



The Oregon Baptist

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

Volume 17 No. 8

Spring 2011

In This Issue

Arrah Wanna News	Insert
Missions Giving	1, 2
President's Word	3
AB Women	4
Outreach	4
Ministers Council News	5
Pastoral Relations	5
Comm. Training	6
Lenten Preparation	6
Cedar Hills Troupe	7
AB Men	7
Missional Church	8
2011 Biennial	8

Dates to Remember

Easter.....	April 24
Missional Church Event ..	April 30
ABCO Board Meeting	May 3
Mother's Day.....	May 7
Senior Day / Arrah Wanna..	June 7
Father's Day	June 19
2011 Biennial	June 24-26
AB Men's Retreat.....	Sept 16-17
AB Women's Retreat....	Sept 16-18
Pastor Ethics Training..	Sept 26-27
Annual Gathering	Oct 22-24

The World of ABC Missions . . The Heart of ABC

By Steve Bills, Executive Minister

In our last issue of The Oregon Baptist we learned about the role of United Mission in the American Baptist Mission Support budget. UM provides the foundation of support for God's mission through us.

In this issue we want to look at the opportunities that the individual offerings provide for churches and individuals desiring to give additional fund to those areas of mission and ministry especially dear to their hearts.

The five main offerings we receive have specific objectives that I will attempt to summarize here. What we call "the four quarterly offerings" are received by our national partners. The fifth, the regional offering, was only recently approved under the budget covenant, and has only recently been given much attention here in ABC of Oregon.



In the springtime our churches receive the **America For Christ (AFC)** offering. AFC is the American Baptist response to the needs of home missions within and beyond the local congregation in witness and service for Christ as mandated by the Great Commission. Gifts are channeled through National Ministries and Regional Ministries to fund home mission, education and local community ministries. As the name implies, monies given to AFC support work throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. These include Alaskan and Native American ministries, Neighborhood Centers, Refugee Resettlement, Homes and Hospitals, etc.

During the summer months we focus on the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** OGHS is the American Baptist response to worldwide disaster relief and development. One Great Hour of Sharing, in cooperation with other denominations, is a channel for national and international aid in times of crisis. Our responses to hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis have been made possible by generous gifts to OGHS.

Autumn is when we direct our attention specifically to our international missions through the **World Mission Offering (WMO)**. Monies given toward the ministry of a specific IM missionary (for example, if you are a part of their Mission Partnership Team (MPT) should be given to the WMO and designated for that missionary.)

Christmastime brings us to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)**. RMMO is the American Baptist thank you - and response to emergency needs of - retired ministers and missionaries, and surviving spouses.

The **Region Offering (aka Oregon for Christ)** is received throughout the year in different ways by our churches. Some earmark Easter, Thanksgiving, or Christmas offerings to the region, others receive special offerings on fifth Sundays. Individuals can designate "region offering" on their offering envelopes. Church planting and

continued from page 1

church revitalization are made possible through gifts to the Region Offering.

One of the invaluable services provided by the quarterly offering calendar is the opportunity to educate our churches and their members about the vast variety of mission and ministry being accomplished collectively by our mission partners. When the offering information packets arrive at the churches they include bulletin inserts, DVDs, newsletter stories, and many other resources that make for effective mission education and awareness.

Last fall we published the 2010 United Missions totals for each of our churches. Those figures did not tell the complete story of the generosity of our member congregations. Below are the 2010 Offerings totals for each of the churches that were a part of ABCO for all of 2010.

