



The Oregon Baptist

ABCO . . . resourcing, empowering and equipping congregations to discover and fulfill their unique mission in their corner of America . . . and around the world.

Volume 18 No. 1

Fall 2011

Got Style?

By Steve Bills, Executive Minister

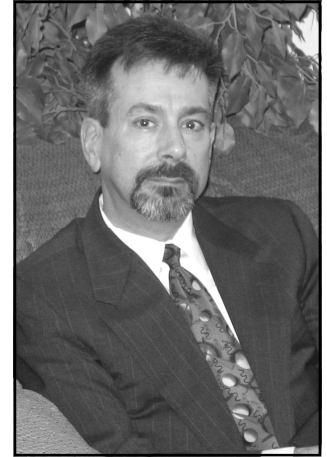
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You may remember reading about the American Baptist Home Mission Societies' "Got Style?" evangelism program on one of the *America For Christ* bulletin inserts your church used to educate the congregation about how that money is invested in mission. ABHMS's Office of Evangelism advocates a *Natural and Relational* style of evangelism.

In the Natural style, evangelism is linked to personality, not spiritual giftedness. God uses personality to reach outside the church, and spiritual giftedness is used to equip and empower inside the church.

We consider six distinct personality styles in our understanding of evangelism: Assertive, Analytical, Storytelling, Relational, Invitational, and Incarnational. These styles are adapted from the Willowcreek Association's evangelistic training program, "Becoming A Contagious Christian," and "The School of Evangelism" of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Each model has a biblical parallel as indicated in the following chart.



Dates to Remember

Clergy Ethics Training
September 26, 27
ABCO BOM Meeting
October 21
Annual Gathering
October 21-23
Northern California
Worship Service—Atwater
January 14

| Assertive | Analytical | Storytelling | Relational | Invitational | Incarnational |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Philip Acts 8 | Paul Acts 17 | Blind Man John 9 | Matthew Luke 5 | Woman at the Well John 4 | Dorcas Acts 9 |
| Confrontational | Logical | Engaging | People-oriented | Event-oriented | Needs-oriented |

Understanding your own personality style and the style of those you encounter can produce more successful efforts. When the style of the person you are sharing with is different from your own, it may be a struggle to 'click' with them. We often suggest that local churches or small groups construct teams of folks with various styles: these teams can help "match" folks with similar personalities. This way, you may be able to accomplish something together that you could not do alone.

The point, here, is that even though a person, or a whole church, may not have the gift of evangelism, God has wired people and churches in such a way that they can still "do" evangelism. It is just a matter of discovering their system and working within it. Though a person, after coming to faith in Christ, should "wait" for a time before taking on leadership roles and responsibilities within the church, there are no restrictions on how soon newfound faith should be shared. With the same passion (personality) that Paul persecuted the church, he, following his conversion, promoted it.

If your church is looking for ways to become more effective in its outreach and evangelism, have your pastor give me a call to schedule a time for me to provide this training for you.

For more information see <http://www.abhms.org/evangelism/resources.cfm>

ABHMS Sponsors 2012 National Gathering of American Baptist Youth

American Baptist Home Mission Societies is sponsoring Immerse: The 2012 National Gathering of American Baptist Youth July 24-28, 2012, at American University, Washington, D.C. Participants should be ages 14-19 and at least entering freshman year of high school.

The event will include advocacy training and feature a community-service focus that will engage youth in volunteer outreach efforts. The pulse of the U.S. capital will provide the backdrop for high-energy and transformative worship coupled with hands-on urban mission experiences.

As youth meet daily in small groups and enjoy exciting recreation time, participants will get to know other youth from across the United States. Activities will include visits to Capitol Hill and a prayer walk on the National Mall. The \$399 cost per youth participant or adult leader includes housing, food, and program.

ABC of Oregon will be working with churches throughout the region to coordinate travel to the event for youth who wish to participate. If your youth are interested, please contact the office.

Check for updates at www.abhms-immersed2012.org or on Facebook and Twitter at **Immerse2012**.



ABCO Celebrating Quasiquicentennial

Much has changed since our Baptist foremothers and forefathers first organized churches, then associations, and finally a state convention.

