



The Baptist Observer Magazine

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 8 NO. 2 • MARCH/APRIL 2010

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

Thinking About Haiti



Dr. Don Scott
Associate Executive Minister
donscott@abc-indiana.org

On January 12, 2010, a natural disaster of epic proportions occurred without warning in the poorest country in our hemisphere. Suddenly, southern Haiti and its capital city, Port au Prince, were devastated by the most severe earthquake in more than 200 years. We've all seen the pictures and heard the reports of the destruction and loss of life.

The natural response is to ask how we can help to make a difference in a country where American Baptists have served since 1823. For American Baptists, there are three natural answers. As these are reiterated, it is important to remember that each is both short term and long term and all are vitally important.

Two things are needed right now...prayer and money. As Christians, we need to pray for Haiti and its people, including the leaders of the Haitian Baptist Convention and the pastors of local Haitian Baptist congregations as they serve their communities under

the most difficult circumstances. Obviously, prayer is both a short and long term need.

Due to the faithfulness and generosity of American Baptists, One Great Hour of Sharing money began to flow into Haiti within hours after the earthquake. Money designated for "Haiti Relief" will be used in its entirety for that purpose and will be funneled through our American Baptist missionaries who are in Haiti and through the Haitian Baptist Convention. Money can be given online at www.internationalministries.org or by check sent to International Ministries or through your local church. Money will be needed in both the short term and the long term.

Thirdly, over the next several months American Baptist work teams will be needed and welcome in Haiti. Right now, the need for people is centered on those with very specific skills, primarily skilled medical practitioners. Qualified and interested persons should be in touch with Angela Sudermann at International Ministries, 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2164.

As people from your church consider traveling to Haiti at some point in the future to do a work project, Angela Sudermann will be your best source of assistance. The need for work teams will also be long term.

Thus, prayer, money, and presence are and will be needed in Haiti. I am confident that American Baptists in our Region will be involved in all three responses in both the short and long term.

Thank you for all you have done and will do in the name of Christ in Haiti.

Hearts for Haiti

Submitted by: Seth Alexander, Pastor, FBC Bicknell



The Grapple Youth Group (4th, 5th, and 6th graders) at FBC Bicknell recently collected items to send to earthquake victims in Haiti. The program was titled "Hearts for Haiti" and collected items suggested by the Red Cross. Students and others donated enough bottled water, granola bars, toothbrushes, and travel toothpaste tubes to fill 50 shoe boxes. The Sonshine Kids group

(ages 3 - 3rd grade) also colored pictures to be included in each care package. After the boxes were assembled, the youth gathered around them to pray. God provided almost the exact amount needed in donations to pay for shipping! It was a true blessing to see God work through the hearts of the children to provide and pray for those with such basic desperate needs.

Northeast & Northwest Areas Combined Annual Meeting March 6, 2010

Theme: A Light Shines in the Darkness
(John 1:5)

Peru First Baptist Church
Registration Deadline:
March 1, 2010

Call or email with church name and total number of people attending

NW Area: Jim Walter (765-794-4400) or jimwalter@abc-indiana.org

NE Area: Phyllis Goodyear (317-373-9858) or

phyllisgoodyear@abc-indiana.org

ABC-IN/KY Vision Statement

"As the hands and feet of Christ, *compelled* by his love, we will *do whatever it takes* to reach the lost and serve our communities and churches."



Kyle Witmer, Age 7

Change and Growth

Greetings! Who is that hooligan? My name is Kyle Witmer, and I am currently serving as president of ABC-IN/KY. This picture was taken during my second or third grade year. That was a special year for me.

I became a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. I was baptized by my father, with my mother standing by saying, "you didn't hold him under long enough."

Much has changed since this picture was taken. I have grown older. I have grown wiser. I have grown in my faith and the ways I express that faith. As I look back at this picture, I wonder what life would be like had I not changed. Interestingly enough, each of my four children at one time or another has lamented the fact that they were getting older, that they were changing, and that they "just want to stay the same". On this side of change, I don't mind it so much. Often, we see the same in our own lives. We want very much for things to stay the same for a variety of reasons. Jesus doesn't call us to be the same, but to be transformed. Paul said it well, in 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NCV) "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways." I don't want to be a child anymore. I want Jesus to transform me. How about you?

The Energized Church

By: Peg Nowling, Pastor, FBC Lafayette
President, Minister's Council ABC-IN/KY & GI

Gavin, my fourth grade friend, took a test on electricity. He was tested on how energy moves and makes things work.