2010 ABCO Special Offerings Totals

(America For Christ; World Mission Offering; Retired Ministers and Missionaires Offering; One Great Hour of Sharing; Region Offering)

	AFC	WMO	RMMO	OGHS	RO
ASTORIA, FIRST	398.25	495.20	330.00	704.00	0.00
ATHENA, FIRST	333.00	918.85	0.00	1,889.61	0.00
BANDON, FIRST	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	0.00
CAMAS, PARKSIDE	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
CARLTON, FIRST	774.54	0.00	0.00	1,480.78	0.00
COOS BAY, FIRST	0.00	1,361.00	470.00	330.00	0.00
COTTAGE GROVE, FIRST	1,486.13	2,100.23	1,546.12	1,469.68	0.00
EAGLE POINT, BUTTE CREEK	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EUGENE, EMERALD	506.00	1,266.00	587.00	620.00	0.00
EUGENE, VALLEY RIVER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS PASS, CORNERSTONE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRESHAM, FIRST	889.62	1,530.00	1,722.00	4,733.64	9,999.96
IRRIGON, IRRIGON COMMUNITY	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
LINCOLN CITY, FIRST	0.00	0.00	0.00	224.30	0.00
MC MINNVILLE, FIRST	1,305.27	1,350.83	50.00	3,186.81	0.00
MEDFORD, EASTWOOD	1,756.36	14,576.30	1,965.00	10,000.00	1,850.00
MERLIN, MERLIN COMMUNITY	0.00	4,800.00	2,006.00	390.00	6,600.00
MILTON-FREEWATER, FIRST	485.00	775.00	295.00	678.40	0.00
MULINO, GRACE COMMUNITY	64.00	0.00	0.00	175.00	0.00
OREGON CITY, FIRST	782.00	932.00	641.00	1,362.62	0.00
PORTLAND, ANTIOCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, CEDAR HILLS	0.00	1,885.00	1,470.00	2,276.54	0.00
PORTLAND, FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00	725.00	0.00
PORTLAND, FIRST	4,290.21	1,230.00	40.00	6,193.95	0.00
PORTLAND, FRIENDSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, GRACE	1,270.00	1,222.03	0.00	1,854.00	0.00
PORTLAND, GRANT PARK	0.00	740.00	0.00	867.12	0.00
PORTLAND, MORNING STAR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, MOUNT OLIVET	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, MT GILLARD	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, NEW COVENANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, NEW JERUSALEM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTLAND, PLEASANT VALLEY	206.00	141.00	143.00	1,084.77	0.00
PORTLAND, RIVERGATE	789.18	412.85	235.00	1,823.92	0.00
PORTLAND, WOODLAND PARK	623.00	606.00	599.00	1,375.00	0.00
PORTLAND, WORD OF LIFE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	148.86
RIDDLE, FIRST	12.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	38.00
SALEM, CALVARY	2,589.00	2,568.62	2,075.00	3,911.72	5,804.54
SALEM, JUDSON	45.00	55.00	163.33	51.00	1,800.00
SPRINGFIELD, FIRST	72.00	85.00	315.00	3,093.18	0.00
YREKA, FIRST	0.00	90.00	200.00	285.00	0.00

Our Family Grows

By Carol Wheeler, President, American Baptist Churches of Oregon

The American Baptist Board of Ministries held its first meeting of the year on February 15, 2011 at Calvary Baptist Church in Salem. At that meeting, we accepted into regional membership the following American Baptist churches from northern California:

Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland
 Antioch Baptist Church, San Jose
 First Baptist Church, Alameda
 New Life Christian Fellowship, Castro Valley
 Oakland Burmese Mission Baptist Church
 Church Without Walls, Oakland
 Community Church of Hayward

We are truly blessed to welcome into our fellowship these brothers and sisters in Christ. We

are pleased to be serving in ministry and mission with you.

Our next Board of Ministries meeting will be Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at Cottage Grove. We send a special thank you to Calvary Baptist Church for hosting our first meeting and to Thelma Watson and her beautiful assistants for preparing and serving our refreshments and lunch.

Your board members are engaged and enthusiastic about serving our churches as we share and reflect the love of Christ with each other and with our hurting and needy world.

If you would like more information about opportunities to serve and participate in regional life and ministry, please call our ABCO office at 503.228.8394.

