



*...you will
be my
witnesses
in
Jerusalem,
in all
Judea
and
Samaria,
and
to the
ends
of the
earth.
Acts 1:8*

DEAR MISSION ADVOCATE:

American Baptist mission has long been one of my passions!

As a member of National Ministries' staff in the seventies and eighties, I had the privilege of working first-hand with such wonderful Christian Center missionaries as Solomon Gort, Doris Fell, Dave Stone, Ken Smith, Carrie Bell Brown, Amos Dudley and many, many others. What dedicated servants I found these home missionaries to be!

Over the past several years, as I have traveled extensively overseas speaking and teaching, I have had the privilege of working with our international partners and missionaries and seeing first-hand the vibrant variety of ministries we have pioneered.

And as a regional executive minister, our region was a mission organization helping our churches reach the unchurched, minister to immigrant populations, start new churches and address issues of social justice in our state.

Nothing says "American Baptist" like mission. And you have the great privilege of educating your congregation about the wonderful ways God is using us to achieve kingdom purposes as a missionary people!

May God bless your ministry of education and motivation! You are key partners in helping us grow as a mission movement!

Yours in Christ,




A. Roy Medley
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

The Rev. A. Roy Medley, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey and a leader long active at local, regional and national levels of denominational life, was elected general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA by the denomination's General Board at the Nov. 16, 2001 meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ.

The Winter 2002 issue of American Baptists In Mission and the American Baptist website, www.abc-usa.org, has information about the background of our new general secretary; his vision statement for ABCUSA, "Centered in Christ;" and his address to the General Board following his election, "As One Who Serves."

"In this 21st Century let it be said that a small band of Christians known as American Baptists filled with the power of the Spirit, centered in Christ, led by God, dared to take up the cross to 'bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

"Let it be said we decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back."

*Address to General Board
Nov. 16, 2001*

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Think about Christian leaders or missionaries that have made an impact on your life or encouraged you in a way that led to your commitment to American Baptist mission. Offer to write a testimony about that person for your church newsletter or give as a moment for mission during a worship service.

- Ask your pastor or editor of the church newsletter to reprint Rev. Medley's vision statement for ABCUSA, "Centered in Christ."

- Rev. Medley cited Luke 4:18-19 in his acceptance address to the General Board. Encourage Sunday school classes and Bible study groups to read these verses and discuss how you can measure your church's mission and ministry by them.

- Ask your prayer team and congregation to pray that God will give Rev. Medley the strength and wisdom for the tasks ahead.



*"Did we
see you?"*

*Matthew
25:37*

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2002 WALKATHONS

Stepping Out Across America

Many congregations plan annual America for Christ walkathons that raise significant support for American Baptist mission in the United States and Puerto Rico and also provide a visible witness in their own communities. And they don't let cold or snowy weather hold them back. Ski-athons, bowl-athons, skate-athons, even rocking chair-athons have been very successful.

In 2001 Carl Anderson, 12, was the individual walker who raised the most money on America for

Christ walkathon reports. He and his family are members of United Baptist Church in

Caribou, ME, where the Rev. John Ross is pastor. Although Carl had broken his elbow while roller blading and it was in a heavy cast, he was determined to participate.

How did he get pledges? By "going through the church directory" and then contacting others outside the church family. The United Baptist Church walkathon began at the church, circled along a dirt path near Collins Pond, and ended up back at the church for a barbecue.

"The pastor told us how the money would help people learn about Jesus," says Carl, who received a certificate and scholarship to an American Baptist camp or conference for his efforts. "Walkathons are a good way to get some friends to come to church who don't usually come."

Step-by-step help for planning a 2002 America for Christ walkathon is available by contacting the Rev. Cheryl Dudley, National Ministries associate executive director, who serves as national walkathon coordinator, at 800-ABC-3USA x2420, or cheryl.dudley@abc-usa.org.



Friendship House in Hamtramck, MI, co-sponsors an annual America for Christ walkathon with the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. As they walk, participants learn about the myriad of ministries at the Christian center related to National Ministries' Neighborhood Action Program. The Rev. Sharon Buttry, an American Baptist home missionary, serves as executive director.



**is a vision for
American Baptists
to reach 1,000,010
new disciples, plant
1,010 new
churches, vitalize a
multitude of caring
ministries, and so
transform our
congregations by
the year 2010.
America for Christ
gifts help make the
NEW LIFE 2010
vision a reality.**



2001 Walkathon certificate is presented to Carl Anderson (center) of Caribou United Baptist Church, ME, by the Rev. John Ross, pastor (right) with Dr. Alfred Fletcher, executive minister of ABC of Maine.



**Available at no
cost in English
and Spanish:**
America for Christ 2002
Prayer Calendars,
posters, bulletin inserts,
leader's guides, and
envelopes were shipped
in mid-December to
churches that receive
standing orders.
To order additional
resources, call
800-458-3766.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Set an America for Christ goal that stretches your church.
- Use the leader's guide promotion calendar to make sure you're on track for a challenging and successful offering.
- Go to the website for more information and ideas, www.abc-usa.org.
- Try at least ONE new idea from the guide. Do something different!
- Let us know how you did! Please return the evaluation form. We're especially looking for your creative promotion ideas to use in next year's leader's guide.

EQUIPPING AND RESOURCING IN 2002

... in all
Judea
and
Samaria...

In 2002, Educational Ministries once again demonstrates its commitment to equipping and resourcing every American Baptist church with the introduction of two new catalogs: **Sharing the Good News: Resources for Evangelism and Outreach** and **Recursos en Español**.

Sharing the Good News is a joint effort between National Ministries' Rev. Brenda Halliburton and Judson Press. It features resources for prayer, personal witness, preaching, outreach, discipleship and congregational vitality. This catalog includes both the newest publications in evangelism,

as well as many of the classic titles. In addition, resources for Alpha, an increasingly popular community outreach program, are available through this catalog. Each church will receive a copy of **Sharing the Good News**; however, if you need additional copies,

please call Judson Press customer service at 800-4-JUDSON.

Recursos en Español is designed to meet the needs of the growing Spanish-speaking membership of American Baptist churches. Between 1990 and 2000, Hispanic membership grew by 8.9%, making it the fastest growing segment of our denomination. In an effort to provide these congregations with an increasing assortment

of appropriate materials, Judson worked with Mayra Castañeda, Hispanic Christian Education Director, to identify the most recent Spanish Christian Education publications. Noemi Ayuso provided the Spanish translation for the catalog copy. The result is a comprehensive catalog featuring Bibles, books on Bible study, pastoral care, discipleship, mission, and worship, and children's resources and curriculum. Each Spanish-speaking church has received a copy of this valuable resource, but again, if additional copies are needed, please call Judson customer service.

Finally, please note upcoming conferences sponsored by Educational Ministries. We look forward to seeing you there!

Youth Ministry Colleague Forum,
May 20-23, Green Lake, WI
Theme: "Come Let Us Bow Down in Worship" Contact: Darlene Jackson,
800-222-3872 x2262



National Black Church Education Conference, June 25-29, Detroit, MI
Theme: "Be Connected" Contact:
Yvonne Carter, 800-222-3872 x2257

Christian Education Conference,*
July 6-12, Green Lake, WI, Theme:
"Discipleship Matters" Contact:
Becky Crouch, 304-422-6449

*Please note that this conference will include a number of workshops and seminars in Spanish. Contract: Noemi Ayuso, 800-222-3782 x2268.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Alert your pastor or the chair of your evangelism team about these new resources.
- Encourage leadership and/or members to attend a conference sponsored by Educational Ministries.



DID WE SEE YOU?

Matthew 25:37



The Rev. Wilfred Brown



The Rev. Barbara Lacker-Ware

*... in all
Judea
and
Samaria...*

The theme for America for Christ 2002 challenges us to see Christ in the faces of those around us. To respond to people with needs as though we were responding to Christ “in need.” America for Christ gifts do just that, touching and changing lives from Alaska and Hawaii across the 48 land-connected states to Puerto Rico.

The tragic events of Sept. 11 remind us of America’s urgent need for the Gospel of hope in Jesus Christ. In national and personal times of tragedy, people often search for God. Responding to physical and emotional needs opens the door for American Baptist mission workers to share their faith.

*From the Rev. Wilfred Brown
Team Leader, Indian Ministries
Hobart, OK*

“In the Southern Plains there are 11 American Baptist Indian churches and three institutions: Bacone College, Murrow Indian Children’s Home and the Christian Center of Anadarko. This past year work groups from different states came and did work projects and Vacation Bible Schools in several of the churches. I am so grateful for the financial support of Indian Ministries through the America for Christ Offering and for the ABC USA family. Again I want to say thank you—Ah-hoo in Kiowa—so very much. May the Lord bless you and keep you always.”