I understand the power of electricity. Energy is needed to accomplish everyday tasks and pleasures.

The church also needs energy. Without it, worship is dull and meaningless; ministries happen because they ought to, not because it makes our hearts sing.

Energy, however, is what we have when we enter into something that makes our hearts leap. It can come from the pastor, but it also comes from the "church". To be Jesus' church, everyone needs to bring energy.

What happens when either the pastor or the "church" is not energetic? Maybe the pastor is dealing with a health or emotional issue. Maybe the church is grieving the loss of a member.

When a loss of energy takes place, the church needs to be there for one another to supply the energy that is being used



elsewhere. The church needs to stand beside one another, holding the extension cord to supply what is needed at that moment.

The church that offers encouragement, knows best that energy comes from many sources working together!



By: Dan Barringer,
SW Area Resource Minister

To the early church, leading individuals to a relationship with Christ was not a program but a passion. However, as time has passed, so has much of the passion. For many of us, sharing the Gospel is something we attempt occasionally and most often

within our own walls.

Recently, it seems there is a new awareness, a re-awakening, a realization that the church is the primary tool God has for reaching those

without Christ. This renewed awareness is biblically based and needed if the Church is to live out its purpose in the world. Just as Christians set aside time to study, pray, worship, and fellowship, so must we set aside time to obey the Great Commission.

For many years now, we have used programs to promote the sharing of the

Gospel. While some of these have helped advance the spread of the Gospel, they have also had a negative influence. For many Christians, the ministry of leading people to Christ is perceived as a ministry for a "gifted" few. However, as we read the Scriptures, we find it is a ministry every follower of Christ should be involved in. When Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"

(Matthew 28:19-20), He did not speak those words to just Peter, James and John. When our Lord spoke those words, He spoke them to all of the disciples gathered there.

— How Are We Doing?

We want to celebrate new believers in Christ. If you have had baptisms in your congregation during January and February please report them to Becky Septoski at beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org.

As we list the numbers of new believers in Christ, we celebrate together as American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky.

Gathering for Associate Staff

By: Steve Newman

Leading from the Second Chair is the theme of a workshop planned for associate ministry staff on Monday, April 12, 2010 at Franklin College. The workshop leader will be Rev. Mike Bonem, co-author of the book *Leading from the Chair*. A second chair leader is a person in a subordinate role whose influence with others adds value throughout the organization. Participants will learn to better understand the unique

dynamics of their roles, regardless of their titles. This workshop is open to anyone who serves in an associate ministry position, full time, part-time or volunteer and is jointly sponsored by ABC-IN/KY and GI.

Cost for the entire day is \$30 per person. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM in Richardson Chapel and the workshop will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude by

4:30 PM. A continental breakfast will be provided by the Franklin College Church Relations Department and lunch will be provided by the Ministerial Excellence Fund. Further information and registration forms are available on the region website.

As a special feature, we will be honoring Ced Cox for his many years of service to the associate staff of our regions.



Christian Life & Witness Course - REVISITED!

Reignite your faith and share it with others!

Plan now to participate in this dynamic course designed to help you live a life that pleases God and equips you to share your faith in Jesus Christ with others.

New Date: April 24, 2010

Location: To Be Determined

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the inclement weather on February 6, 2010 the Christian Life and Witness Course has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010. Those of you who registered for the original date can attend with no additional cost to you. We ask that you let Becky Septoski know that you are planning to attend.
(beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org)

Don't miss out on this exciting event!
Registration information
is available on the region web site:
www.abc-indiana.org

CLI Offers Leadership Class

By: Dennis Bickers, SE Area Resource Minister

John Maxwell teaches the Law of the Lid which says that no organization can rise any higher than the lid of its leadership. This is true of a business, a service organization, or a church. Raise the leadership abilities of the leaders and every organization has room to grow. CLI is happy to offer a course to teach solid leadership principles to pastors and lay leaders to help each of our churches become more effective in their ministries.

Dan Cash will teach this course again in 2010. Dan is the Senior

Pastor at Columbus FBC and formerly served as an Area Resource Minister in the ABC/IN&KY. A strong interest in the leadership challenges faced by pastors led Dan to complete his doctoral thesis in leadership, where he looked at the pastor's role in leading change.