American Baptist Women are . . . *different!*

Trudi Bils, President, ABWM Oregon

American Baptist women in Oregon do not wear blinders. They watch from regular pews, from usual tables at pot lucks, from monthly circle meetings. They watch not with a critical eye; but rather, an observant one. They see younger women and girls moving about the church, having a good time. And AB women like what they see.

“We all remember how it was when we were that age”, remarks one AB woman with a smile. “The clothes, the mannerisms, the music... So much is different with these gals, but not all “different” is bad. It’s just...*different!*”

Intergenerational ministry often hits a snag as those of one generation don’t understand the spiritual trappings of another. Often the hang-up is simply a cultural thing, like comparing hymns of the early 20th century, to Jesus music of the 70s, to mystical melodies of postmodern worshippers. It could be an ap-

proach to prayer such as posture, candles or incense, or a different way of offering communion.

AB women don’t run from these differences. They are interested in learning about the stuff they observe: why do you do it that way, what does it mean to you, can you teach me how to do it? Of course, like all the rest of us, some things are best viewed from arm’s length, knowing that it’s perfectly alright in some instances to sit in the stands...not *everybody* needs to be on the playing field!

AB women are excited about their younger counterparts. They know that God’s kingdom will continue to move forward because of these strong young women. They will support them, love them, encourage them, embrace them...clothes, mannerisms, music, and everything in between. Because AB women like what they see!

Women’s Spring Conference

The Women’s Spring Conference will be at Emerald Baptist, 631 East 19th in Eugene on April 9th, 2011. It will start with registration at 9:30 am and adjourn at 2:00 pm. The speaker will be Pam Congdon with Project Hope. The theme will be "Chosen for God's Purpose." She will discuss how we can help our abused sisters. Lunch will be catered. Registration slips should be available at your local church.

Outreach Ministry

by Don Watson

Many of our ABCO churches are involved in sharing God's love in their communities. Here is a sampling of special or ongoing ministries of outreach. Please send additional news to Judy Flora in the ABCO office or Don Watson at donjw@comcast.net.

Local Outreach

- * *Calvary Baptist Church, Salem*
~ Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network: A host church providing shelter, meals, assistance, and compassion to families without homes. Calvary's next week to host will be March 27 – April 3.
http://saalemihn.org/?page_id=2
- * *Eastwood Baptist Church, Medford*
~ Maslow Project: Fund-raising and volunteers help this resource for homeless teens and their families. www.maslowproject.com
~ The Office: This is an outreach to women who work at a local gentleman's club.
www.morethanpearls.com
- * *First Baptist Church, McMinnville*
~ Saint Barnabas Soup Kitchen (monthly kitchen team), hosted by St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.
~ Stephen Ministry: one-to-one Christian care to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.
www.fbcmac.org/Spiritual_Care_Stephen_Ministers.php
- * *First Baptist Church, Oregon City*
~ H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) is a cooperative effort serving along with other churches. They host on Fridays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
www.hopefoodpantry.com/
- * *First Baptist Church, Portland*
~ Drop-In Center: Mondays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. They serve more than 700 meals a week to the homeless and low-income people of our community.
~ Dinner and a Movie: A public benefit 501(c)(3) non-profit working with homeless youth.
www.dinnerandamoviepdx.com
- * *Grace Baptist Church, Portland*
~ Tutoring sessions for the community, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
~ Work Parties at Camp Arrah Wanna, on a regular basis.

- * *Grant Park Church, Portland*
~ They share their building with many groups including: New Covenant Baptist Church, Hope Presbyterian Church, Portland International Community School, and Lee Owen Stone Cooperative Pre-school, and Youth for Christ groups.
- * *Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Portland*
~ Coming in April: Community Connection dinners, a time to eat and chat. The church also provides space for several community groups to meet.
~ Make a Difference opportunities, read more at: www.cedarhillsbaptist.org
~ Student Interns: currently working with two students from George Fox University's Social Work program.