*From the Rev. Barbara Lacker-Ware
Executive Director,
Cameron Community Ministries
Rochester, NY*

“Our budget is as lean as it can possibly be without shortchanging any mission program area. Each year Cameron Community Ministries:

- Serves more than 9,300 evening meals to children through the Kids’ Cafe.
- Provides 24,000 hot lunches to persons in need.
- Sees more than 200 children and youth participate in children/ youth programs.
- Supplies clothing and household items to 1,600 households

I am thankful for all who support us financially. You are our partners as we provide gifts of love, hope and grace in the name of Jesus Christ to those in need.”

An Invitation:

Can You See It?

Isaiah 43:19

August 11-14, 2002

Colorado Springs, CO

Can You See It? is a conference designed to help American Baptists see “new life” possibilities and acquire tools to bring new life into their lives and ministries. Invited are all who are interested in embracing positive change for the sake of our witness for Jesus Christ.

- Hear from change experts and practitioners
- Visit exciting local ministry sites
- Experience seminars on change readiness
- Celebrate new life in a variety of worship styles

For more information, visit www.can-u-see-it.org or call 800-ABC-3USA x2420.

Sponsored by National Ministries.
Supported by NEW LIFE 2010.

Hosted by the ABC of the Rocky Mountains.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

• For a free **NEW LIFE 2010 video** (4 min.; English and Spanish) or a brochure listing all of National Ministries mission programs, call **800-ABC-3USA x2464**.

• Download home missionary bios at www.nationalministries.org.

SHARING THE VISION

*... and
to the
ends
of the
earth.
Acts 1:8*

The mission of the Kwai River Christian Hospital (KRCH) in rural Thailand is “to look after the least of all for the Mightiest and Highest of all.” It is a high calling, but it is the vision that God gave the staff of this rural hospital on the border with Myanmar (Burma). Looking after the least includes helping tuberculosis patients when hospitalization is no longer required. The patients at KRCH are normally very poor and are often refugees. The treatment for tuberculosis requires receiving regular medication over a period of time. When the patients are well enough to leave the hospital, they are still in need of medication and assistance and they need to stay near the hospital during their recovery. To help these patients, the hospital has a guesthouse where they can stay. Over the years the condition of this house has deteriorated, but it was the only way to maintain care for the tuberculosis patients.

SEEING A NEED

About two years ago volunteer doctors Roy and Gill Myers caught a vision to build a new tuberculosis guesthouse at KRCH. Dr. Gill has a special interest in tuberculosis as she worked in the area of tuberculosis treatment and control for many years in the United States. While the Myers were at the hospital, the expansion of the laundry facility was completed. They were impressed with the sturdy, simple construction. They were also impressed with how much better it looked than the old tuberculosis guesthouse they saw only a stone's



The mission of the Kwai River Christian Hospital is “to look after the least of all for the Mightiest and Highest of all.”

throw away.

It seemed to them that the tuberculosis patients should have a place to stay at least as good as a laundry shed. The Myers asked if the hospital would consider building a new tuberculosis guesthouse using the same construction style as the laundry shed if they could help raise the funds. They received a positive response. The Myers set out to raise the necessary funds, sharing their vision with their church and friends. Through this, the Myers involved many in this outreach to improve the lives of their neighbors in Southeast Asia.

MEETING A NEED


By the grace of God and the goodness of the Myers and their friends at church and at work, this building has been completed. The skill of Sang Hlaing (the head contractor), the diligence of Kung (a member of the public health team who oversaw the construction) and

the bookkeeper, who kept track of the funds, were also vital links in completing construction. On February 1, the staff at KRCH gathered to dedicate and celebrate the new tuberculosis guesthouse.

The Myers saw a need at KRCH and sought to meet the needs of the greater, worldwide community, and in the process invited others to be involved in helping “to look after the least of all for the Mightiest and Highest of all.”

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Look for ways your church can be involved in “looking after the least of all for the Mightiest and Highest of all.” For information on how to do this globally, contact International Ministries (1-800-222-3872 or www.InternationalMinistries.org).

- Seek to involve others in the ministry to which God has called you and your church. 





At Ground Zero the Rev. William Grant leads the Tribeca new church in a baby blessing service for Ethan Philip Hall, providing a sign of new life and new hope for the community.

MOVING FROM TRAUMA TO TRANSFORMATION

As the nation has painfully discovered, practically everyone has been affected by Sept. 11 in some way. Depression and anger are common. Many people suffer forms of post-traumatic stress reaction. Life has changed forever for those who lost family members or friends or who were severely injured.

From the first days of the tragedy, Church World Service (CWS) realized that effective response to such psychological trauma would be critical to the nation's recovery. CWS made the decision to focus on immediate and long-term pastoral care and counseling as the cornerstone of its Sept. 11 response in the United States, and is equipping pastors and other caregivers to carry out this work.