Every church will benefit from having persons attend this class. As you grow your leaders, you increase the potential of your church. Contact Jennifer Greene at 317-635-3552 extension 221 or jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org to register for this class.

Manuel Hernandez Elected as Officer to Board of IM

Ruth Clark and Manuel (Manny) Hernandez were recently elected to the positions of president and vice-president respectively to the Board of International Ministries (IM) for the 2010-2011 Biennium. Clark will be succeeding the current board president, Thom Lacy, who completes his 2-year term.

Hernandez is a retired machinist with the Inland Steel Co. Currently in

his second term on the General Board and the IM Board, Hernandez has also served on 2 Biennial Planning Committees as well as serving as President of the IN/KY region. Originally from Puerto Rico, Hernandez is a licensed lay minister at Ilgesia Bautista de Lake Station in Lake Station, IN. He and his wife, Gloria, have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Phil Waggoner Retires

Phil Waggoner has retired as the Disaster Relief Coordinator for the ABMen of Indiana. Phil has served this position since the inception of building the trailer in 2002. He has led many successful disaster call outs and has been instrumental in building the Ministry to the level it is today. In an effort to replace the hard work and dedication shown by Phil, the ABMen of IN has elected three people to take his place: Ken Miller, Don Hardesty, and Jim Humphrey who are all from Memorial Baptist Church in Columbus. We thank Phil for the many years of dedicated service and wish him the best as God leads him to his next ministry.



American Baptist Men Spring Retreat Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp



June 11 and 12, 2010
Golf and Work Project
10:00 am on June 11

Featured Speaker:
Dennis Bickers

Author of several books on Church Growth

TOPIC

STIR UP - Help ABM Revitalize
STAND UP - Help ABM Rebuild
SPEAK UP - Help ABM Reorganize

More information to come in the May/June issue
of the Observer

WEST CENTRAL AREA

Reverend James Moore Retires



In 1999, the New Prospect BC, located north of Bloomington in the Dolan community, requested that recently-retired James Moore serve as their interim pastor. Having a well-known and beloved pastor serving the needs of the congregation resulted in halting their search for a permanent

replacement.

The church has thrived under Pastor Moore's guidance. However, after serving as "interim" pastor for 10 years, Rev. Moore requested to take leave of the church due to ill health.

On Sunday, January 24, 2010 following the morning worship service, the congregation had a pitch-in dinner followed by a special "Retirement Party" program in honor of Rev. James and Mrs. Marjorie Moore. In addition to the New Prospect congregation, several friends from churches Rev. Moore was previously affiliated with attended the occasion.

FBC Bedford Hosts "OT" Each Monday

In the spring of 2008, FBC Bedford began an after-school ministry to middle and high school students called "OT" (as in "overtime"). Each Monday afternoon during the school year, students check-in to the churches' Christian Life Center for a snack, and a variety of activities. OT also has a study room staffed by a tutor. Adults from the church, including several senior adults, make snacks, act as monitors, and build relationships with the kids. The majority of the 50-60 teens that attend per week are from outside of the church. Many of those kids are from unchurched families. The goal of OT is to provide love and hospitality to



the teens of the Bedford community while showing them that God's arms are open wide to them. OT is offering the opportunity for FBC Bedford to form relationships with kids that might not visit the church on any other occasion. Please pray that those relationships will help the children know the love of Jesus more and more.

Plainfield FBC Welcomes Dusty Powell as Pastor



In January of this year, Plainfield FBC welcomed Destry "Dusty" Cowell as the senior pastor. Dusty and his family moved from Hutchinson,

Kansas where he served at Countryside Baptist Church for 10 years. Dusty says "God has placed a deep desire in my heart to work with other believers to grow the local church. I believe God longs for people to be reunited with their creator, grow in their faith, serve their Savior and share the good news of Christ with others. My personal mission statement simply reads; love God, love people, and serve Christ's mission to the world." Plainfield FBC shares Dusty's passion and looks forward to serving with him in the years to come.

The Hands and Feet of Christ



During the 2009 Christmas season, the congregation of Bethel BC in Spencer began bringing in canned goods and non-perishable foods for distribution to families on the prayer list. Among those included on the prayer list were those who have lost jobs or are unable to work due to recent health issues. The list also included those families with newborn babies as

well as shut-ins. Regardless of the circumstances, all need encouragement and God impressed upon the congregation of Bethel to be just that! In the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, Christ didn't send the multitude away- He told the disciples to feed them. Likewise, as Christians, we are also called to be his disciples, and be the hands and feet of Christ! On the Saturday before Christmas, many volunteers helped organize

and distribute the donated food items. A total of 9 large laundry baskets, filled to the brim, spread the length of the center aisle of the sanctuary. On the top of each basket lay a red bow, a Christmas card, and a brand new Bible. To God be the Glory!