International Outreach 2011

Haiti Servant's Trip ~ Jan. 12 – 19, 2011

A group of eight from **Grant Park Church**, Portland and **Calvary Baptist Church**, Salem traveled to Northern Haiti as guests of General Secretary Emmanuel Pierre and his wife Josette. They visited mission partners Revs. Mabudiga and Kihomi Nzunga and their work empowering women, the Cap Haitian Eye Clinic, and the Christian University of North Haiti. The team shared school supplies and assisted with putting a roof on a bathroom at a local school. To learn more, go to: www.grantparkchurch.com/Haiti.html

Haiti Rubble House Project ~ Various

Rev. Tim Moore (FBC Bandon) is coordinating a number of trips to Haiti to construct homes out of materials native to the island, including the rubble created by the earthquake.

Thailand Mission trip ~ Jan. 21 – Feb. 4, 2011

FBC Coos Bay: Six members ranging in age from 17 to 75 traveled to Northern Thailand on a Music Mission Trip. Group leader Mary Rice took church hand bells to provide music lessons to children at the House of Blessing in Chiang Mai, a mission to children who have lost their mothers to AIDS or sex trafficking. They were blessed to have retired

Continued from page 4

missionary Edye McCarty (FBC Springfield) travel with them and assist with translating.

Y.A.H.O.O. Mexico Mission ~ Mar. 18 – 26, 2011

This is an annual event for **FBC McMinnville**. Y.A.H.O.O. (Yamhill Alliance Helping Others Out) is an alliance of churches in Yamhill County working with Amor Ministries, San Diego, CA. Seventeen high school students and adults will travel this year to Tecate, Mexico. This project provides homes for underprivileged Mexican families. The mission trip is designed to bring students into a deeper understanding of, and commitment to, the Christian faith, as well as give them the opportunity to develop the confidence and ability to make a lasting and positive impact in the world. The entire group will have 41 youth and 23 adults representing five churches.

Deborah's House Mission trip ~ Mar. 18 - 25, 2011

Emerald Baptist Church, Eugene, reports "Seven of us from Emerald Baptist headed for Deborah's House, March 18-28, to meet Ray Schellinger for yet

another opportunity to serve the people of Tijuana. Ever since 2005, when we participated in the construction of the foundation of Deborah's House, we have fallen in love with the people and the mission of Deborah's House - a safe haven for women and children of domestic violence.

This time our task was putting up wallboard, taping, mudding and painting a few rooms of the second floor, as well as trim work in the casita where Hermana Cari, the resident director, will be living.

Probably the thing we love most is connecting with the families. We absolutely loved playing with the children even though for some of us there is the language barrier! Every time we have come here we have been warmly welcomed and our presence appreciated by the families living here. Mealtime is amazing - the food, the festive conversation, the family atmosphere is truly a favorite time of the day!

A huge THANK YOU to Emerald for making this trip possible. Participants were Josh Boland, Rich DeBates, Jon Diller, Adam, Joan & Anthony Doheny, and Dale Fish. We're already talking about our next visit to Deborah's House - a place of love, grace, safety & where God's presence is evident.

Ministers Council News

The Ministers Council of ABCO held its annual retreat in Lincoln City February 21-23, 2011. The theme of the retreat was "Sabbath Rest and Self-Care." The Rev. Dr. Heather Entekin, from Central Seminary, spoke on the need for pastors to cease, rest, embrace, and feast as a way to care for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

The retreat was attended by over 30 people, and was hosted by FBC, Lincoln City and pastor John Kendall and his wife, Val. Those attending were treated to great food and even a luau.

Ministers Council is open to all professional staff. If you are interested in joining, you can contact Randy Pearson at pastorrandy@graceportland.com.

Check out the national Ministers Council web site at www.ministerscouncil.org.

Pastoral Relations Committee Training Available

An effective Pastoral Relations Committee is one of the most valuable tools a congregation can have in ensuring the health and vitality of their pastor and his or her ministry. By working with the pastor to establish and reach personal and professional goals and priorities, the PRC will help their pastor achieve a level of satisfaction and effectiveness that can only enrich their relationship.