Over 167 years ago in 1844 the first Baptist church west of the Rocky Mountains was organized in the house of wagon-train captain, David Lenox, northwest of what is now Portland in West Union. Four years later this same layman issued the call to convene the Willamette Baptist Association.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago in 1886 the Oregon Baptist State Convention, now known as ABC Oregon, was established. Seventy years ago ABCO purchased Camp Arrah Wanna.

“The History of ABCO” will be presented by Rev. Ev Curry at the 2011 Annual Gathering in Gresham. As we talk about where we are going, it is helpful to reflect on where we’ve been.

Where is God in the midst of your reality?

By Trudi Bills, President ABWM Oregon

Hosea 6:6 (TEV) *“I want your constant love, not your animal sacrifices. I would rather have my people know me than offer burnt offerings to me.”*

Prior to their Assyrian captivity, the chosen nation lived their lives as though **God didn’t exist**. If the Israelites **did** offer sacrifices, they were either fulfilling an ancient command, or paying homage to pantheistic deities.

So the Lord instructed Hosea the Prophet to marry a prostitute. God hoped this marriage would provide a clear picture to the people of how badly their relationship had deteriorated.

Oh how God longed to draw these people back! Yet the difficulties and distractions of daily living had slowly pulled them away.

Our lives are not all that different. **Severe struggles** cause questions and send us running. **Minor troubles** drip into our hours, making us weary and worn. Responses become habitual; even addictive. We wake up one morning to discover we’ve left God far behind.

Where is God in **your** reality today?

In the middle of crisis, collection calls, cancer, or crying children, you can stop what you’re doing and call out to your Lord. Renew your relationship with the living God who is longing to draw you back.



Ministry of Outreach

Don Watson, coordinator

As we look forward to participating in the **World Mission Offering 2011**, your church may be interested in having one of our missionaries speak at a worship service and/or mission education event. Many of our churches have ongoing communications with individual missionaries and/or members of their Mission Partnership Teams (MPTs). The theme this year is *“Live the Word > Proclaim the Word > Be Transformed.”*

Here is a list of missionaries who have ongoing connections with ABCO churches. I am sure there are others, yet this is my current list. Those who are currently on “home assignment” and may be available to visit your church are designated with an (H) in front of their name followed by their location during home assignment.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Gary & Mylinda Baits – Costa Rica | Lauren Bethell – Global Consultant |
| (H) Bruce & Ann Borquist – Brazil / Washington | Kim Brown - Thailand |
| (H) Glen & Rita Chapman – DR of Congo / California | Dan & Sarah Chetti – Lebanon |
| Kim Kushner – Pennsylvania & Cuba (formerly serving in El Salvador) | Ed & Miriam Noyes – DR of Congo |
| Nzunga Mabudiga & Kihomi Ngwemi – Haiti | David and Laura Parajón – Nicaragua |
| Ray & Adalia Schellinger-Gutierrez– Pennsylvania & Mexico | Karen Smith - Thailand |
| Roberta Stephens – Japan | |

Also based on the west coast and on home assignment:

| | |
|---|--|
| (H) Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang – Japan / Washington | (H) Tim & Patti Long – Mexico / California |
| (H) Mike & Jill Lowery – DR of Congo / California | (H) Matt & Lori Mann – Laos / California |
| (H) Larry & Jan Martin – Thailand / California | |

For information specific to the WMO, go to: http://www.internationalministries.org/drives/wmo_2011 For additional information on our missionaries and to read their journals, go to: <http://www.internationalministries.org/people>

Kim Kushner Update

Missionary Kim Kushner has completed two years of work with the Baptist Federation of El Salvador (FEBES). Her work included leading a process of assessment asking the questions: What works? What needs to be changed? How do we become more effective? How can IM and the Baptist organizations in El Salvador become better partners in mission? In June she moved to Norristown, Pennsylvania in preparation of her next assignment leading a similar assessment process of the very active Baptist work in Cuba.

As a mission supporting and sending organization, International Ministry’s goal is to use the template of questions and contextual issues that she has been piecing together in El Salvador to look at how context, leadership training, and economics of development in partner countries come together to influence how transformative ministry being carried out successfully or unsuccessfully through the church.

In her spare time, Kim and her fiancé, Jorge, are making plans for their wedding. Congratulations Kim and Jorge!

