



February 1, 2015

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

Ruth Mooney Trains Leaders in Latin America and Shares Her Experiences with the Church in Cuba

Ruth Mooney is an ABC missionary whose ministry is theological education. She lives in Costa Rica, where she serves on the faculty of the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), a seminary founded in 1924 that prepares pastors and leaders for churches throughout Latin America.

Ruth teaches the Christian education courses as well as Written Communication and Ethics. All UBL professors teach in San José and in the 15 affiliated institutions in other parts of Latin America.

She writes of a recent trip to Cuba: Let me begin by saying that the Church is alive and well in Cuba. Over 20 years ago, through the influence of a Baptist pastor, the Constitution was changed to establish a secular state, respecting religious rights. Since then, the churches have grown exponentially.

Although I did see some Christmas trees, Christmas is not a commercial holiday in Cuba, nor do people exchange gifts. It is primarily a time of worship and celebration of Jesus' birth.

Preparing leaders in Santiago

I had been invited by Pancho, my host, to do a refresher course for the team that writes educational materials for the churches of the Eastern Baptist Convention. After Sue Hegarty and I trained them 18 years ago, they continued writing materials, under enormous difficulties. It was humbling and rewarding to me to see the fruit of our investment in them so many years later. Pancho heads up the entire youth program for the Convention, and has trained dozens of people throughout the country to work with young people.

We began by talking about what they wish to accomplish. They identified some of the key issues in the country that need to be addressed, and discussed the kind of Christians they need to prepare. They described a mature Christian as self-confident, with a deep faith grounded in worship and obedience to God, honest, other-centered, able to take leadership, and willing to listen and dialogue with others. Then we talked about what kind of education will produce that kind of person, focusing on the teaching of the Brazilian educator, Paulo Freire. Most of the group were professionals (doctors, teachers, engineers, computer technicians) and our discussions were rich and fruitful. Finally, I was asked by the Cuban Council of Churches to teach a workshop for Sunday school teachers. This was an interdenominational group, and, although it was a bit disorganized, the participants were pleased with the teaching. I also gave the closing reflection for a workshop on Gender.



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America for Christ Offering **2015**

Discipleship: **A Journey of Grace** Titus 2:11-13

Grace Experienced: Turning Lives Around



By supporting various community ministries through grants, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) touches countless lives. Take, for example, Kevin Wilson, 27, of Washington, D.C. His life was turned around by the National Center for Children and Families' Men-in-Motion (MIM) program, which received an ABHMS Children in Poverty grant in both 2013 and 2014.

Approximately 75 men participate yearly in the program, which was founded in 1999 as a court-ordered counseling program for males returning to the community after incarceration. In 2009, MIM was opened to all males at least age 18 and, more recently, a component was added for high school males.

Most of the program's participants reside in D.C.'s wards 7 and 8, where they are exposed to high rates of poverty, crime, drug abuse, domestic violence, inadequate housing, substandard medical services, unemployment and hunger.

MIM activities include resume writing, job search assistance, job interview techniques, educational/vocational training and referrals, financial literacy instruction, parent and family rights legal advice, fatherhood training and peer mentoring.

Wilson now participates in a sheet metal apprenticeship program through the HVAC Union Local 100. For being an exemplary single father to his 5-year-old son, Kevin Jr., Wilson was recently named "Father of the Year" by 100 Fathers Inc. and Concerned Black Men, both Men-in Motion partners.

"The program has helped better me as a person, and it's an opportunity for me to give back to try to help other guys who feel like they're going through things—hardships, hard times," Wilson says. "Everyone needs help to get through things in life that we all go through."

Your support of the America for Christ (AFC) Offering aids organizations that change individuals' lives throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. For more information about AFC, visit www.abhms.org and click the AFC logo.

America For Christ Offering Sunday is March 1, 2015

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I ended my time in Cuba with a marvelous tour of Old Havana by Carlos, another of my students from the UBL.

To contribute to Ruth Mooney's support or learn more about her work go to internationalministries.org and click on the people button.

Submitted by
Rich Schweissing
IM Board Member

2014 Annual Reports

It is that time of year again to collect your church data to update our Region office data and National registry. We know that this process takes some time to complete, but the information is useful to assess the health of our denomination. It helps us plan for future mission and ministry, so your reports are important!

2014 Annual Report's will be mailed this month. Please take the time to complete your report and send it in early.

We thank all of you for your support to our Region.