Utilizing the Judson Press resource, "*The Work of the Pastoral Relations Committee*" by Emmett Johnson, region staff will help your PRC order its work along a biblically effective model. If your church does not have a Pastoral Relations Committee (a PRC is not the same thing as a Staff Relations Committee), we can help you set one up and train and equip it to achieve its unique function in the life of the congregation.

Contact our Executive Minister at (503) 228-8394 or steveb@abc-or.org for help in getting started.

What Are You Doing for Lent?

by Margaret Marcuson

Are you doing something for yourself in Lent? Baptists have not always observed Lenten practices, but I've found it valuable to undertake some kind of daily discipline. Giving up coffee or ice cream have been ways to remind myself that God is bigger than my daily indulgences! But you don't have to give something up. During a difficult year, I made my Lenten practice doing something nice for myself every day. It's not too late to start a Lenten practice – Easter isn't until April 24!

Here are a couple of suggestions:

Add some additional daily prayer or spiritual reading. Sacred Space, <http://sacredspace.ie/>, offers a daily prayer/reflection guide. Prayers are available in a number of languages, including Spanish. Another option is The Daily Office, <http://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>, which you can read online or sign up for e-mails. It also has a Facebook group.

Do something small to help yourself be healthier physically or emotionally. Take a 10-minute walk, read something funny, spend five minutes talking with your spouse about something that is not church-related.

Jeff Savage has found Lent to be a time to “lie fallow, so that you are preparing for new life, new growth.” He tries to find something to do or to give up that fosters that experience. One year his church, First Baptist Church of Springfield, OR, let their congregational business “lie fallow” through Lent. “We had no committee meetings. All we did was worship and Bible study, but no business,” Jeff says. This was one of his most meaningful experiences of Lent.

May these last days before Easter be not simply a time of frantic preparation, but also a time of renewal for you personally.

Rev. Margaret Marcuson works with churches that want to create a ministry that lasts and clergy who want more impact on the people they serve best. She is the author of *Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry* (Seabury, 2009). She is a member of First Baptist Church of Portland.

Get the free mini-course, “*Five Ways to Avoid Burnout in Ministry*” at www.margaretmarcuson.com.

Lenten Reflections

by Carol Wheeler, President, American Baptist Churches of Oregon

Joel 2:12-17, Mathew 6:16-21

Lent marks the forty days on the Christian calendar preceding Easter Sunday. During Lent we are called to repentance, self-examination, and reflection. We have the opportunity to contemplate the sacrifice Jesus made so that we can be forgiven of our sins and have the gift of eternal life.

In an effort to focus on the sufficiency of God's grace in our lives, we often choose to "give up" something-- perhaps a favorite dessert, television program, etc. This "giving up" helps remind us that our relationship and devotion to God, and not material possessions or any other distractions of daily living, must take **FIRST** place in our lives. Any practice that brings us closer in our walk with God can certainly contribute to our spiritual growth.

The prophet Joel cautions us that our external practices (the "rending of garments" in the scripture passage) are not enough. Our hearts must be broken in sorrow and sincere repentance resulting in complete renewal and commitment of our hearts and our lives in service to God. And in the gospel of Mathew, Jesus calls us to fast in private, assuring us that our loving Father will see us. Jesus teaches us to focus on Him and recognize the true riches we have as we take up our cross and follow Him. We store up our treasure in heaven, and our hearts will be there also.

May God bless you during this season of reflection and renewal.

Gracious and Loving Father, Forgive us our sins and create in us clean hearts. Refresh our desire to give ourselves to You that we may become all You want us to be. Amen

Cedar Hills Welcomes Thai Dance and Drama Troupe

On April 8th, The Payap University Dance and Drama Team from Chiang Mai, Thailand will perform in Cedar Hills as part of an Asian and Western U.S. Tour. The troupe is composed of seven professional dancers and actors who present an hour-and-twenty minute program featuring dances from various regions of Thailand and a traditional Thai melodrama (Likay) with English translation. The Payap University Dance and Drama Team will perform at **Cedar Hills Baptist Church, 2470 SW Roxbury Avenue, Portland on Friday, April 8th, at 7:00 pm.** The performance is free, an opportunity to contribute to the troupe's tour expenses will be provided.

