



YOUR PARTNER IN MINISTRY

www.abc-usa.org

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

THE ABCS OF THE ABC WEB SITE

The Internet offers so much to see and to do. But your denomination's home page can offer you:

All you want to know about American Baptists, such as

Building your own Web site

Contacts with national staff

Disaster relief response

Everything you ever wanted to know about ABC mission

Finding a new church if you're moving, or for a friend

Green Lake Conference Center events

How to make a planned gift

In Mission articles

Job opportunities

Kaleidoscope of Events

Links to Regions, Boards, etc.

Mission at Home and Overseas

News releases

Ordering Judson Press resources

Policies and Resolutions

Questions about tithing

Resources for ABMen Sunday

Stats about Women in Ministry

The Revised Common Lectionary for American Baptist use

Universities, colleges, seminaries, homes and hospitals

Volunteer opportunities

We are American Baptists brochure

Xtreme Team

You can contribute, too!

Zany quotable quotes



David Chandler

Associate Director
Office of Communication
General Ministries

As supervisor of the ABCUSA Web site (**abc-usa.org**), David provides relevant Web-ready content for the site and keeps the site functioning properly. The Office of Communication originates content and prepares existing work for the site like the AB News Service and AB In Mission magazine.

The look and feel of the site will be retooled next year, and all resources will be expanded and accessible from almost any page.

INTERNET FACTS:

• The U. S. Department of Defense developed the Internet in **1969** during the cold war to explore the possibility of a communication network that could survive a nuclear attack. It continued simply because it provided a convenient way to communicate.

• **1 in 6** people use the Internet in North America and Europe.

• In **1993**, there were **26,000** domain names in use. In **1999**, there were **5** million web sites.

• In **1993**, **3** million people were connected to the Internet. In **1999**,

80 million Americans were connected and approximately **200** million people worldwide.

• **364** million PCs were in use in **1998**.

• Over **64** million adults go online in the U.S. every month.

• Internet advertising generated **\$1.92** billion in **1998**, double the **1997** figure.

• In **1999**, **17** million US households shopped online with retail sales topping **\$20.2** billion.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

• If you aren't already a "user," bookmark **www.abc-usa.org** and check it out regularly.

• If you don't have a PC, ask your grandson, niece, church secretary, or friend with a PC to show you the Web site so you can become familiar with information that's available online.

• Like to see something done differently? Can't find information you think should be on the Web site? Send your suggestion to **David.Chandler@abc-usa.org**.





www.abc-usa.org

Click on American Baptist Missions



MISSION GIVING ONLINE

Matthew Brown

World Mission Support Web Site
and Project Manager

Part of the World Mission Support team for less than a year, Matt quickly and ably took on the challenge of getting mission support and stewardship online. Contact him with your ideas and comments: matthew.brown@abc-usa.org

For information and resources about stewardship, tithing, mission support, mission stories, and mission advocates, click on American Baptist Missions, or go directly to www.abcusamissions.org

The site also accepts online gifts and will soon have an online "shopping" section where you can order offering and stewardship materials.

TOP TEN REASONS TO USE THE INTERNET

- 1.** The Internet provides free resources. When you connect to the Internet, a world of free or inexpensive materials can be either downloaded or sent for. The ABC Web site is a well-spring of online educational and informational resources about American Baptist identity, mission, and community.
- 2.** No place is more than a few mouse clicks away. Take virtual mission trips to every corner of the earth from your home or office. Learn about other cultures and languages. Strike up new relationships by e-mail.
- 3.** The Internet is "open" 24 hours a day, allowing you to plan, communicate, research, or whatever you want to do whenever you want to do it.
- 4.** The Internet provides motivation. People who may be reluctant writers, find that access to audiences of large numbers of their

peers gives them reason and confidence to express themselves.

- 5.** The Internet allows you to learn by doing. Many sites are interactive and provide ways to ask questions.
- 6.** The Internet allows expanded opportunities for mentoring. Formal and informal online exchanges among professionals and students or interns builds supportive relationships, often sustained over a period of time.
- 7.** The Internet ends isolation. People with similar concerns, etc., develop online communities to support their individual issues.
- 8.** The Internet can bring churches, schools, and communities closer together. Networks result in increased sharing of employment opportunities and responses to needs.
- 9.** The Internet can spread good news (and Good News!).

