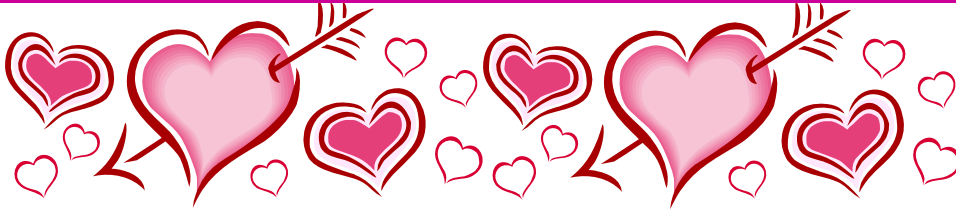
April

- Apr. 1 (Sun) Palm Sunday
- Apr. 6 (Fri) Good Friday
- Apr. 8 (Sun) Easter Sunday
- April 14 (Sat) Wyoming Cluster Meeting
- Apr. 20-22 2012 Impact Youth Retreat (Fri-Sun)
- Apr. 22 (Sun) ABC Camps and Conferences Sunday
- Apr. 25 (Wed) Administration Professionals Day

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

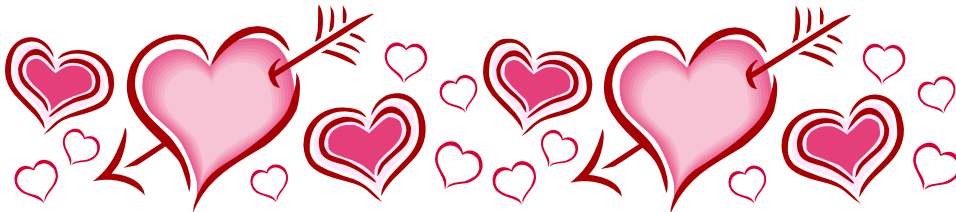


Herbert's weak efforts to affirm his love for his lovely bride Lucy of 25 years left him again wandering out on to the THIN ICE of marriage.



*Valentine's Day
is a wonderful way
to make "I love you"
easy to say.*

Happy Valentine's Day



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Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

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

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