NORTHEAST AREA Covers for Christ

Being cold in bed usually involves a simple solution – getting another blanket. For many people, though, the solution is not so simple.

Rushville FBC members, Jane Sparks and Barbara Howard began a blanket campaign titled, Covers for Christ, to donate new twin-sized blankets. The campaign took place between the dates of October 4, 2009 – November 15, 2009. As a result of this effort, on November 23, five women along with driver, Jerry Creager, delivered 102 blankets to the Indianapolis Wheeler Mission.



Pictured clockwise from left: Jane Sparks, Joyce Vogel, Kay Hineman and Barbara Howard

According to Jane Sparks, the idea for this project was conceived many years ago. Wilma Taylor, a former member of the church, was a little girl when she and her mother collected and gave blankets to Wheeler Mission. Remembering Wilma's story gave Jane the desire to revive this ministry.

helped Jane with a "thank-you" cookie feast for the congregation following the morning worship. During the morning worship on November 11, 2009, Pastor Jay Noll dedicated the blankets to God and their use in His name.

On November 1, 2009, several ladies

SOUTHEAST AREA

Columbus FBC Presents Drama

On December 20th, 2010, the Drama Team of Columbus FBC presented a Christmas Drama written by Keith Arbuckle, a member of the congregation. The drama was titled, "Were You There." The cast included a shepherd, who was present when the angel sang of Jesus' birth; a Roman soldier, who heard the birth proclaimed through rumors; a modern day nurse, who saw Jesus' love through her profession; and a modern day mother, teaching her children about the birth of Christ. The drama was very effective



and prepared hearts for the Christmas season and the true meaning of the Christmas holiday.

Center Square BC Bicentennial Celebration

Throughout 2010, Center Square Baptist Church in Vevay, IN will be celebrating their bicentennial. According to past church minutes, on March 6, 1810, Christena Cotton and her husband gathered a group of settlers together on the edge of Indian Creek, and met in a hollowed out sycamore tree to organize a church. Soon after, the church was then relocated on Indian Creek in a log meeting house. After Indians burned the building, the group of faithful believers again relocated at Mount Sterling. In 1840, the church moved to Center Square. After a fire in 1971, the congregation rebuilt the church, so the fourth building is now home to a group of believers who are eagerly anticipating this year of celebration. On March 28, 2010, a Birthday Party celebration with the Long Run Association meeting will be held beginning at 6:30 pm. In the month of July, the church will meet near the

creek where historians think the sycamore tree was located. On Labor Day weekend, the Homecoming will be held. Models of the first churches, videos, speakers, and impersonations of former church members will be a part of the celebration. Former pastors and families of former members are invited to participate in the homecoming celebration. The weekend celebration will begin with a hymn sing on Friday, September 3, followed by history on the grounds and a meal on Saturday, September 4. A special recognition and reception for pastors and former members will be held on Sunday, September 5. For more detailed information or questions about upcoming activities, one may call the church and leave a message. Members of the Bicentennial Committee will return all calls. The church phone number is 812-427-3651. The church is located at 1728 Hwy 56, Vevay, IN.

Prayer Shawls Dedicated at Columbus

Recently, Columbus FBC dedicated fifteen new prayer shawls to be taken to people needing comfort and warmth. One of the ladies who received one of the prayer shawls related that her shawl never leaves her side. This woman's aunt, age 96, really desired to have a prayer shawl. The



woman gave her aunt a nice scarf as a Christmas gift. When she unwrapped the scarf, she told her niece that she thought it was one of the prayer shawls. The story was relayed to Pastor Dan Cash. In the next week or so, Dan took one of the shawls and presented it to this 96 year old lady. She was thrilled!

Pictured are the children holding one of the prayer shawls. The shawls are knitted by women of the congregation who

participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. As the women knit, they pray for those who will be receiving the shawl. It is good to see the shawls around the shoulders of those who have received them. Many cherish those shawls and the ministry they represent.