- 10.** The Internet rejuvenates your life! You've released yourself from being a "prisoner of time," ended isolation, made new discoveries, gained motivation, and found a network of support.

Adapted from "The Top Ten Reasons Why Teachers Use the Internet,"
www.songline.com/teachers/ferdi.html.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Check out the new e-Bulletin Inserts, "Stewards for New Life," and encourage your pastor to include them in your Sunday bulletins or newsletter.
- Read the new words for the hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past," written in response to the events on Sept. 11.
- Try out the new "Give Now" button and make a gift to United Mission online.



www.abc-usa.org

Click on Educational Ministries

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

DISCIPLESHIP ONLINE

Looking for resources for a small group Bible study? Need Sunday school curriculum or materials for midweek children's ministry? Want information about the next national Christian education conference? Find all this—and much more—on ABC Educational Ministries' website. Go to www.abc-usa.org and click on Educational Ministries or go directly to www.abc-em.org.



Educational Ministries—"EM"—believes that discipleship matters! We focus on resources that can help your church "make disciples" who have a growing faith in Jesus Christ and who live out their faith in ministry with others. We also offer resources for leader development.

Crawl Line

The EM website's welcoming homepage features a "crawl line"—moving text, updated often and highlighting special prayer requests, new Training Time leader development workshops, or useful worship resources. A Search tool makes it easy to find specific information. And quick links at the top of this—and every—page give you instant access to ministry areas such as Discipleship Ministries, Conferences, Partnerships, and Resources. Click on Financial Aid, for example, for complete infor-

mation on scholarships, loans, and grants that are available to American Baptist students and ministerial leaders. Through the Discipleship Ministries link you can "meet" EM's program staff, who are ready to assist your church or region in age group ministries, spiritual renewal, and many other areas. E-mail links offer a quick way to get in touch with our staff.

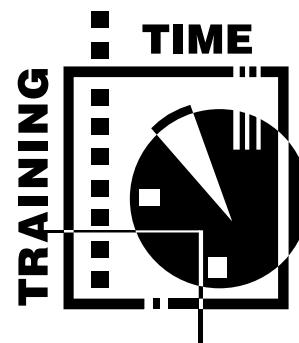
Resources

You'll find a wide variety of Resources at the link by that name. Here, too, is a link to www.judson-press.com, our Judson Press publishing ministry. Preview curriculum choices and books or check out free downloads on this colorful site.

Partnerships

Click on Partnerships to learn about higher education institutions related to American Baptist Churches USA through Educational Ministries. Other partners include American Baptist camping and conference ministries, campus ministries, and volunteer Partners In Education. This link also features stories about churches sponsoring outreach ministries with community children and youth.

Visit us soon—and don't forget to sign the Guestbook!



New from EM ...

You can now download any of 50 Training Time workshops to meet your leadership training needs. See the Resources section of the EM website, or go directly to www.abc-em.org/resources/training.cfm. Several workshops have now been translated into Spanish. Workshops can also be ordered by calling 800-ABC-3USA x2222.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Visit www.abc-em.org and take a few moments to discover all the resources offered by Educational Ministries. Tell others what you've found!
- Offer to present a mission moment about one or more discipleship ministries, or share this information with your mission board.



www.abc-usa.org

Click on National Ministries

HOME MISSION ONLINE

In the days following Sept. 11, American Baptists sought comfort, healing and a sense of shalom—God's peace—in a broken world. So National Ministries began posting information on its Web site to help American Baptists learn what was



happening nationally, regionally and locally in response to the tragedy.

The news and information appears in OnLine with American Baptist Home Mission, an electronic newsletter (including downloadable photos) prepared for regions and churches. The most recent pages of OnLine include prayer requests, news about chaplains, reports about giving, and stories of mission and ministry in response to Sept. 11.

Go to www.abc-usa.org and click on National Ministries, or go directly to www.nationalministries.org.

At Ground Zero

One story tells of a new American Baptist congregation in Tribeca, New



The Rev. William Grant leads the Tribeca new church in a baby blessing service for Ethan Philip Hall—a sign of new life and new hope for the community.



YOUR PARTNER IN HOME MISSION

Fran Homer

Associate Director of
Communication, National Ministries

York City. The congregation had been worshipping in the Borough of Manhattan Community College, now a command center. Church planter, the Rev. William Grant says: "Ground Zero is our parish. This ground has been consecrated by the blood of thousands of people from every faith and creed, from countries all over the world. Our ministry of love and support has been interfaith—inclusive of the whole community."

Volunteer Skills Network

OnLine also connects visitors and readers to other resources available to American Baptists seeking to join in the Shalom Response. Volunteers, for example, are encouraged to enroll in the new Volunteer Skills Network that matches volunteer skills with specific requests. Enroll online at www.abc-skills.org. (Interested volunteers may also contact region offices or call 800-ABC-3USA x2413.)

Fran Homer says her challenge is to share with the "person in the pew" the many ways Christ's Gospel is being shared across the country. Homer, a commissioned American Baptist home missionary, writes and edits OnLine with American Baptist Home Mission and contributes to other publications and productions. "It is rewarding when people begin to understand the variety and breadth of our witness in home mission from Alaska to Puerto Rico," she says.

Homer also oversees Overland White Cross and the Special Interest Missionary programs.

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

Mission Staff Profiles

You will find other home mission publications, resources and information on the NM homepage. Biographical sketches of National Ministries mission staff may be downloaded at www.nationalministries.org. On the Site Map, click on "Home Missionaries" and then choose "National Ministries Staff and Missionaries."

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Use the Shalom Response prayer request list from OnLine with American Baptist Home Mission.
- Visit www.nationalministries.org and take a tour! Selections on the Site Map might include "Community Based Ministries," "Planter Prayer Cards," and "Youth Media."
- Sign the guestbook and leave your e-mail address for special home mission updates.



www.abc-usa.org

Click on International Ministries

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

OVERSEAS MISSION ONLINE

There's always something new on the International Ministries web site. Go to www.abc-usa.org and click on International Ministries, or go directly to www.internationalministries.org. If you haven't visited this site lately, you're probably missing out! The format of the Internet allows us to post the latest information in a matter of minutes.

When you visit the International Ministries web site, you can:

- Get the latest information about missionaries and staff at International Ministries such as e-mail addresses, mailing addresses and ministry information.

- Read or download the Go Global strategic plan in English and Spanish and watch video about International Ministries' initiatives for this decade.

- Access the latest news about American Baptist and Baptist-related ministry around the globe.

- Read the International Ministries Update on Web and print it from the portable document format (PDF) version. (Adobe Acrobat Reader, is required to view PDF documents. You can download this program for free.)

- By downloading the PDF version of the monthly International Ministries Update you can print the same resource you would receive in the mail. The difference is that the online version is available on the Internet before it lands in your mailbox!

- Be informed about resources

from International Ministries such as World Mission Offering materials. The Advent Calendar in the fall is posted in the resources section.

- Find out about the World Mission Conference, August 3-10, 2002.

- Visit a special site where you can learn about and pray for Korea. This summer the Rev. Dr. Billy Kim, Baptist World Alliance President and Korean pastor, shared how God is moving in both

North and South Korea. The churches in South Korea are alive and growing and many are seeking ways to assist their sisters and brothers in the north who face much hardship. Up-to-date and ongoing prayer requests are available for this divided nation in need of prayer.

- Download International Ministries' graphics for use in your church programs.

- Learn about the latest needs for career and volunteer missionaries. Is God calling you or someone you know to international service? Contact recruitment through the site or print out a copy of the missionary application form. effort to become more financially independent," says James. "This would enable more families to keep all of their children at home and not rely on the state

When you give to the
WORLD MISSION OFFERING,
you support God's mission to,
from and within all six continents.

g + global

2001 WORLD MISSION OFFERING
International Ministries
American Baptist Churches



orphanage system to meet their children's needs."

Future plans for the International Ministries web site include:

- Online profile information and web journals from missionaries.
- Online ordering for resources
- Online registration for the World Mission Conference.

ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Add **www.internationalministries.org** to the "Favorites" list in your Web browser. If you don't have access to the Internet, many local libraries provide this service.
- Check the International Ministries site weekly.
- Make sure your pastor is aware of this resource.