The team is appearing in colleges and churches in Korea and along the West Coast of the United States. The tour is led by Dr. Esther Wakeman, director of the Christian Communications Institute of Payap University, and her husband, Rev. Rob Collins. The drama is a touching true story about a gangster whose life is

changed in an amazing way.

In 1984, The Royal Thai Government recognized Payap University as the first fully accredited private university in Thailand. The University Communications Institute was founded thirty-three years ago. Its purpose is to communicate Christian truths through the use of Thai cultural expressions. Throughout the year the Institute's performers lead spiritual renewal programs in schools and communities in the rapidly developing Southeast Asian country. The programs include traditional and modern dance, drama, and music. Live performances are featured, as the Institute has a staff of 15 professional artists.

The program offers an excellent opportunity for Americans to experience the beauty and drama of Thai classical art. "We have appeared in the United States several times already," says Collins, "And folks usually comment, 'If we'd known how good this was going to be, we'd have worked harder to promote it.'"

News from American Baptist Men

- The ABMen of Oregon have awarded their 2010 Scholarship to Rev. A. Wayne Johnson, pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church to help defray the costs associated with the pursuit of his Doctor of Ministry degree from The American Baptist Seminary of the West.
- Men you are invited for work days at Camp Arrah Wanna on April 15-16. We will begin the afternoon of Friday, April 15 and continue on Saturday, April 16. Lodging will be provided on Friday night, and breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday. Contact Richard Secor at SharisArk@aol.com for more information and to RSVP.

ABCO Begins Second Round of Missional Church Learning Experience

"How can we make the Gospel relevant to our modern day culture?"

"Why don't people come to our church anymore?"

"What does God have in store for our church?"

If your church is asking any or all of these questions then Missional Church Learning Experience is for you.

Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) is a cluster of churches that form a Learning Community to explore what God is saying to the church today. Each church forms a Mission Team that receives training in basic missional church principles, and practices those principles by designing and implementing a small community project. The Learning Community will meet during the process to share what they are learning and receive further training.

The dates for the MCLE in Oregon will be April 30 (held at Judson Baptist in Salem), August 6, October 22 (at the ABCO Annual Gathering), and January 28, 2011. Churches that think they might be interested are encouraged to attend the first meeting in Salem to check it out. Attendance at this event does not obligate you to continue with the program.

For more information on MCLE contact Rev. Carren Woods at 503-285-3138.

**¡Celebrad! Celebrate! 2011
American Baptist Biennial
June 24-26, 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico**

In June, 2011, the Baptist Convention of Puerto Rico will open its arms to American Baptists everywhere to celebrate our common mission and ministry for Jesus Christ in all the rich diversity that makes the American Baptist Churches unique in the world wide Baptist family.

The last time the American Baptist Biennial was held in Puerto Rico was 1981. Those who attended still talk about the dynamic way God's Spirit was present in the music, the messages and the ministry they experienced there.

In 2011 we will once again join hands and voices to celebrate in San Juan with sisters and brothers in Christ.

Highlights include:

- Missional experiences, both before and after the Biennial
- MMBB 100th anniversary of ministry celebration
- The Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico mark their 50th anniversary as a region within ABC
- Sunday morning worship in local churches
- Musicians from around the island will inspire us with their music
- Speakers that will impact us with their messages
- Join us in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as God leads American Baptists into the future!

Many pastors and lay leaders from ABCO are planning to attend. We will have youth representatives participating in the special youth events. Visit www.ABC-USA.org for details and registration information.

CELEBRATE!

...GOD'S Glory

...GOD'S Power

...GOD'S Way

...CELEBRATE!

American Baptist Churches of Oregon
0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite G
Portland, OR 97239

NON-PROFIT ORG
US Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit #292