



July 1, 2015

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Dangerous Dreams

Dangerous Dreams will be the theme of the 2015 Annual Gathering of ABCRM. The Gathering will be held at Macedonia Baptist Church, on September 25-26. Host Pastor, Rev. Dr. Victor-LaMonte Lane, offers these thoughts about our theme:

DREAMING: Created to Dream or Dare to Dream

The act of dreaming is a gift from God. It is a means through which God endows us with the Divine faculty to imagine a future that is radically different from our present reality. To dream is to be able to see the world differently than what it is. To dream is to be able to see a protracted view of the potential of something, the marvelous possibilities of life, the embedded greatness in a person that are presently obscured by the present limitations of the world. To dream as God would have us to dream is to be able to envision life with limits removed. Obstacles will remain, difficulties will arise, challenges will still present themselves but to dream is to be able to envision life with limits removed. To dream is to love beyond the limits of culture, tribe, offense, mistake, ethnicity, sin. To dream is to believe beyond the limits of facts, details, customs, tradition, knowledge, or even history. To dream is to live beyond the limits of circumstance, crisis, fear, status, present reality, or even predicted predicaments. To dream is to be able to see what can-be in the face of a contradictory reality. And even more to the truth—to dream is to be able to see what is, while it is still yet not. Dreaming is one of the marvelous attributes of God. For the book of Genesis records, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be...’*. This truth is reiterated in the 11th chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews where the epistle writer writes, *“By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear”*. These two passages of Scripture reveal the capacity of God to dream. While the chaos of a dark void and formless existence was still presently visible, God envisioned a greater reality before it was yet seen. In the face of a contradictory reality, God dreamed. And out of God’s dream came life!

Dreaming is a gift from God. It is what God does and thus has endowed man and woman to do. For of all of the earthly creatures created, only humans possess the cognitive powers of memory, meditation, and imagination. For in the likeness and image of God, God created man and woman to dream. Through the faculty of memory we are able to consider the events of the past. By means of the power of meditation we are able to take account of our presently reality. But it is through the gift of dreaming that God empowers us to envision His will for His world and bring His will into fruition. In the gospel



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according to Matthew chapter 6, Jesus reveals that the Father has a will for His creation—“*Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*” God has a heavenly vision of His will for earth that is often only realized when we dare to DREAM.



*God's Speed,
In the Grip of God's Grace
Rev. Victor-LaMonte Lane
(pictured)
Macedonia Baptist Church*

The Gathering promises to be an exciting time where we can dream together about our communities being safe places for all, our churches being more effective servants of Christ in those communities and our common love of Christ trumps our differing views of Scripture. We hope you will come and be a part of this special time together.



Save the Dates Annual Gathering

*Theme:
Dangerous Dreams*
**September 25-26, 2015
@
Macedonia Baptist Church
3240 Adams St.
Denver, CO 80205**

**Pre Gathering Training
September 24, 2015**

*Luncheon
Humor and Hard Topics*

*Improv Training
Going With the Flow*

**Clergy Appreciation Dinner
September 24, 2015
@
Wings Over the Rockies**

- Includes:*
- * Informal tours of the Rockies Air and Space Museum
 - * Dinner
 - * Entertainment

Rev. Bryan Roberts Ordination Service

June 7 was a very special day in the life of Chapel Car Bible Church in Rawlins, WY. On June 7, 1925, the church was organized as First Baptist Church of Rawlins in the Chapel Car Evangel, which had been permanently located in Rawlins by the Home Mission Society. On June 7, 2015, the church celebrated its 90th anniversary, and ordained Rev. Bryan Roberts, the 28th pastor in their long history. After the morning worship service, the celebration moved outdoors in blessedly dry weather for “dinner on the grounds” and an anniversary celebration; moderator Jenita Calton presided over the program. Local historian Dan Kinnaman reviewed significant events in the history of Rawlins in the 1920’s, George Bagby read the minutes from the 1925 meeting establishing the church, and the Golden family provided special music. One highlight was answering a difficult quiz of questions related to the founding.

At 3:00 p.m. the service returned to the sanctuary for the ordination of Pastor Bryan Roberts. Executive Minister Steve Van Ostran preached the ordination sermon and delivered the charge to Bryan and to the congregation. All present were invited to lay hands on Bryan as Wyoming ministry coach Bill Mankin led the ordination prayer. Steve presented a gift of a liturgical stole from the Region and presented the certificate of ordination. The service closed with Rev. Roberts giving a benediction, followed by a reception in the church fellowship hall.

Bryan is married to Shauna; they have two sons, Peyten and Heyden.



*Bill Mankin
ABCRM Coach
Wyoming Cluster*



SoulJourners Retreat

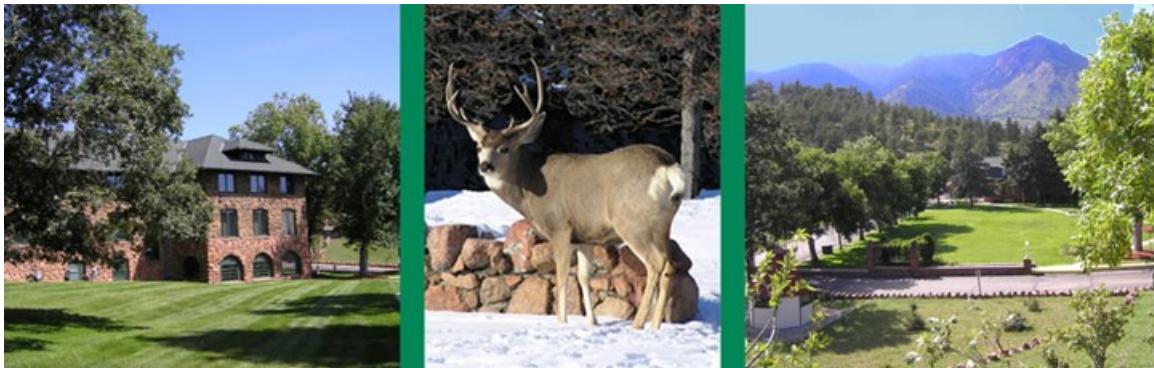
Each year the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains sponsors an adult retreat called SoulJourners. The dedicated committee works hard every year to find outstanding speakers and put together a program that is informative and inspirational. This year's program is *Understanding Jesus: His culture and context* and will be led by Dr. David May (pictured), a New Testament scholar and professor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Both the Roman and the Jewish cultures in first century Palestine were very different from the culture in which we live. In particular, the concepts of honor and shame were vital in those cultures, and, in the Roman in particular, patronage was an important influence. We find it difficult to understand the motivations and actions of people without understanding their cultural context. Dr. May will give us insights into the culture in Jesus' day, and help us understand how to interpret Jesus' teaching in light of the cultural context.



In addition to the sessions on the importance of culture for understanding the teachings of Jesus, we will have one session focusing on the Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest extant manuscript of the Bible. This Greek codex (book form as opposed to scrolls) is considered to be one of the very best texts of the New Testament. All of the New Testament and about half of the Old Testament survive. Dr. May will discuss the influence of the Codex on modern Bible scholarship and on our understanding of Jesus' teaching.

Worship and music are important parts of the SoulJourners conference. The worship leader for this year's retreat is Rev. Andrew Daugherty, the Executive Minister of Calvary Baptist Church. Music leadership is by Michael McBride, who has a long history of outstanding work in church music and music education.

Of course, the program is not the only attraction of the SoulJourners conference. It is held at the beautiful St. Francis Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. This lovely setting features expansive green lawns, artwork, a labyrinth, and a multitude of deer. Ample free time is provided for wandering the grounds, meditating, and renewing the soul. The spacious meeting rooms provide a comfortable venue for our meetings. An abundant and varied menu in the dining room gives plenty of good food.



Fellowship is one of the best aspects of SoulJourners. Talking with friends, meeting new friends, recalling past experiences, all these make SoulJourners a special time of fellowship. The ice cream social as well as evening game and conversation times give plenty of time for sharing with others.

Whether you are a first time SoulJourner or a veteran of years of conferences, you are cordially invited to attend this year's retreat on September 15-17. You will find much to appeal to you. If you are a first-timer, you receive a \$25 discount on the registration. Download the registration form from <http://abcrm.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Retreat-Registration-form-2015.pdf>, complete it, and mail it with your check to the Registrar Ken Pinkham. The address is on the registration form. Register early—by August 1—and receive a \$25 discount. Don't wait. Make your plans today to attend the SoulJourners retreat.

Bill Mankin
ABCRM Coach
Wyoming Cluster

Rev. Jeffrey Paul Lundblad Ordination Service

Rev. Jeffrey Paul Lundblad, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Laramie, WY, was ordained by the Community Baptist Church of Glenrock, WY on May 30, 2015. Rev. Rick Bishop, pastor of Community Baptist Church, presided at the ceremony. Moderator Carl Hildebrand delivered the charge to the candidate, and Rev. Mike Oldham of ABCRM charged the congregation of Community Baptist to continue to care for and support Jeff, and charged the Laramie congregation to give whole-hearted support, particularly during times of discouragement. Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostrand, Executive Minister of ABCRM, presented a gift of a liturgical stole from the Region and presented the certificate of ordination. The entire congregation was invited to lay hands on Jeff and pray for him during the ordination prayer.

Rev. Lundblad was raised in the Community Baptist Church. He spoke in the service of his time growing up, what the church had meant to him and his family, and his call to ministry after years of IT work. Jeff graduated from Sioux Falls University and received his M.Div. degree from Palmer Seminary in Pennsylvania; he was called to the Laramie church in July 2013. Jeff's experiences at Camp Wyoba while growing up were a powerful influence, and he will serve as the camp director for Junior Camp in July.

Jeff is married to Brenda, and has three children, Jack, Zane, and Sarah.

*Bill Mankin
ABCRM Coach
Wyoming Cluster*



Executive Minister Steve Van Ostrand presents ordination certificate to Rev. Jeff Lundblad.

August 6-7, 2015

REGISTRATION COST

\$125.00 per person

**Registration deadline is July 15, 2015
(if available)**

(registration and payment must be received by July 15)

Featuring World Class Faculty including:

- ◆ Bill Hybels
- ◆ Craig Groeschel
- ◆ Dr. Brené Brown
- ◆ Sam Adeyemi
- ◆ Jim Collins
- ◆ and, many more...

Leadership Topics including:

- ◆ Hiring/Firing
- ◆ People Management
- ◆ Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Vision Casting
- ◆ Team Building
- ◆ Relational Intelligence
- ◆ Staff Challenges
- ◆ Succession Planning
- ◆ Leadership Development

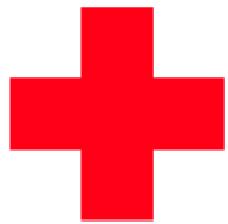
Click [here](#) for registration form.

Form can also be found on our website at

www.abcrm.org

Registration deadline is July 15.

For more information and the full list of speakers, visit www.willowcreek.com.



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

First Aid, CPR and AED Certification Training

**Friday, July 31 from 9:30—3:30
at Calvary Baptist Church—Denver**

6500 East Girard Ave.
Denver, CO 80224
Ph: 303.757.8421
Email: cbc@calvarydenver.org

ABCRM has contracted with the Red Cross to provide training and certification for our staff and member churches. The cost is only \$72 (includes lunch & materials)

Register by Thursday, July 16 to guarantee your spot in the class.

Click [here](#) for a registration form or visit our web site at www.abcrm.org.



ABCUSA Awards Spring Matthew 25 Grants



American Baptist Churches USA is excited to announce the **ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant**. Created through the monetary gifts of a generous donor, this fund is designed to channel gifts to help meet the needs of “housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate.” The donor’s primary wish is to help ameliorate poverty. The **ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant** fund has been established to respond to this donor’s generosity.

[\(View Application\)](#)

In order to be eligible for funds, ministries must have a relationship with American Baptist Churches USA. Awards from the fund will be disbursed twice a year, in April and in October, and the maximum amount given to any ministry or church will be \$5,000 per year. Due to the limited funds available, the application process will be competitive, with grants being awarded to ministries that best exemplify the goal of helping end poverty. A committee has been formed to review the applications and make the awards. The committee will consider only one application per ministry/church in any calendar year.

The application process is structured to help small ministries with limited staff time. Each applicant will need to complete a one-page form, submit a budget for the ministry, and add a one-page explanation about the need for and uses of the funds. Ministries of any size that relate to ABC are welcome to apply, including local churches. The next application deadline is September 1. Grants will be distributed on October 15.

All applications must be submitted electronically to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Since the donor has asked that the funds be used to directly assist impoverished persons, staff positions will not be funded through this grant. Grant funds may not be used to supplement the church budget, although direct ministries that receive funds from the church budget will be eligible to apply.

For more information, visit <http://www.abc-usa.org/2015/04/27/abcusa-awards-spring-matthew-25-grants/>.



3 Marketing Lessons From Jesus

I get push-back regularly from church leaders when it comes to “Marketing”. And I understand why. Often marketing feels like “compromising our message” or “manipulating an audience” for monetary profit. And both of these are absolutely wrong for the church.

We deserve better.

Instead, I believe that churches need to become known for something. For something — since the unchurched believes we’re against more things than we’re for). Let’s make the community need the church. Something that offers a positive solution to an audience in desperate need. Something that is simple and easy to remember. Not *many* things; but one thing.



It’s good promotion. And preparing the strategy to accomplish all of this is ultimately called marketing. We don’t try to profit in monetary terms. Instead we want the community to profit in a dynamic relationship with Christ.

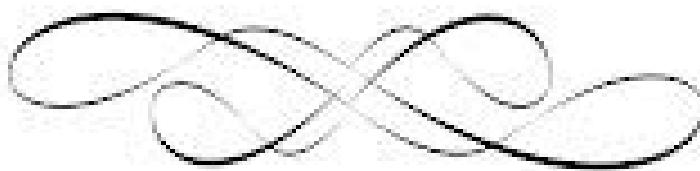
In John 4, Jesus used excellent marketing skills. We have so much to learn from Him. Here’s 3 lessons we need to emulate:

1. **Jesus went to where He knew there would be a person in need.** Do you know where that would be in your community? Are you visiting that location regularly, waiting for a person in need to stop by? We need to be available in the right places.
2. **Jesus supplied a temporal solution in order to deliver an eternal message.** Water became living water. What are you able to provide to a community in need so that you can tell them of Christ’s love? Provide physical needs first and they’ll eventually listen to your spiritual truths.
3. **Jesus made the leap.** Church is doing a major disservice to the community if they’re just doing something that’s needed without making the ultimate connection to the prevailing spiritual problem. All of our problems are caused by sin; and only One can solve the sin issue. *Jesus is the eternal solution to their needs.*

So, think the church needs to become experts in marketing now? We must be willing to strategize where to wait, what to share, and how to connect to Jesus. That can be done online, in person, and/or in print. It just needs to be planned beforehand. **And that’s brilliant marketing.** Want to read more about this? [Download our 16-page e-book now.](#)

Mark MacDonald
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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.



A 'Higher Expectation' Was Part Of One Refugee's Journey From Myanmar To Colorado

Across the United States, millions of high schools seniors have just graduated. With diplomas in hand, they are getting ready for what's next.

In the rural community of Delta in western Colorado, three Karen refugees recently graduated from the local high school. Their families had to leave behind their homeland in Myanmar, once known as Burma, where the Karen people face violence and persecution.

In our first report in an ongoing series about the Karen refugee population in Delta, KVNf's Laura Palmisano brings us the story of one of the graduates who will be the first person in his family to attend college.

Htoo Ler Moo was 7-years-old when his family arrived in a refugee camp in Thailand.

Before going to the camp, his family lived in a tiny village in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, where his parents worked in the fields.

In their village, they didn't have electricity or running water. Htoo Ler Moo says they were safe until the soldiers came.

"When the Burmese came you can't protect [yourself]," he says. "You just have to run away. And if they catch you, they kill you or when they get to your village they burn down your house. When the Burmese soldiers came you just have to run."

So, that's what they did. Htoo Ler Moo and his mother, father and siblings abandoned their home and fled to a refugee camp in neighboring Thailand.

Conditions in the camp were crowded and on cold nights it was hard to stay warm.

"We just had like four walls so we just lived in the living room," he says.
"We slept there [and] we ate there."

Htoo Ler Moo has six brothers and one sister. His family slept on the floor of their one-room shelter together.

However, life in the camp provided more opportunity. Htoo Ler Moo was able to go to school for the first time.

"Back in the refugee camp, we had school," he says. "I went to school there to study some English, a little, and Karen so I could read and write in my language."

They lived in the camp for seven years before they were able to come to the United States as refugees.

"My mom [wanted] to come to Colorado because my uncle was living in Denver," he says.

So in 2010, they boarded their first plane ever...and even took two more to get to Colorado.

Htoo Ler Moo says getting use to life in another country and a big city with modern conveniences was challenging.