The image shows a form titled "2011 ABC of the Rocky Mountains Annual Report". It includes sections for "CHURCH INFORMATION", "CHURCH MEMBERSHIP", "NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY", and "MEMBERS LEFT BY". There are checkboxes for various church activities and a section for "DECLARATION OF AFFIDAVIT". The form is dated April 30, 2012.

New Website Blog

Dear ABCRM Churches,

In January 2015, ABCRM launched a new blog on our website called, "Our Story". Each blog article will feature a different church in the Region and a story about what kind of outreaches they are participating in, new ministries they have launched, if they have experienced church growth, and the like. These blogs will be posted and sent out each week. This is an opportunity to share with each other about what the Lord is doing through your church!



I will be asking churches in advance to put together a story to be posted. If you already have a story you would like to share about your church, please send them to me as soon as possible. I am certainly excited to see what God is doing in and through our churches and I hope you are too!

Serving Him,

Amber J. Shearer
ABCRM Communication Specialist
wyoba@abcrm.org

Harvey Park Baptist Church to become Forefront Church at Harvey Park

Harvey Park Baptist Church has been faithfully serving their community on the West side of Denver for 58 years. In December, they voted to merge with Forefront Church, a church plant in the same part of Denver. The hope is that the two churches will be stronger and better able to minister to their community in the coming years.

On Sunday, March 1, 2015, a celebration service will be held at 10:45 a.m. at Harvey Park Baptist Church located at 2112 S. Patton Ct., Denver, CO 80219. This service will honor the lay people and pastors who have faithfully served Christ over the past 58 years.



11 Weeks to ...



Easter! Yes, it's right around the corner. Your church should be planning for this "big day" on the church communications calendar. **There are 3 communication failures** that we see regularly as churches plan to invite the community to their Easter services.

We're told that Easter Season is the most effective time to invite an unchurched person to visit! *So we better get it right.* Armed with an Easter flyer, we start to invite. People are polite and they think "isn't that nice" and inside their heads they're expecting friendship. But the bait and switch happens and moments into the service, they realize they've been duped.

How can we stop this? It's all in effective Church Communication.

Here's 3 failures that happen at Easter:

1. **The invitation assumes people know about Easter (and church).** More and more, people are not connected to any church. So people mainly know the secular version of Easter. **SOLUTION:** Figure out the objective of bringing the unchurched in (be sure it's what they're looking for). **It's probably not what you'd think.** People aren't coming for just a story of Jesus; or to join the church; instead they want something to help them. Figure that out and deliver it. [Our process](#) does EXACTLY that!
2. **The invitation points to a website that doesn't talk to the unchurched.** Your church communications has your URL on it, I hope! **SOLUTION:** Spend some time on the landing page that you want them to go to. Let them know expectations, what to wear, why a bunch of people meet weekly in this thing called "church". Explain why it will benefit them to attend regularly.
3. **The actual service is a dead end.** Like your web pages, your service needs to end with answering "now what?". **SOLUTION:** Think about all the ways someone might feel at the end of a service. Many times, there's an altar call, then it ends. A first-time visitor will rarely walk the aisle. What are they to do then? A gift is nice, but then what?

Let's stop burning bridges by having people feel duped when they come to our services. They'll be more apt to say "yes" for another service.

Mark MacDonald
Senior Brand Strategist, Creative Director, Blogger
BeKnownForSomething PinPointCreative

Originally published at BeKnownForSomething.com (who holds the copyright); an organization dedicated to effective church communications while helping individuals and ministries become known for something influential; so they'll point to Christ. Printed with Permission.

2015 Camp Wyoba Dates

Survival Camp
June 28-July 1

Junior Camp
July 5-11

Junior High Camp
July 12-18

Senior High Camp
July 19-25

Primary Camp
July 26-29

Young Adult Weekend
July 31-August 2

The logo for Wyoba Camp & Conference Center. It features a stylized mountain range with a tree in the foreground. To the right of the graphic, the word 'WYوبا' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Camp & Conference Center' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website 'www.wyoba.org' is written in a small, sans-serif font.

WYوبا
Camp & Conference Center
www.wyoba.org



2015
Wyoming Women's
Retreat
August 7-9
at Camp Wyoba
Rock Solid Living:
The Foundation of
the
Sermon on the Mount

For more information, visit <http://www.americanbaptists2015.com/>

Don't miss the fun!