Columbus Ladies Attend Retreat

On January 22-25, 2010, Columbus FBC held it's second annual Women's Retreat at the Nashville Artist's Colony with 50 women in attendance. Ages of those in attendance ranged from mid-twenties to mid-eighties. The theme for the retreat was prayer. The speaker, Lois Griffith, challenged those in attendance to think about their own prayer life while focusing on what it means to pray. Group discussions focused on the topics of God listening to and answering prayer.

On Saturday afternoon several crafts



Women participate in making crafts at the retreat

were offered and in the evening the women shared a meal together. Saturday evening ended with a group game.

On Sunday the retreat concluded with examining the model prayer of Jesus and a time of communion. The retreat continues to be a good winter get-a-way for the ladies of Columbus FBC!

NORTHWEST AREA

Howard Wade January Volunteer of the Month

Rev. Howard Wade is pastor at The Baptist Temple in Logansport, IN, and also one of the volunteers involved in the Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Woodbridge Health Care Center.

Wade has been volunteering at Woodbridge since 2007, helping with the Men's breakfast, and leading a Sunday Church service on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Wade is a supportive volunteer that will lend a helping hand to any resident or community member that may need it.

Many thanks to Wade and his helping heart and compassionate commitment to the residents of Woodbridge Health Care Center.



Church and Community

By: Irene Engle

Our Country is in a time of turmoil with wars, earthquakes, floods, and snow storms taking place. As a church, we can encourage our members to reach out to those in need through prayer, sharing food, making telephone calls, or just by being a good listener. The need in Haiti is very great. One can get involved by sending money or supplies to that land. Above all, praying to our Lord to help and bless all those who live in Haiti as well as the workers and Missionaries serving in that country.

As a Church, there are many ways to help in our community as well as other countries. Send cards to those who are sick, or have had surgery, etc. Make a visit to someone who is alone. Take a blanket to someone who might be cold. Remember to take blessings and burdens and lay them at the feet of Jesus. He will enable us to give grace and mercy to our churches and communities, which will bring glory to Him.

As we begin 2010, the ABW National Love Gift Chairman has introduced a new Love Gift Theme, "Share Your Blessings". How exciting to think about ways to share the blessings each has received. When I think of the song "Count Your Many Blessings", I am overwhelmed. God blesses each of us in ways we don't realize. Remember to fill your love gift

Share Your Blessings

By: Barbara Mills

box as you sing the words "Count your many blessings, Name them one by one, Count your many blessings, See what God has done." I think most of us will be surprised at how many blessings we have to share and how full our Love Gift boxes will become.

Our Love Gift Challenge for 2009 was

\$ 65,000. As of December 31, 2009 we had received \$61,146.59 an increase of \$ 1367.59 from 2008. In October of 2009, a Love Gift Challenge of \$65,000 was accepted for 2010. I encourage each of you to SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS and "See what God can do!"

Thoughts of Long Ago

By: Janet Silley, ABW Parliamentarian

I have been thinking of a time many years ago when I attended a workshop on parliamentary procedure at Summer Conference taught by the state parliamentarian. I was a new association president and didn't know how to conduct a meeting, so I felt that attending this workshop would be helpful.

The leader discussed three things that are often done incorrectly. The following

thoughts were helpful in remembering the proper way to conduct a meeting.

1. When the minutes have been read the president should ask if there is anything that needs correction. There is no need to ask for additions because that is a correction.

2. Never ask for old business - it is unfinished business.

3. The third thing that I still laugh about

the instructor saying is that you **never** say you are turning over the meeting to someone. She said to those in attendance, "You don't have a shovel so you aren't turning the meeting over." Simply ask for the next person on the program to come forward.

ABW White Cross 2009 -2010

By: Martha Stanley

with him to a safe place to stay, and gave the inn keeper money for additional expenses. Where did the Good Samaritan get the bandages to bind the injured man's wounds?

Though we cannot all go and serve personally, our service here at home is a personal response to God's grace bestowed upon us.

Chris Marziale, International Ministries

WC Coordinator, has sent out an urgent request to all ABC churches: "Haiti needs rolled bandages (3 in x 10 yards)." There is also a need to keep rolling bandages for the Democratic Republic of the Congo—their supply continues to shrink. Please mail those to the New Windsor, Maryland.

