



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA



THE MESSAGE BOARD
A Newsletter from
A. Roy Medley, General Secretary



Personal Reflections

October 2008

Ruminations on Worship in Dresden

Recently I worshipped at the Protestant Cathedral in Dresden, Germany, which had just completed its restoration in 2006 from when it collapsed during the allied attack on the city.

The gospel text depicted Jesus weeping over Jerusalem and declaring that one stone would not be left upon another. The epistle was Romans 11:28-35. This text highlights Paul's exhorting the church that the Jews had become enemies of the gospel for their sake and so that God by his mercy might save all.

Sitting in the reconstructed sanctuary, gilded and painted in the baroque style contrasting scenes from WW II, filled my mind as I read the Lucan text and the terrible judgment that had been poured out upon this city for the Nazi oppression of the Jews. "Not one stone...." The Cathedral collapsed the day after it burned and was left that way by the Soviet occupiers as a reminder of the war.

But this is more than a story of judgment. It is a story of redemption as well. In its rebuilding, this cathedral entered a covenanted relationship with Coventry Cathedral in England, which was destroyed by German bombs. In a mutual act of repentance for the terrors of war and forgiveness for decades-old wounds, these two great churches are no longer monuments to death, but testimonies to resurrection—all through the power of Christ's love lived.

As we left worship, yet another act expressed the new life of this church. The offering we gave as we exited worship was dedicated to Christian-Jewish relations."

Notable Events on Roy's Calendar

- **10/5/2008 & 10/12/2008**
Preaching in Congregations
- **10/14/2008 – 10/15/2008**
Speak Until Justice Wakes – J. Alfred Smith
Institute for Prophetic Justice
- **10/16/2008 – 10/19/2008**
Orientation to American Baptist Life (for
seminarians and pastors new to ABCUSA life)
- **10/21/2008 – 10/22/2008**
Gathering of American Baptist Asian Pastors
- **10/31/2008 – 11/1/2008**
Annual Meeting of American Baptist Churches of
Oregon

Prayer Matters

- For John Williams as he is installed as Executive
Minister of the Central Region
- For those who have suffered loss in our country
and around the world from natural disasters
- For peace in Iraq
- For American Baptist seminarians as they prepare
to serve the church in ministry
- For churches who are resettling refugee and
immigrant families that their hospitality might bring
joy to them and those they serve
- For God's blessing on the work of the Baptist-
Muslim Task Force and the Baptist World Alliance
response to the Muslim invitation to dialogue, "A
Common Word"
- For the staff of the Office of the General Secretary

American Baptists Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ

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