Save the DATE!
Front Range Camping
July 5-11, 2015



Wyoming Men's Retreat



June 5-7, 2015

Location: Camp Wyoba, Casper Wyoming
Time: Friday at 5:00pm -Sunday afternoon
Cost: \$20 to cover meals

Men, you are invited to come to Wyoba for a men's retreat weekend full of fun, food, fellowship, and freedom from the city! Pastor Jason King from FBC Cheyenne is hosting this retreat and will be planning the Bible teaching and worship. On Saturday the group will be completing projects to prepare the camp for the season. If you are looking for a chance to do manly things like sleep in a cabin, build things, eat lots of food, and use your pocket knife, than this weekend is for you!

Contact Jason at jason@cheyennefbc.com or Amber at wyoba@aberm.org for more info



For a registration form, [click here](#).

Wyoming Women's Retreat

Theme

*"Rock Solid Living: The Foundation of the
Sermon on the Mount"*



August 7-9, 2015

**The retreat begins promptly at
5:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner
and will end after lunch at 1:00
p.m. on Sunday*

**Women, we hope you will accept this invitation and
join us for a mountaintop experience where we will
learn principles for leading a rock solid life for Christ!**

Contact Jenita with questions at mjmjpack@vcn.com or 307-321-4681



Please send registration form and payment to:

ABCRM

9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite #170

Centennial, CO 80112

Location:

Camp Wyoba

9350 Casper Mountain
Road, Casper, WY 82601

For a registration form, [click here](#).

50 Reasons to Support American Baptist United Mission

1	Pastor Search guidance	26	Prisoner re-entry ministry
2	Missional Church Learning Experience	27	ABCGI Board leadership
3	Grant funding opportunities	28	Theological education
4	Annual Gathering Celebration	29	Pastor Transition Discernment Retreat
5	American Baptist Mission Summit	30	Intercultural ministries
6	Church Leadership Institute scholarships	31	New Church funding and resources
7	“Let’s Talk about Money” workshops	32	Chaplains/Pastoral Counseling services
8	Office of the General Secretary	33	Congregational Life Facilitator
9	Church Vision Discernment process	34	American Baptist Mission Table
10	Clergy & Spouse gatherings	35	Pastoral Relations Committee training
11	Region Board Retreat	36	Discipleship & Christian Ed resources
12	Volunteers in Mission	37	Challenge Conversation events
13	Pastor coaching and support	38	Stewardship resources
14	Pulpit supply	39	“Face to Face” for Search Committees
15	American Baptist Personnel Services	40	Ecumenical & Interfaith ministries
16	Edna Martin Christian Center	41	Latino Ministries Strategist
17	ABC Board of General Ministries	42	Clergy Continuing Education
18	Evangelism resources	43	Youth Ministry
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20	Interim Ministries	45	Mission education
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23	Church Leadership Strategist	48	Scholarships & grants
24	Disaster response	49	Conflict mediation
25	Ordination standards and councils	50	Equipping for community mission

Pilgrimage to Taizé May 21-June 2, 2015

The focus of our pilgrimage will be a week at the Taizé Community. Each participant will join the community for sung prayer three times a day, meet the brothers for Bible study and belong to a small group made up of young people from around the world. You are invited to join us not as a tourist, but as a pilgrim.



Taizé, in the south of Burgundy, France is the home of an international ecumenical community founded by Brother Roger. The brothers are committed for their whole life to material and spiritual sharing, to celibacy, and to a great simplicity of life. Today the community is made up of over a hundred brothers. The brothers' background range from Catholic to various Protestant denominations and they come from more than 25 nations. At the heart of daily life in Taizé are three times of prayer together. This sung prayer sets the rhythm of the week.

This trip will be led by Rev. Brad Berglund, pastor of The Threshold. Cost: \$1,600 to \$1,750. For more information and to register, visit www.illuminatedjourneys.com or email brad@illuminatedjourneys.com.



*Rev. Brad Berglund
The Threshold and
Illuminated Journeys*

*A place for
prayer and
reconciliation*



Calendar

February

- 3 Missions Committee
- 16 President's Day

March

- 1 America For Christ Offering Sunday
- 1 Harvey Park Church Merge Celebration
- 8 Daylight Savings Time begins
Spring forward one hour
- 10-17 ABW Deborah House Mission Trip
- 27-28 Region Board Meeting
- 29 Palm Sunday

April

- 3 Good Friday
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 6-10 NLC Meetings, Green Lake
- 17-18 MLC Meeting
- 24 Far West AB Men's Retreat @
Camp Rock, Bridgeport, NE



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Getting engaged on Valentines Day.. very romantic. Waiting for April Fool's Day is dangerous.

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Steve Van Ostran

Executive Minister
svanostran@abcrm.org

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American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite 170
Centennial, CO 80112

Phone (303) 988-3900
Fax (303) 988-0620