ABW Summer Conference

By: Nancy Bond, Conference Chairman

The story is already being written for the ABW Summer Conference, which is scheduled for June 4-6, 2010 and you will want to be included in the final script. The ladies will begin arriving at Franklin College on June 4. There will be old friends, new friends, the missionary, a wide variety of workshops, a bazaar, and then game night which precedes a time of sharing in the dorm. Day one is complete. Saturday, June 5, will bring more activities and times of fellowship and growth.

A new chapter in the Summer Conference will include assembling Health Kits and Baby Layettes. Mission and Service Coordinators will have the supply list. Coordinate with friends to assure that

a variety of supplies will be brought to the conference. Monetary donations are helpful since postage for kits is quite high.

The final chapter of the conference will take place on Sunday, June 6, and will include a very unique worship service. You will want to be present as this story unfolds.

Prices are as follows: Full time, \$85; part time, \$50; one day, \$20. Half price registration will again be offered to first time attendees. Plan to attend and help make the story complete. Information can be found on the ABW web site.

Joy Jamboree

Attention all girls currently in grades 3 – 5! There's still time to register for the Joy Jamboree being held at Lebanon FBC in Lebanon, IN on April 30 – May 1, 2010. Registrations are due March 3, 2010. If it is not possible for you to register by March 3, you can call Tracy Karnes at 812-793-3033 or 812-498-4448 to make arrangements to attend the Joy Jamboree. Tracy will need all registrations no later than April 25, 2010.

The State Project for 2010 is the Friendship House in Hamtramack, Michigan. Linnea Berg, the Director of Friendship House, will be at the



Jamboree and will speak about the ministry of the Friendship House.

Items needed for the weekend are: snacks to share with everyone, a Bible, notebook, baby supplies, Love Gift money, a Baby doll to exchange, (less than \$5), PJ's & clothes, personal hygiene items, sleeping bag, pillow, and a pencil.

A Baptism at Purdue!

By: Shawn Zambrows, Pastor, Baptist Student Foundation

One day during finals week in December of 2009, I was visited by a graduate student who wanted to be baptized. She is from northern China and has been working on her PhD in Comparative Literature at Purdue for the last seven years. She was raised with no religion, but has become exposed to Christianity as she has attended Bible studies with some of her Chinese friends during her time at Purdue. In addition, her dissertation topic has to do with the subject of "Epiphany" as found in an Irish Christian writer and a Chinese Buddhist writer. Her journey led her to the place that had "Baptist" on the sign which is within walking distance of where she lives near campus. Several conversations took place about what baptism means in the context of faith in and commitment to



Jesus Christ. I had the privilege of baptizing her on Epiphany Sunday at First Baptist Church, Lafayette. She has now become an active member of the Graduate Student Bible Study. I have also had the privilege of sharing meals with her and getting to know her much better. In fact, I feel as though I have known her for a long time. Please continue to pray for the Baptist Student Foundation, as well as the other ministries on college campuses around the state, as we have the opportunity to be used by God in the lives of people from all over the world.

DP News and Notes

Last summer marked the seventh year since our region formed the Discipleship Partner Ministry. Although the way in which this ministry has been carried out varies from church to church and from workshop to workshop, our basic mission remains the same. That mission comes from the scripture as printed on our brochures. It reads "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...." (Ephesians 4:12 NRSV).

Earlier in this passage, Paul has been writing about the fact that all have been given different gifts so that God's people might be prepared for the work of Christian service in building up the church. This is true within the Discipleship Partner team itself. Some members of the team are gifted to work in youth ministry, others in children's ministry and some have a special interest in ministry with adults. One is gifted to work with older adults and another for work with Hispanic churches. Some are talented musicians and some have the unique ability to help churches with the harmonious and effective functioning of church boards. Other Discipleship Partners have much experience in family ministry, working with small churches, woman's retreats,



inspirational speaking or spiritual development. Some have a particular passion for missions, young adult ministry, evangelism or small group ministry. Some are gifted in drama, others do well at evaluating curriculum or programs, and some are good at teaching leadership skills.

Just as in the church, the Discipleship Partners ministry cannot be done by one person alone. We are called to use whatever gift we have been given to help equip others for God's glory. In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson interprets "to equip the saints" as "to train Christians in skilled servant work". That seems to be a good description of who we are and what we do as Discipleship Partners. If you would like to explore how Discipleship Partners might be of help in your congregation, please contact Ruth Proctor at 260-493-1694 or at proctor606@verizon.net or Jim Walter at jimwalter@abc-indiana.org.