Ancient ruins near Antioch

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes a church forgets the biblical roots of the ways they do mission support fundraising. The local, community, regional, national, and global responsibilities of a congregation often become trivialized into “dues to the denomination.” This Bible study addresses this perception by focusing on the ministry of the New Testament church in Antioch—where followers of Christ were first called Christians and first placed “their hands on them, and sent them off.” The Christians in Antioch modeled what today American Baptists call United Mission.

- Study Acts 1:8, 11:19-30, 13:1-3; Galatians 2:11-21.

- Read the brochure, “What is United Mission?” (Free; 800-458-3766)

- Know how much your congregation currently gives to United Mission and how your region is supported by United Mission.



AMERICAN BAPTIST
CHURCHES USA

Encourage use of this Bible study in your church council, trustees, deacons, and/or stewardship committee, as well as in Sunday school, to help leadership and members understand the biblical roots and importance of our American Baptist United Mission.

ANTIOCH: FIRST IN UNITED MISSION

SESSION ONE: ANTIOCH, THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

Opening

Ask participants to describe the churches of their youth. Identify something funny, something positive and negative, and something you will never forget. What did their churches do in their local communities? What did they do for mission beyond the community? Ask those who do not have a church background to share their early impressions.

Bible Study

1. Read Acts 1:8. If you have an historic map, point out the locations of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria on the map. Judea and Samaria, while provinces of the Roman Empire in the time of Jesus, were the kingdom during the time of David. Judea and Samaria equal the nation. Compare the locale of the biblical nation to the ministries your church supports through United Mission.

- Jerusalem = Ministries of your church
- Judea = Ministries in your region (associations, societies, etc.)
- Samaria = Ministries in our country (education, home mission, leaders, pastors, etc.)
- To the ends of the earth = Ministries in other countries

2. Read Acts 11:19-30, 13:13. Note the marks of ministry in this church, where people were first called Christians.

Inclusive (11:20)

Evangelistic (11:21)

Cooperative (11:22)

Known (11:26)

Caring (11:25)

Giving (11:29)

Teaching (11:26)

Discipling (13:2)

Praying (11:21)

Worshiping (11:23)

Spirit-led (11:24)

Mission-sending (11:30)

Antioch modeled the pattern expected by Jesus’ commitment to ministry at home and away from home:

- Jerusalem (11:19-21), Local church ministry in Antioch
- Judea (11:22-23), Surrounding area
- Samaria (11:30) Care for the church in Jerusalem
- Ends of the earth (13:3), Paul and Barnabas as missionaries

Discussion Questions

Identify activities in your church that reflect ministry in Jerusalem (local), Judea (regional), Samaria (America), and ends of the earth (global).

Would you have joined the Antioch church? What about the church attracts you? What frightens you?

Share copies of the brochure, “What is United Mission?” Read excerpts “What’s in a name?” and “Why should our church contribute to United Mission?” Discuss the symbolism of the United Mission logo—the cross, the globe, and the church.

Closing

Pray for the ministry of local churches and the ministries of United Mission.



SESSION TWO: ANTIOCH, THE LOCAL CHURCH REACHES OUT

Opening

Ask participants to list the words that come to mind when they hear the word, “evangelism.” Did anyone join the church because of a special invitation? Ask if anyone has been involved in a new church plant. Review the American Baptist vision for NEW LIFE 2010.

Bible Study

Read Acts 112:20. The church at Antioch embraced inclusive evangelism. The early church debated whether Gentiles could be Christian. The first message was preached only to the Jews. Antioch included Greeks.

Read Acts 11:20 again, and then Acts 11:23. The church at Antioch practiced Christ-centered evangelism.

Read Acts 11:21. Antioch’s evangelism was successful. A great number of people turned to the Lord. Antioch’s evangelism modeled the first mission of the Gospel.

Discussion Questions

Develop an evangelism profile of your church by reviewing the number of baptisms and new members in the past three years. Who is your church attracting to Christ? Who would feel

uncomfortable in your church? Is your church involved in community ministry?

Discuss your church in relation to this statement: “The church is a community where there are no strangers.”

Talk about American Baptist denominational and regional evangelism ministries. (Visit www.abc-usa.org or call the minister of mission support in your region for information.)