JoAnn & Larry Sims ~ A Mission of Peace, Hiroshima, Japan

On May 8, 2011, JoAnn and Larry Sims were commissioned jointly by FBC McMinnville and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to serve a two-year term as Volunteer Directors of the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan. Representing BPFNA was Rev. Dr. Jim Ledbetter - one of our retired Executive Ministers of ABCO and a member of Rivergate Community Church in Portland.

The mission of WFC is to honor Atomic Bomb survivors (Hibakusha) by sharing their stories throughout the world. Some of their duties at the Center are operating a small Japanese guesthouse that hosts visitors from around the world, offering English language lessons to the community, translating Hibakusha stories into English, and providing Peace Park Guides for travelers. On August 6, 2011, the Sims participated in a ceremony commemorating the memory of those who died and uniting those living for peace and nuclear weapon free world.

JoAnn and Larry write, “We are honored to be so actively involved in spreading the word of world peace at the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima. Please come and visit us. You can also visit the web site at <http://www.wfchirosshima.net/> to learn more about the peace work of the WFC.” To contact the Sims, write to them at worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com.

Thank You from the Japanese Baptists for your help in times of trouble

Over \$433,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing funds has been received by American Baptist International Ministries (IM) for relief efforts to help Japanese Baptists who are recovering from the powerful earthquake and tsunami that hit northwestern Japan on March 11, 2011.

The General Secretary of the Japan Baptist Union (JBU), Rev. Makoto Tanno shares, “The generosity of American Baptists has enabled us to find hope in the midst of what will be a long and arduous recovery.”

A portion of the relief funds were used immediately for lifesaving items like food, blankets, flashlights and clothing. Another portion funded transportation to send goods and services and Japanese volunteers to the devastated areas. Now monies are being used to repair church buildings and schools. In good Japanese tradition, early “get well” offerings were provided for each affected JBU-related church and school to be used as needed.

“Our first priority right after a disaster was to help meet immediate needs--food, water and shelter,” commented Lisa Rothenberger, world relief officer. “Now six-months after the tragedy our role shifts to the future. We are now working closely with the Japanese Baptists to lay out a plan for the recovery and rehabilitation that will extend into the next 3 years. It is because American Baptists have been so generous in their response that we are able to provide for those longer-term needs.”

Rev. Stan Murray, IM’s Area Director for Southeast Asia and Japan and his wife, Marty, served in Japan for 22 years as IM missionaries. At the end of this month, Stan will travel to Japan to see first-hand the affected area. He will also be meeting with Baptist aid agencies from around the world who are gathering to work with the JBU and their partner the Japan Baptist Convention (JBC) on a three-year recovery plan.

“It’s great to see God at work through Baptists who have agreed to pool their resources to have the most effective and efficient plan for recovery. Bringing our resources together will enable us to address larger needs that any one of us could address alone,” commented Stan

Please pray for Stan and our Baptist partners as they endeavor to serve God through this experience. We know that God continues to open doors for us all to be engaged in bringing recovery and Christ to this great nation.

Are you ready to be Transformed by the Spirit?

“*Transformed by the Spirit*” is an ambitious initiative of the National Executive Council (NEC) of American Baptist Churches USA. The process will engage local congregations across the denomination in a journey of identifying the significant challenges that face our churches, our regions, and our national bodies in today’s culture, and wrestling with the changes that will be required of all American Baptists if we are to seize the opportunities for growth. Planning for this new process, while initiated by the NEC (made up of the General Secretary and leaders of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist International Ministries, American Baptist Women’s Ministries, and the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board), has also included the Ministers Council, the Regional Executive Ministers Council, and a number of local pastors.

American Baptist churches are in the midst of a significant change. Demographic shifts, declining revenues, newly arriving immigrant communities, and proliferating communications have impacted mission and ministry. God’s spirit is at work among us in the midst of these changes. *Transformed by the Spirit* will invite American Baptists to name and address challenges in changing environments.

We need to make “adaptive changes,” changes that are in response to a changed environment, changes that unleash our Baptist DNA for innovation. We must make changes that embrace the transformative work of the Spirit in the life of the church. The question we are asking in this initiative is: “What challenges are we facing, for which we do not presently have an answer, but which must be addressed if we are to live into the future God has for us?” Over a two year process, we will look at these challenges and seek to learn from one another to find the answers. ABCO will be participating fully in this initiative. Stay tuned for more details in the new future on how YOU can be involved!

Congratulations! You Have Been Chosen!