News From Baptist House

By: David Jones, Campus Pastor

Since the summer of 2009, the Baptist House has undergone some changes and is anticipating more as they rebuild their identity on campus and reconnect with churches and supporters. In November of 2009, the core group of students spent a weekend envisioning their new path at Ball State. The outcome of the retreat was very positive and reflects a renewed energy and momentum for the ministry. Results include a new mission statement and nickname.

The Mission statement reads as follows: Providing hospitality to students of all backgrounds, the mission of The Oasis Campus Ministry at Ball

State University is to open its doors as a home-away-from-home environment; giving students spiritual support and emotional guidance through Christian leadership in an open and non-judgmental way.

The Nickname is: "The Oasis"

We are still, officially, American Baptist Campus Ministry at Ball State and donations can still be written to The Baptist House for the time being. Check out our blog at www.bahouse.org for a more detailed update on the changes mentioned above. For more information, or to schedule a visit to your youth from campus pastor, David Jones, email: david@bahouse.org.

Haiti Earthquake Affects Judson Student

The recent earthquake tragedy in Haiti has personally affected one of Judson University's international students, Sanon Eustache. Sanon has learned that his immediate family is well; however, he still does not know how his extended family is beyond the news that one cousin is deceased. Due to the national banking financial breakdown following the earthquake, Sanon's personal financial situation has



become an acute problem. Students at Judson gather regularly to pray for Sanon and Haiti. As members of Christ's body we encourage you to pray for Sanon Eustache, Judson mission efforts and Haiti as well.

Senior Adult Day Showers of Blessing April 15, 2010 FBC of Alexandria Registrations due by Wednesday, April 7

Information and registration form available on the region web site: www.abc-indiana.org

Conferences on Ministry with the Aging

May 11-12, 2010

May 13-14, 2010

Save the dates now!!

More info to come in the near future!!



Indiana Baptist Convention
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
1350 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2493

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
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Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 8457

Camp News and Notes

Indian Creek By: Deb McCray, Camp Registrar

As I write this article, the rain is coming down and the weather man promises it will soon change to snow. It is hard to believe that summer camp will begin just four short months from now. Here are some ways you can help prepare for the camp season:

- 1) Pray... for camp managers, staff, directors, cabin leaders and campers. Also, pray about which children in your church and your life might benefit from a week of camp, then...
- 2) Send them to camp. Help pay for campers' fees and schedule a Camp Sunday at your church.
- 3) Come and work. Bring yourself and a group from your church to help get the camps ready for the summer season. The camp managers will be thrilled!
- 4) Be a cabin leader, nurse or camp grandparent for one of the camp sessions. The 5th & 6th grade and teen camps are especially in need of extra cabin leaders.
- 5) Buy Forever stamps and Walmart (or other store) gift cards for the camps. We've sent out lists of needs in previous years and you all have done such a great job that we are well stocked on those items now. But for those unexpected needs, the gift cards are great! Last summer at Indian Creek, we didn't have to buy a single stamp because our churches did such a good job of donating them.

Last of all, keep up the good work! It takes so many people to give a camper a great week of camp, so keep doing what you're doing or get involved if you're not already. The camp season is coming...let's make it great!

Camp Tippy By: Janis Day, Atlanta, GA

Learning God's Word in Bible Study groups, taking the swimming test so I could use the row boat, straightening every square inch of the cabin for the clean cabin competition, losing the clean cabin competition and having KP duty, feeling the Holy Spirit at the evening campfires, always smelling like mosquito repellant, and having late night spooky discussions of John's visions in the book of Revelation. These are but a few of my favorite summer childhood memories. I looked forward to my time at Camp Tippy every summer.

As the mother of five boys, I was thrilled to hear that the camp I loved to attend more than 30 years ago was still leading kids to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. I immediately signed them up and then loaded them into the Suburban for the 13 hour trip from Atlanta to North Webster.

They had a wonderful week at Camp Tippy, although things have changed with time. I was disappointed that they never had to do KP duty—they never do it at home either! The water sports were fantastic! At the same time, some things never change. The Holy Spirit is still there working through the counselors as they guide and witness to the campers. My oldest son decided to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior at camp this past summer and will be baptized soon.

I thank God for Camp Tippy and all the people who work there. I'll be registering my sons for this summer's program, piling them in the Suburban, and driving another fun 13 hours. I will drop them off at camp knowing that they will be immersed in the love of Jesus and making memories and decisions they will keep and rely upon for the rest of their lives.