When was the last time you helped someone come to Christ? Do you know someone now who you can help to find Christ as Lord?

Closing

Ask each person to share the name of someone they are concerned about, and pray together that God will help them share Christ with that person.

SESSION THREE: ANTIOCH, THE CHURCH CARES

Opening

Ask members if they know the names of your region’s executive minister, minister of mission support, and area ministers. Has anyone worked with regional staff? Do they know what part they play in the life of your church? Who does your pastor talk to about personal and church concerns?

Bible Study

When we think about early church leaders we usually think about Paul. But Paul would not have come to ministry without the supportive ministry of Barnabas. Look at the

following verses in Acts 11 that reveal the “marks of ministry” of Barnabas.

Received gladly (v. 22)
Respected by the whole church (v. 22)
Visionary (v. 23)
Encourager (v. 23; also Acts 4:36)
Good (v. 24)
Faithful (v. 24)
Courageous (v. 25)
Teacher (v. 26)
Caring (v. 29)
Trusted (v. 30)

Discussion Questions

Antioch was a great urban center of the Roman world, the third largest city in the empire. How did Barnabas and the Antioch church model Christ’s caring presence in the city? How is your church a caring presence in the community?

Our ministries may have never been more difficult and challenging than they are right now. Do you think it was harder in Antioch?

Regional ministry is supported by gifts to United Mission. One of the many responsibilities of a region executive minister is to serve as a pastor to pastors and a counselor to churches. Describe Barnabas in light of that calling.

We often feel starved for encouragement. Who encourages you? Who do you encourage? For one week, try to remove criticism of others from your conversations and replace it with encouragement.

Closing

Form two circles, one in the inside looking out, so each person faces another person. Give each pair 20 seconds to share words of encouragement with each other. Then ask the outside circle to move to the right



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to face the next person to the same thing until everyone on the outside has shared with everyone on the inside circle.



SESSION FOUR: ANTIOCH, THE CHURCH BECOMES INVOLVED

Opening

What is your most vivid memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Did you know that he was an American Baptist? Do you think racism is less or more prevalent in society today than it was during the days of Dr. King? How do you define justice? Is there joy in your definition? Why or why not?

Bible Study

The Antioch church was involved in justice issues as an extension of their commitment to Christ. Read Acts 13:1-3 and Galatians 2:11-16, 3:28.

When Antioch welcomed the Greeks, as well as the Jews, the Jerusalem church became nervous and sent Barnabas to see what was going on. Barnabas encouraged Antioch to continue their inclusive ministry. God in Christ loves each person, regardless of gender, culture, or age. That reality is the basis of

racial justice for Christians.

The Antioch church was sensitive to people's needs. They shared with the people in Judea when they heard of their famine. Compassion and justice walk together.

The Antioch church welcomed "Saul," who was later known as "Paul." They knew Saul had been a persecutor of the church, but encouraged him to be a teacher and commissioned him to be a missionary. His past deeds were not held against him. He was forgiven, accepted, and loved.

Paul confronted Peter for teaching that Christians must keep some of the Jewish laws. He challenged both Peter and Barnabas because they were clearly wrong. The principle of justice is rooted in God's love.

Discussion Questions

How friendly is your church to strangers? Do you tolerate differences?

How is your church engaged in community justice issues? How can you become involved?

What American Baptist resolutions and policies concern justice issues? (Visit www.abc-usa.org for a list.)

What are your concerns about the culture we live in? Relate each concern to the principles of biblical justice.

Conclusion

The ministries of the Antioch church are the same ministries sustained, enabled, and encouraged by American Baptist gifts to United Mission.

First the Antioch church shared their financial resources through the offering for the Jerusalem church.

Second they shared the Gospel with their neighbors.

Acts 13:3 says, "they laid their hands on them and sent them off." The verb "send" is the essence of United Mission. No church's ministry is complete unless it is engaged in mission at home, in your community, in your region, and in the world.

The missionary agenda of God is not complete. The church in Antioch was first in our united mission. We are commissioned to continue the ministry.

Closing

Offer a closing prayer asking God to bless your church and the ministries supporting United Mission in evangelism, compassion, justice, and service. Thank God for uniting you in mission.



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