His family didn't know the language or even how to turn on the stove.

"My mom was scared to cook," he says as he recalls his first days in the U.S.

Htoo Ler Moo says on his first day of school in Colorado he only knew basic words like yes, no and hello.

"I just go like no talking, just quiet," he says. "I just go into school and if people talked to me I just said 'no English'."



Htoo Ler Moo, middle, with his parents at a scholarship award ceremony in Delta, Colo. (Credit Laura Palmisano / KVNf)

If they catch you, they kill you or when they get to your village they burn down your house. When the Burmese soldiers came you just have to run.

After two years of living in the Denver area, his parents wanted a change.

His father heard from fellow Karen that there was agricultural work in western Colorado. So he moved his family to the small city of Delta.

Htoo Ler Moo was a sophomore when he started at the local high school.

Mayra Prieto was his ESL classroom aid.

"He is actually one of my favorite people to be around," she says. "He's a really bright student who always smiles and always is happy. He just seems like the person that is going to go far in life and he's willing to study hard, work hard to achieve that."

Prieto says Htoo Ler Moo opened up in Delta. He joined the track and soccer team and was an honor student.

Prieto also taught Htoo Ler Moo's older brothers. She says he has more academic drive than they did.

"I just [saw] that Htoo Ler Moo had always that higher expectation of himself to reach out more and do more," she says.

And he's going to college this fall, to Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado.

It's a big step for Htoo Ler Moo and his family. He'll be the first person in his family to go to college.

His mother has only an elementary education and his father didn't go to school.

"I think they really value their education and the opportunities to move on," says Pastor James Connelly, who works with the Karen population in Delta.

"The Karen students see an unlimited future because their parents have put them in a position where they can dream big dreams," Connelly says. "They see because they have language skills now and they understand they can become doctors or teachers, whatever they want to do."

Htoo Ler Moo's first year of tuition and board will be free. It's covered by a federal program that helps the children of migrant families. He also received a small scholarship from a local organization that assists migrants.

"I'm excited to [get] a degree," he says. "I will study English."

Htoo Ler Moo is already planning for what comes after college.

"After that, when I have a good English level, I will be a teacher," he says. "I will be a good teacher and I will plan to go back to my country and teach others."

He says it's important that he doesn't forget where he came from and the people who still need help.

This story is the first in an ongoing KVNF series about the Karen refugee community in Delta. The series is part of a reporting project for the [Institute for Justice & Journalism's](#) 2015 fellowship on immigrant families.

To see this article online or to listen to the report, go to

<http://kvnf.org/post/myanmar-rural-colorado-journey-better-life-education>

Htoo Ler Moo had always that higher expectation of himself to reach out more and do more.

The Karen students see an unlimited future because their parents have put them in a position where they can dream big dreams.

Submitted by
Mike Oldham
ABCRM Coach

Planned Giving Workshop

August 29, 2015

Stewardship Beyond the Offering Plate

If this is the Golden Age of Philanthropy, why do finances seem so limited? American Baptist Foundation (ABF) will shed insight on proven, yet underutilized, strategies that transform ministry needs into effective stewardship opportunities. Learn how to implement tools and resources to increase member commitment and expand your ministry's stewardship model beyond the offering plate while expanding your reach outside the walls of the church. ABCRM invites pastors and church officers to this very important and informative session with our partner in ministry, ABF.

More details will be available soon.



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Calendar

July

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 3 | Region office closed in observance of Independence Day (July 4) |
| 4 | July 4 |
| 5-11 | Front Range Camp at Quaker Ridge |
| 5-29 | Wyoba Camps |
| 17-18 | MLC Meeting |
| 24-25 | Region Board Meeting |
| 31 | Red Cross Training |
| 31-Aug 2 | Young Adult Week @ Camp Wyoba |

August

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6-7 | Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit |
| 7-9 | ABW Women's Retreat @ Camp Wyoba |
| 29 | Planned Giving Workshop |

September

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 7 | Labor Day |
| 15-17 | SoulJourners Retreat |
| 24 | Pre Gathering Training |
| 24 | Clergy Appreciation Dinner |
| 25-26 | Annual Gathering |



by Piotr Siedlecki

Blessings as you celebrate this 4th of July!!



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

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

*The deadline for submissions
is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to
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*Reprint permission is granted
to ABCRM churches.*



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