



February 1, 2016

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

New Country of Service for Ketly and Vital Pierre

The celebration of a new year for Ketly and Vital Pierre included giving thanks to God for a new ministry that began in the Caribbean during the last portion of 2015. Having served since 1999 as International Ministries (IM) missionaries on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, the Pierres are now applying their skills to strengthen local congregations and encourage existing churches to start new ones on the East Coast of the Dominican Republic (DR).

The couple's ministry will focus on leading and coordinating seminars and workshops to equip Nicaraguan church leaders to begin and strengthen a broad range of outreach ministries in their communities. The Pierres will also serve as a link with volunteer groups, matching them with local ministries according to where they would be the most effective, as well as encouraging and facilitating Haitian mission work both within the DR and beyond.

Of their previous 16-year ministry in Nicaragua, which occurred in three different areas, Vital recently wrote: "Ketly and I worked ourselves out of job. We evangelized, made disciples and sent people out as witnesses for Christ. They are doing a tremendous job." He then specified how this ministry is being left in the capable hands of local church leaders whom he and Ketly trained: "Escarlet Fletes Córdoba is pastoring the congregation and directing the school in El Rama. Indira Fletes Sing is pastoring the church and directing the school in Kukra Hill. And Francisco Montiel is pastoring the church in Bluefields under the umbrella of a Council of Elders."

Anticipating how God can use them in the DR, Ketly comments: "Reconnecting with people with whom we worked from 1993 to 1997 in La Romana, DR, has been refreshing because God has prepared our lives for such a time of harvest. At the right time, we were invited to return to the DR in order to encourage, walk side-by-side and disciple those that God has called for His service. As Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:12-13, 'to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.' Yes, it is our deepest desire for God to continue to use us as He did in Nicaragua, to do greater things in the DR and, through the Dominicans and Haitians who are here, in the world."



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As the Pierres begin their new ministry, the Rev. Adalia Gutierrez Lee, area director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, says: "I have had the privilege to experience what true friendship and collaboration is about. Through daily discipleship, our Haitian-descent brothers and sisters like Ketly and Vital serve and empower their own people who work in the Dominican Republic's sugar cane bateys and team up with those visionaries from previous generations who first shared God's love and passion for mission among them."

To learn more about the Pierres or to support their work, [visit their IM profile](#) for more information.

Words of encouragement for Ketly and Vital may be sent to ketly.pierre@internationalministries.org or vital.pierre@internationalministries.org. Download a [bulletin insert](#) with their ministry information, prayer requests and more.

To view this article on the IM website, click here: <http://internationalministries.org/read/60932-new-country-of-service-for-ketly-and-vital-pierre>

Camp Wyoba

During the 2015 camping season at Camp Wyoba on Casper Mountain there were more than 100 campers and staff. Most of them slept overnight in one of the cabins and have experienced a "Mountain Top" thrill. The thrill of getting up in the morning and seeing the sunrise through the trees and breathing the fresh morning air is awesome.



Camp Wyoba has been operating for over 75 years. Seventy-five times 100 campers are over 7,500 lives, young and old, that have experienced that thrill. I would invite each of you to come and drive up to the camp and experience that thrill.

The lives being changed on Casper Mountain is a ministry benefitting several churches in the Rocky Mountain Region. Please pray for Camp Wyoba.

*Mel Gibson
FBC, Torrington*

Rev. Rodney G. Perry Elected Pastor of Denver's Central Baptist Church

The Rev. Rodney G. Perry is the new pastor of Central Baptist Church, effective December 1, 2015. Located at 2400 California St. in the Five Points neighborhood, Central Baptist, the second oldest Baptist church in Denver, will mark its 125th anniversary in November 2016.



A 1987 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Rev. Perry was ordained in November 1989 by the Western States Baptist Convention, an auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., the largest African American religious organization in the world. From October 1993 to March 2012, he served as pastor of the Greater St. John Baptist Church. Following his time as supply pastor at Macedonia Baptist Church, Rev. Perry was an intern with the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains (ABCRM), which includes 82 affiliated churches in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah.

Rev. Perry said that most people who enter an ABCRM internship do so prior to serving as a pastor. He, however, welcomed the experience as an opportunity to work with Euro, or Caucasian, churches.