You have been chosen to live during the most accelerated rate of change in human history. Human knowledge is doubling every two years. Think for a moment of all the ways life has changed in the last fifty years: communication, technology, medicine, science, culture, global economy. How has all this change affected the church?

Just fifty years ago, eight out of ten Americans got up on Sunday morning and went to Christian worship. Today fewer than two out of ten Americans attend worship on any average Sunday. What changed? Everything!

As Christians we believe that the gospel message of Jesus is good news for every era, and we know that the church has adjusted to every new challenge in each new generation. How will the church respond to today's challenge?

Missional church is a growing movement throughout America in response to this time of change. A missional church is "an authentic community of faith that primarily directs its ministry focus outward toward the context in which it is located and to the broader world beyond."

We invite you on this missional journey with us as we seek God's Spirit and ask the important question, "What is God asking of the church today as we serve in this time of change?"

This article can be found on the American Baptist Home Mission Societies' Missional Church Transformation web page. The Missional Church is an emerging mental model of church that takes seriously the need for churches to be reconnected with their world for the purposes of participating in the work of God in a post-Christendom era.

The Revs. Max Ramsey and Glynis LaBarre will be helping us think through this model and it's implications for our congregations at our Annual Gathering next month in Gresham.

**Registration Form
Annual Gathering 2011
October 21-23, 2011
First Baptist Church
Gresham**

Please complete all applicable sections of the registration form.

Look for 'Early Bird' Discount (BY 10/17/11)

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Email _____

Please check all that apply:

_____ Church Appointed Delegate _____ 1st Time Attendee(s)

_____ Participant _____ Estimated Time of Arrival

Mail Registration To:

**ABCO
0245 SW Bancroft Suite G
Portland, Oregon 97239-4270**

Where Do We Stay?

Hotels:

Four Points by Sheraton 503-491-1818
 1919 NE 181 Ave.
 Portland, OR 97230

King- \$75.00+tax
 2 Queens- \$79.00+tax

Group Block of rooms. Call and identify with First Baptist Church Block. Six miles from airport. Close to downtown Gresham and church. Continental breakfast included. Restaurant on site.

Best Western Pony Soldier Inn- Gresham 1-888-766-9476
 1060 NE Cleveland Ave.
 Gresham, OR 97230
 Continental breakfast included.

King- \$94.99+tax
 Queen- \$84.99+tax (AAA rate \$76.49)

Howard Johnson- Gresham 503-666-9545
 1572 NE Burnside Rd.
 Gresham, OR 97230

King- \$54.99+tax
 2 Queens- \$59.99+tax

Youth Group:

Contact Matt Toupin for details about the youth event at Camp Arrah Wanna: mattskii11@hotmail.com

Attire:

Casual clothes are accepted and encouraged at Annual Gathering events.

Total Your Choices:

Registration: Includes all program fees and materials.

| | How Many? | How Much? | Total |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Postmarked by 10/11/11 | | | |
| Regular Attendees | _____ | \$25.00 | \$ _____ |
| First Time Attendees | _____ | \$20.00 | \$ _____ |
| Postmarked after 10/11/11 | | | |
| Regular Attendees | _____ | \$35.00 | \$ _____ |
| First Time Attendees | _____ | \$30.00 | \$ _____ |
| Volunteer Helpers From Host Church | _____ | FREE | \$ _____ |
| Ministers Council Workshop | _____ | \$15.00 | \$ _____ |
| Friday Gathering Dinner | _____ | \$15.00 | \$ _____ |
| Saturday Vendor Hosted Breakfast | _____ | FREE | \$ _____ |
| Saturday Lunch | _____ | \$10.00 | \$ _____ |
| Saturday Banquet | _____ | \$10.00 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer vegetarian meals. | | | \$ _____ |
| Total Registration Enclosed | | | \$ _____ |

Please include registration fee and meals in your payment.
 Registration with MasterCard or Visa available by phone at 503-228-8394
 Questions? Please call number above!

Payment: Check No. _____

Make checks payable to 'ABCO' and mail to Annual Gathering Registration at

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Celebrate Our Regional Life

By Carol Wheeler, President, American Baptist Churches of Oregon

The theme for the 2011 ABCUSA Biennial that took place in Puerto Rico June 24 -26, 2011 was ¡CELEBRAD!/CELEBRATE! It certainly was a beautiful setting in which to celebrate our American Baptist life together, reconnect with old friends, and make new friends in Christ. We were warmly welcomed by the ABC Churches of Puerto Rico and the program planning committee (chaired by our own Rev. Dr. Jeff Savage) offered many opportunities for everyone to learn, worship and be inspired. I was blessed and thankful to have been there. Looking forward, we will soon have an opportunity to assemble and celebrate our regional life...

