



June 1, 2016

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

MISSION STORIES

WILL YOU GIVE TO One Great Hour?

*"Where you go I will go, and where you stay
I will stay." Ruth 1:16*

Providing Relief to Iraqi Refugees

For many Iraqi refugees, there is no going home. Unlike most Syrian refugees who want to return to Syria once the war is over, many Iraqis feel they cannot return to their country. They feel they have been expelled for good from the communities their families lived in for hundreds of years.

Currently, thousands of Iraqis have fled from Iraq to Lebanon. Many left because they were forced to leave their homes by the fundamentalist organization Islamic State, when they advanced into Mosul and the surrounding region in 2014.

The stories the refugee children tell are heart-breaking. Six-year-old Pedro didn't know why he had left Iraq. Jinan, a nine-year-old girl, said her home in Iraq had been destroyed. When asked why he had come to Lebanon Samoel, a ten-year-old boy, simply replied "ethajarna," which means they had been "displaced" or "kicked out."

The Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD) ministers to these children to give them hope in the midst of an uncertain future. LSESD provides meal vouchers, medical care, and at times fun activities for the children so they can just be kids. "You could feel the happiness in their hearts," shares Marina Mardirossian, Event Coordinator for LSESD. On a given day, over 200 Iraqi kids enjoy worship, a puppet show, and meal before receiving food vouchers for their families.

The trauma of the upheaval these refugees have faced has exacerbated health issues within the Iraqi refugee community. Research carried out by LSESD among Iraqi refugees found that many are suffering from high blood pressure and chronic illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and kidney disease which, if not treated, could be life threatening. LSESD is also now providing medical aid to those that need it through two churches in Beirut that are already assisting Iraqi refugees.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provided \$92,000 for LSESD's ministry to Syrian and Iraqi families. Please pray for LSESD's work among Iraqi refugees, that they may be able to give children like Pedro, Jinan, Samoel and their families a more hopeful future.

For additional information and materials, visit the ABC-USA website at www.abc-usa.org.

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

What's in this RMAB?

Central Seminary
Graduation has Colorado
Connections [Page 2](#)

Calvary Baptist Church
Hosted a Successful
Event [Page 2](#)

Disaster Relief Training
[Page 3](#)

The Importance of
Marinating Healthy
Boundaries MLC Online
Course [Page 3](#)

FR Camp at Quaker Ridge
[Page 4](#)

Camp Wyoba
[Page 4](#)

Grand Mesa Baptist
Camp [Page 5](#)

Global Leadership
Summit [Page 5](#)

New Overtime Rules
[Page 6](#)

Seriously: There's No
Secret to Good Church
Websites [Page 6](#)

2016 Annual Gathering
Save the Date
[Page 7](#)

Calendar
[Page 7](#)

Central Seminary Graduation has Colorado Connections

Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, KS held their 111th graduation on Saturday, May 14, graduating their largest class ever, with 74 graduates. ABC-USA interim General Secretary Susan Gillies, who formerly served on the Board of the Seminary, was given an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Rev. Dr. Richard Olson, who pastored First Baptist Church of Boulder (now Pine Street Church) from 1980 to 1987 retired as Distinguished Professor of Pastoral Theology; he was honored with the Seminary's Distinguished Service Award and an endowed scholarship has been established in his name. Dr. Bill Mankin from ABCRM presented the award. At the Alumni program on Friday, two 50-year alumni from the class of 1966 were honored; one, Rev. Llewellyn Walker was associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Colorado Springs from 1970 to 1980. Walker is the father of Wisconsin governor Scott Walker. The other, Rev. Dr. Wayne Paulson who served for years in North Platte, NE and was later area minister in Ohio and interim executive minister in Indianapolis and in New York State, was honored as alumnus of the year.



Dr. Susan Gillies



*Dr. Bill Mankin, Rev. Dr. Richard Olson,
President Molly T. Marshall*



Rev. Llewellyn Walker

Calvary Baptist Church Hosted a Successful Event for the Metro Denver Community

The "Angels Among Us" celebration earned high praise for seven African American women who presented. They shared gospel music that rocked the hall, stories, poetry, and acting to bring alive the work of great African American women civil rights leaders.

The presenters were Angela Faison, Sherrie Jones, D'Yvonne Davis, Mary Tellis, Bennie Williams (pictured below left), Kay Farley, Regina Tate, and Sandra Seale. Bennie Williams presentation was on Mary McLeod Bethune. She will tell us more about her in another issue.

This event was sponsored by ABW of Metro Denver.

*Carol Weale
Calvary Baptist Church*



ABCRM Disaster Relief Training

Over the past year or so, you have been hearing about the ABCRM disaster relief trailer and how we are working on putting together a relief team. I am pleased to announce that we are finally getting organized! The relief trailer is stocked and organized with tools to respond to flood, fire, and tornado cleanup. Our next step is putting together a response team and getting our team trained.