As he begins his role as pastor at Central Baptist Church, Rev. Perry is looking forward to growing the congregation numerically. "I want to build on the history already established and to be able to assist in growing the culture of the church to have a stronger community presence," he said. "And, most importantly, to have Christ represented in the immediate community."

Citing ongoing changes, including gentrification in the Five Points area, Rev. Perry admitted the challenge of navigating the new dynamics of church life, maintaining a strong presence in the city, and adjusting the culture of the church to the new community, but he remains optimistic. "Central Baptist Church is central to the city, downtown Denver, and Five Points," he stressed.

Rev. Perry is joined in his ministry by his wife of 27 years, Sheila D. Perry. They are the parents of one son, Rodney Perry, Jr., a junior at the University of Colorado, Boulder..

The formal installation of Central Baptist Church's new pastor will take place on February 21 at 4:30 p.m. at Central Baptist Church, 2400 California St., Denver, CO 80205. You are all invited to attend this very special service.

Solomon Temple Hosts Free Program for Denver Kids

Solomon Temple hosts a free program for Denver's kids on the 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month {9:00 a.m. to noon}. Knowledge, Acceptance, Learning and Integrity {KALI} is a program geared to serve elementary and middle school students by providing curriculum, opportunities and hands-on activities to empower students from age four onward to find their voices, pursue emerging interests, and direct their learning in a small and safe environment. High school students serve as interns and are being empowered and encouraged to step into leadership roles in areas of their church, school and community. The students develop skills, knowledge and strategies for learning how to ask powerful questions that yields to critical thinking and healthy dialogue. Simultaneously, they construct a sense of themselves as students, acquiring the identities they will have as life-long learners. A focus on "community" helps children develop life skills that are transferrable to all walks of life.



*"Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself."*

John Dewey

For more information or to register your child,
please contact:

Mary Tellis, Associate Pastor at
Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
720-940-9178 or email: marytellis@msn.com

Pastor John Tellis and the Solomon Temple family along with the community of Denver extend heartfelt gratitude to the Regional board, Steve Van Ostran and staff for blessing us with the Curtis Park financial scholarship to further the obligation that we are called to pursue in this season. We appreciate all of our Sister Churches for your continued prayers.

2015 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!

 A screenshot of the 2015 Annual Report form, which is a detailed questionnaire for churches. It includes sections for church information, membership, financial data, and ministry activities. The form is titled '2015 Annual Report' and 'All of the Holy Scriptures'.

2015 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.



Cross Walking

Walking in the Shadow of the Cross to Build Relationships with Others

Over 60 people came together on Thursday, January 21 to share together in a viewing of *Selma* followed by a discussion of how they experienced this film in relation to our world today. This movie highlights the events leading up to and during this historic moment in the life of our nation, our churches and common life together. The discussion time following was powerful.

This event was the first of at least three “group” events in **CrossWalking**, a learning experiment being conducted by our Region in breaking down the barriers between our traditionally Black and Euro congregations. The program is open to any of our partnering congregations and churches are being asked to, in addition to the pastor, bring three or four key leaders to these events. The ultimate goal is to form conversation dyads that will meet together throughout the summer to take our learning from a group to a personal level. These groups will be formed at a spring meeting following our group events.

The next **CrossWalking** event will be held Sunday, February 28th at First Baptist Church of Colorado Springs (317 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903) at 3:00 p.m. The event will be a combined worship service with a focus on singing and the rich diversity of our denomination.

For additional information, please contact Mike Oldham at moldham@abcrm.org or Steve Van Ostran at svanostran@abcrm.org.

New: American Baptist Churches Information Systems (ABCIS) 2016 Resources

New Church Mission Support Forms and Instructions are now available online!

Click [here](#) to view the American Baptist Churches Information Systems (ABCIS) 2016 Resources.

Or visit:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2016/01/26/new-american-baptist-churches-information-systems-abcis-2016-resources/>



Matthew 25 Grant



The Matthew 25 Grant, sponsored by ABCUSA and the Board of General Ministries, is funded by a generous donor whose goal is to help meet the needs of “housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate.”