The American Baptist Churches of Oregon will hold our Annual Gathering October 21 - 23, 2011, hosted by First Baptist Church of Gresham. Tim Moore, First Baptist Church of Bandon, along with many others around the region, are working together to provide an inspirational time of learning and worship. Come experience and participate as we hear from interesting and challenging presenters. Come and praise the Lord under the leadership of dedicated music and worship teams from several of our churches. Come and meet new brothers and sisters in Christ from California churches who have recently become a part of our region. Come to reconnect with old friends and perhaps be Holy Spirit inspired to be the hands and feet of Christ in a new or established ministry in your home church. Come as we pray and seek God's direction and heart for a creative future for our region.

Your Board of Ministries met on May 3, 2011 and voted to accept into membership the following churches who had applied: **Atwater Baptist Church**, Atwater, CA, **Iglesia Bautista Pueblo de Dios**, Concord, CA, and **Portola Baptist Church**, San Francisco, CA.

On August 23, we voted to accept into membership the following churches who had applied: **Third Baptist Church**, San Francisco, CA and **Cornerstone Fellowship**, San Lorenzo, CA.

Welcome to these new members as we look forward to our ministry together! We are grateful to Pastor Steve and Mercy Johnson and the members of First Baptist Church of Cottage Grove for their hospitality to our board members for the meeting.

As we welcome these new members, it is with sadness that we acknowledge the decision of Valley River Baptist Church, Eugene, to hold its last services on Sunday, September 25. Pastor Rob Sturdivant has asked for our prayers that the church will be able to focus on a celebration of its ministry. Let us lift up this church family and the Sturdivant family in our prayers. We can certainly celebrate this ministry that has glorified God and touched many hearts as we pray for God's leading into the future. Wherever we are at in our life cycles as individuals, as congregations and as a region, may we be grateful for God's love and mercy, and faithful in our responses to God's leading.

New Baptist Covenant II

We are pleased to announce the New Baptist Covenant will gather together November 17-19, 2011. What began four years ago with a small group of committed Baptist leaders is accelerating into a thriving grassroots movement. In 2011, this movement will bring NBC II closer to you through some of the latest technology as we continue to live into Jesus' Luke 4 mandate to *"bring good news to the poor, 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."*

Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA will serve as NBCII's anchor site, hosting worship services and breakout sessions that will be broadcast via satellite to various host cities across the nation. Host cities will provide additional programming and coordinate a day of local missions opportunities on November 19. There will be a local event in Seattle, WA at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Renton, WA.

We hope you will join with us in celebrating this next phase of the New Baptist Covenant.

The New Normal: Annual Gathering focuses on The Missional Church



ABC-USA Associate General Secretary, *Dr. Jeff Woods*, American Baptist Home Mission Societies' Transformation Strategist, *Rev. Glynis LaBarre*, International Ministries' Missionaries to Brazil, *Bruce and Ann Borquist* and American Baptist Seminary of the West President, *Dr. Paul Martin*, will join our keynote speaker, *Rev. Max Ramsey* as we explore together the challenges and opportunities that our rapidly-changing culture is presenting to our congregations.

Rev. Ramsey introduces himself simply, "I have been in full-time ministry since 1999, and have been a victim of God's grace a lot longer than that." He has been at Immanuel-Brookfield (Wisconsin) since 2000 after having served in prison and hospice chaplaincy. Immanuel has planted two new missional communities in Milwaukee, and operates two street ministries under the name of "StreetLife Ministries" that serve the homeless in the city. Their community has planted another missional community in Saginaw, MI in partnership with Beacon of Hope Church (ABC-USA) called "Backstreet Ministries". Immanuel has partnered with others to initiate 17 different missions and ministries that function outside of our walls. Max explains, "We are a missional community, born out of a traditional ABC-USA church that serves the Kingdom of God and seeks to multiply its mission in the world around us."



Rev. Glynis LaBarre



Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods



Bruce and Ann Borquist



Rev. Dr. Paul Martin

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