We will be having our first training event **June 10-11** at Camp Wyoba on Casper Mountain in Wyoming. During this training event, the group will get familiarized with the trailer equipment and tools, review safety issues and procedures, do some projects as a team, and discuss the vision of this ministry. Victoria Goff from the American Baptist Home Mission Society will also be a guest speaker at this event. Goff has experience coordinating disaster relief outreaches and missions on a national level. She has been a great support in helping to get this ministry launched.

Housing in cabins and meals are provided. **Please RSVP to me by June 1, 2016.** If you are interested in getting involved with the ABCRM Disaster Relief team, please contact me at wyoba@abcrm.org or 307-234-6240.

Items you will need to bring with you:

- Sleeping bag/Bedding
- Water bottle
- Work gloves
- Work clothes
- Close-toed shoes (no open-toed shoes worn during projects)

Rev. Amber J. Shearer



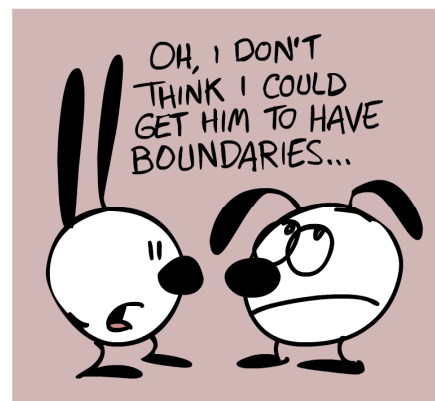
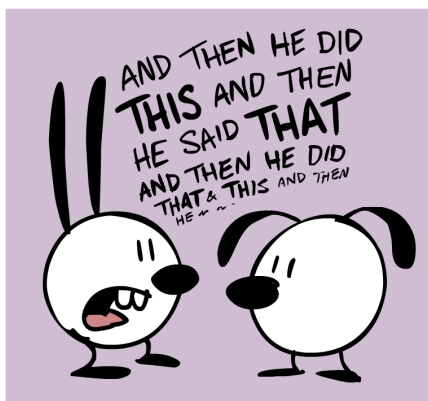
The Importance of Maintaining Healthy Boundaries MLC Online Course

Most clergy are clear about their professional and personal boundaries. They maintain healthy relationships with members of their church. They pay their taxes on time. They care for their families. Okay, maybe they could lose a few pounds and perhaps they could be more attentive to their self-care, but they are doing pretty well. So why is ABCRM encouraging all clergy and even lay persons to take the online class, *The Importance of Maintaining Healthy Boundaries*?

The reality is that when clergy do violate professional or personal boundaries, the consequences are devastating. Devastating to themselves, their families, the church, and anyone else involved. It is also a reality that with the advent of social media, we need to think in new ways about relationships and what we share online as well as face-to-face.

Over the summer of 2016, ABCRM is making this online class available to pastors and lay people from ABCRM churches for only \$25. You don't even have to leave your home to take the class. The class includes 7 lectures (10-20 minutes each), online discussions and reflection papers. The lectures can be completed at your own pace.

Participants must sign up for the course by July 31 to qualify for the \$25 price. After this, the course price will be \$100.



Front Range Camp @ Quaker Ridge July 17-23, 2016

Register online at www.frontrangecamping.org

We are preparing another week of crazy games, great friends,
and learning to be followers of Jesus!

Three great camps: Elementary Camp, Middle School Camp, High School Camp

Join us for the fellowship! Join us for the fun!!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2016

Early Registration Rates:

Camp	Grade Completed	AB Rate*	Non AB Rate
Elementary	2-5	\$290	\$315
Middle School	6-8	\$305	\$330
Sr. High	9-12	\$305	\$330



Camp Wyoba

Camp Wyoba Dates

Primary Camp July 6-9 Senior High Camp July 10-16

Junior High Camp July 17-23 Junior Camp July 24-30

Camp packets were mailed to campers and churches in February. If you need a packet, please call the Region office at 303.988.3900 or visit www.wyoba.org

Men's Retreat
June 10-12

Young Adult Weekend
July 1-3

Women's Retreat
August 5-7



Grand Mesa Baptist Camp

Thank you for the Curtis Park matching grant funds. With the additional funds we received we were able to install new doors on 14 cabins (seven girls, six boys and the cooks cabin). The old wood doors were deteriorated from weather and the marmots chewing on them. The new doors are metal with tempered glass windows. They are a wonderful improvement to the cabins.

The Board of Trustees



2016 Camping Schedule

Due to the snow pack this winter and spring we have adjusted the camp dates for a later start date and had to condense our three weeks of camping into two weeks.