Awards for the Matthew 25 Grant are made twice a year, in April and October, with application deadlines of March 1 and September 1. To view the guidelines and additional information and to download the application form, visit <http://www.abc-usa.org/matthew25/>

Last spring, a total of 34 applicants received funding from \$500 to \$4,250, with a total of \$78,318 awarded. Grant awards were given to ministries describing the following needs:

- Weekend food for students on free or reduced lunch at school
- Scholarships to send children of incarcerated parents to camp
- Food pantry needs, including fresh food items
- ESL program funding in local community
- Emergency fund for students at a school of theology
- Backpacks and school clothes for children in need
- Funds for the construction of a community center in Uganda
- Prison ministry funds for women at a state institution
- After school program funding
- And many more

In order to be eligible for funds, ministries must have a direct relationship with American Baptist Churches USA. The application process is structured to help small ministries with limited staff time.



Discipleship: Becoming More Like **CHRIST**

EPHESIANS 2:10



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016

Dear Pastor and Church Leaders,

Our American Baptist family has a profound heritage as a compassionate, engaging and giving people. Since 1824, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has been declaring and proclaiming the gospel of our Lord in word and deed. Today, ABHMS remains rooted in that Word and committed to responding to the ever-changing needs of churches and communities in the United States and Puerto Rico.

The theme for the America for Christ Offering 2016 is an appeal to “Become More Like Christ” based on Ephesians 2:10, which states: *“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life”* (NRSV).

This Scripture asserts that everything offered by the Lord is via God’s grace, God’s mercy and God’s love. In a marvelous manifestation of God’s ability, we have been transformed to produce good works. God is working out in our lives a tremendous exhibition of Christ’s wisdom, power, love, life, character, peace and joy. God is teaching us, training us, bringing us along, applying the paint in exactly the right places, producing marvelous masterpieces to be put on display—we, in fact, are God’s masterpieces. These virtues are to result in good works: kindness, love, mercy, compassion, help to one another and meeting each others needs.

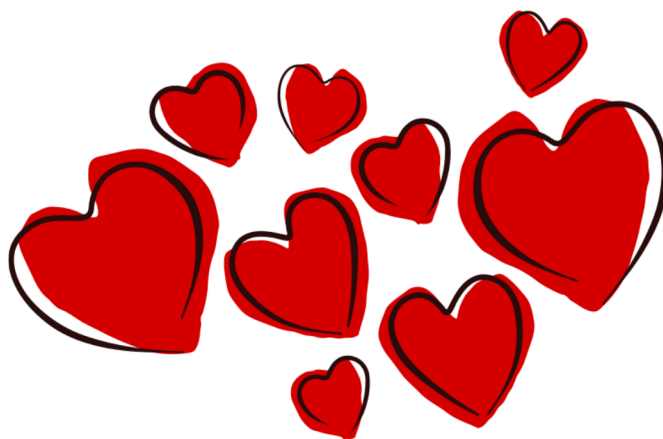
Do you know how many good works God has prepared for you? The situations are there, ready and waiting for you to embrace, as you depend upon Christ, walking in faith and trust. God has called you to good works. As you answer, you become a vivid manifestation of the heart and hands of Christ.

As American Baptists, let us respond to the America for Christ Offering 2016 theme of “Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ.” Let us take our place of service, as we seek to serve the most vulnerable in our communities.



With Life-transforming Grace,
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director, ABHMS
American Baptist Churches USA

*The America For Christ offering
month begins March 1.
For more information, visit the ABC-
USA website at www.abc-usa.org*



2016 Camp Dates

Front Range Camp @ Quaker Ridge

July 17-23

Camp Wyoba

Men's Retreat
June 10-12

Young Adult Weekend
July 1-3

Primary Camp
July 6-9

Senior High Camp
July 10-16

Junior High Camp
July 17-23

Junior Camp
July 24-30

Women's Retreat
August 5-7

Calendar

February

- 15 Presidents Day *Region office will be closed*
- 16 Mission Committee
- 21 Rev. Rodney Perry Installation Service
at Central Baptist Church
- 28 CrossWalking Event
FBC, Colorado Springs (3:00 p.m.)

March

- 1 America For Christ Offering Month
- 4-5 Region Board Meeting
- 4-5 ABWM Colorado Retreat
FBC, Loveland
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 25 Good Friday *Region office will be closed*
- 27 Easter Sunday



If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please call Alyce at 303-988-3900 to find out how. Or you can email your request to her at akeys@abcrm.org

Please include:

- Your name
- Home church
- How you would like to receive the newsletter (by email or snail mail). Please include your email or mailing address.

happy
Valentine's
day



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Send submissions to
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