"This disaster response effort is vast in scope, national in scale, and is set for long-term recovery efforts," said Rick Augsburg, who directs CWS's Emergency Response Program, which includes both domestic and international work.

To this task, CWS brings hope and compassion—and expertise born of experience. For 56 years, CWS has responded to humanitarian crises in the US

and around the globe, including the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Lessons about care giving gleaned from that disaster are especially applicable in the current situation.

In fact, CWS shared those learnings with 70 caregivers in New York City, at an October 26-27 event that was the first in a series of CWS Interfaith Trauma Response Team training events. Leading sessions were Oklahoma City pastors and

counselors who had played prominent roles in providing care after the bombing.

To complement and expand training opportunities in New York, CWS has teamed up with Eastern Mennonite University (EMU). Starting in February 2002, they jointly will sponsor monthly five-day

courses at EMU. By the end of 2003, the program will have trained 500 clergy from the New York area, other parts of the US, and other countries that have experienced trauma. The ultimate goal: leaders who can help congregants move from grief and trauma to conflict transformation and peacemaking.

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THANK YOU!

American Baptists gave over \$1,000,000 to the One Great Hour of Sharing Sept. 11 funds. One of the ways those gifts will serve the people impacted by Sept. 11 is through our partnership with Church World Service. Staff of American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York is directly involved with the Interfaith Trauma Response Program, which has brought people together in the wake of disaster. The common challenge of long-term counseling for survivors has also forged new bonds of unity among Christian, Jewish, and Muslim clergy in the New York area.

VIDEO RESOURCE

Noel Paul Stookey (of "Peter, Paul and Mary") and the Northfield Mount Herman School Choir sing "O God, Our Words Cannot Express," a hymn about Sept. 11 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, in a two-minute music video. Suitable for use as a minute for mission in worship services and other settings. Your regional office has a copy. Or view the video at www.churchworldservice.org.



ABC WEBSITE:
WWW.ABC-USA.ORG

7

STEPS TO MEANINGFUL MINUTES FOR MISSION

*Tell the
mission story
with words
and emotion.*



AMERICAN BAPTIST
CHURCHES USA

An important way that you, as a Mission Advocate, can tell mission stories is through "minutes for mission" during worship services or other congregational gatherings. Here are some tips.

1. CONTENT

- Find mission stories that will interest your congregation from publications and websites...
 - American Baptists *In Mission*
 - Educational, International, and National Ministries
 - Your Region
 - American Baptist Women and Men
 - United Mission and the four offerings
 - AB institutions (homes, hospitals, colleges, seminaries, campus ministries)
- Tell *one* story. Choose an incident that shows the Spirit of Christ at work in the world.

2. TIMING

- Be *brief*...never more than 3 minutes.
- Give *regularly*...every week or every month, same time, same place to maintain continued interest.
- Be *timely*...relating current events.

3. COMMUNICATION

- Choose *appropriate* stories... geared to interests of your group.
- Be *factual*...based upon authentic information.
- Share ways *mission funds* are used by the church effectively and efficiently.
- Demonstrate the *variety* of ways people are in mission...at home, in your region, in this country, and overseas.

4. PRESENTERS

- Ask people who are members of...
 - Mission committee, deacons, trustees, choir, women's, men's, and youth groups
 - Church school (all ages)
 - Guests—representatives of local mission projects or people who

have traveled and experienced mission in action

- Missionaries and staff
- Speak slowly and clearly. Talk to the last person in the last row so *all* may hear.
- Look at the congregation as though you are proud to tell the *Good News* you bring!

5. CREATIVITY

- Get a group together for a dialogue, panel, skit, or interviews. Be sure it is well planned in advance.
- Illustrate your talk with a few photos of people in action. (Don't use buildings or posed groups.)
- Use a flip chart to explain complicated figures or statistics. Prepare graphics in advance. Don't write or draw as you talk. Use a blank page to conceal the first page until ready to use.
- Have a Phone-A-Mission. Amplify a long distance call from a missionary.
- Set up a Video Conference or Chat Room with a missionary via your computer.

6. KNOWLEDGE

- Seek out new issues that will increase awareness of the whole mission of the church.
- Study your script. Tell the story in your own words after careful study of your material.
- Have printed materials available.

7. MOTIVATION

- Point out the need to support present programs and new requests for mission projects.
- Show how we are part of a world-wide body of Christian believers.
- Stimulate involvement in mission.

And always...be prepared to answer questions.