Family Camp	June 24-26
The Alpine Zone (High School Age)	June 26-July 2
The Ascent (Middle School Age)	July 2-7
The Trailhead (Elementary Age)	July 7-10

Forms and registration fees are available on the website:

<http://grandmesabaptistcamp.org/>



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Thursday-Friday, August 11-12, 2016

August 11-12, 2016

Featuring World Class Faculty including:

- ◆ Bill Hybels
- ◆ Melinda Gates
- ◆ Alan Mulally
- ◆ Bishop T.D. Jakes
- ◆ Horst Schulze
- ◆ Dr. Travis Bradberry
- ◆ Erin Meyer
- ◆ Wilfredo De Jesús
- ◆ Patrick Lencioni
- ◆ Chris McChesney
- ◆ Danielle Strickland
- ◆ Jossy Chacko
- ◆ John C. Maxwell

Leadership Topics including:

- ◆ Executing Ideas that Matter Most
- ◆ Virtues that Accelerate Teamwork
- ◆ Navigating Effectively Through Cultural Differences
- ◆ Harness the Power of Emotional Intelligence
- ◆ Ingredients of Successful Turnarounds
- ◆ Building Cultures that Value Efficiencies

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

July 15, 2016

\$125.00 per person

(registration and payment must be received by July 15)

**For a registration form, please contact our office
(303.988.3900) or visit www.abcrm.org**

**For more information and the full list of speakers, visit
<http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/index.html>**

New Overtime Rules

Effective December 1, 2016

The Department of Labor (DOL) has issued final rules that will raise the minimum salary requirement for non-exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The final rule is effective December 1, 2016. Your church might be affected by these changes. Here are a few key points:

- Workers earning less than \$47,476 per year (\$913 per week) will now be eligible for overtime pay even if it is a salaried or “exempt” position. This is a significant increase from the current minimum salary requirement of \$23,660 per year (\$455 per week).
- Ministers are exempt from FLSA due to what is known as ministerial exception. Ministers are not, in general, covered by the FLSA and are exempt from the overtime regulations.

Check out the following resources to find out more about the who on your church staff might be affected:

- Department of Labor Website: <https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/final2016/overtime-factsheet.htm>
- ADP Website https://www.adp.com/-/media/accountant/docs/sbs_fyl6_q1_august_edm_new_overtime_rules_cpa_v2_portal.ashx
- Webinar sponsored by The Church Network (formerly known as the National Association of Church Business Administrators) on June 9th at 12:30 PM (mountain time). Presenter – Frank Sommerville, JD, CPA <http://www.nacba.net/Pages/Telewebs.aspx>



Seriously: There's No Secret to Good Church Websites



A few years ago, during a meeting, someone asked a question about an upcoming national event. We all guessed at the answer. Then someone suggested to “Google it”. They “found” the answer on a desktop computer in the next room.

Fast forward about 10 years and this time the meeting was around a restaurant table. A question came up and I was able to say, “I’ll check” as I pulled out my iPhone from my back pocket.

The internet is just a click away and we rely on it. Now we even have the power of the internet on our watch! The internet of things (IoT) is taking over.

So why do we think it’s a secret about why church websites are good? What websites do you go to regularly? What makes them a good website? There’s really no secret. You know the answer:

We go to church websites for solutions or information. Want good church websites? Consider what you already know from websites you frequent often and:

- **Provide Solutions.** Think about what people in your community might be looking for. They have specific questions, pains, needs or desires. In the church we’re tempted to think that people want the history of the church or a listing of ministry details. But most people aren’t looking for that kind of information. Instead, try to provide solutions that they’re looking for.
- **Provide Information.** Yes, the church history and ministry listings are information. But ensure your information is desired by a lot of people. Often we provide content for a few members who may want minutia (details only a few people may want). So we write long paragraphs and take up a lot of room on your website. It doesn’t make for good church websites — just a website with lots of content that most don’t want to wade through. Instead, provide important information that a lot of people are seeking.

Good church websites are about good [content](#). Once you get that done, deliver the solutions and information in a simple, professional user interface. It’s that simple. No

secrets here! Here's more [tips](#).

To view this article online, visit
<http://beknownforsomething.com/blog/>

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.*



Calendar

June

- One Great Hour of Sharing Month
- 10-11** 2016 Colorado State Women's Conference
- 10-11** Disaster Relief Training at Camp Wyoba
- 11-12** Men's Retreat at Camp Wyoba
- 18** Eastern Wyoming/NE Pastors Meeting
- 19** Father's Day

July

- 1-3** Young Adult Weekend at Camp Wyoba
- 4** Independence Day
- 6-9** Wyoba Primary Camp
- 10-16** Wyoba Senior High Camp
- 15-16** MLC Meeting
- 17-23** Front Range Camp at Quaker Ridge
- 17-23** Wyoba Junior High Camp
- 24-30** Wyoba Junior Camp
- 29-30** Region Board Meeting
- 31** Jules Smith 40th Ordination Anniversary
 Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church

SAVE the DATE 2016 Annual Gathering



any MAN CAN BE A
FATHER,
BUT IT TAKES
A *special* PERSON TO BE A
DAD

HAPPY *father's* DAY

*The Rocky Mountain
American Baptist*
is published by the
American Baptist Churches
of the Rocky Mountains
www.abcrm.org

Steve Van Ostran
Executive Minister
svanostran@abcrm.org

*This newsletter is published
on the 1st of each month.*

*The deadline for submissions
is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

*Reprint permission is granted
to ABCRM churches.*



American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite 170
Centennial, CO 80112
Phone (303) 988-3900
Fax (303) 988-0620