



The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Images of Thailand

The 2009 short-term mission team to Thailand returned safely to Colorado on Wednesday, February 25th. It was a successful trip including stops in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Huai Namkhun (Akha village) and Bangkok. The team was inspired by the American Baptist missionaries they connected with including, Chuck and Ruth Fox, Kit Ripley, Lauren Bethel, Jeff Dieselberg, and Mike and Becky Mann. Barbara Fuller, team member from First Baptist Church – Colorado Springs, worked with the Akha Craft ministry and taught knitting to the women at the New Life Centers in both Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.

Kerry Hassler (First Baptist Church – Boulder), Karen Van (ABCRM Region Administrator), Bill Golson (Senior Pastor – True Light Baptist Church), Mark Francis (Associate Minister – True Light Baptist Church) and Chuck Fox (AB missionary) spent five days living in the Akha village of Huai Namkhun, which is about 45 minutes from Chiang Rai in Northern Thailand. They worked alongside the villagers to install over three miles of water pipe through the jungle bring clean water to the village.



To learn more about this awesome mission experience, visit <http://abcrmmissionexperiences.blogspot.com/>.

[Pictures continue on page 2](#)

Left—Bill Golson and Mark Francis on an elephant ride.

Left Bottom—The working crew putting together a small collection tank at the dam at the water source.

Right Bottom—Kerry Hassler and the work crew carry pipes and connect pipes.



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The mission team with some Akha village workers before worshipping together last Sunday.



Karen Van and Chuck Fox feeling the clean water after 3 miles of pipe.



Chuck (6'6") and Mark (6'2") with two Akha women. They were admiring the men's height.

Right—Becky Mann with Starbuck's certificate of approval of coffee beans as a product in their stores.



The coffee ministry of the Mann family has taught the hill farmers to grow coffee. It is the only free trade coffee in Thailand.



Karen Children's choir singing during the Karen church service on Feb. 15th.



the KERYGMA program

Are you ready to take The Kerygma Challenge?

The Kerygma workshop is an in-depth study of the Bible that is “deeply satisfying, meaningful, and engaging.”

The next Kerygma workshop will be held:

Monday, May 4, 2009
10 am - 3 pm

Parish Resource Center of CO
1420 S Holly St.
Denver, CO 80222

With this Kerygma workshop, you can:

- Take away strategies and tools for increasing adult biblical literacy
- Assess resources
- Experience new ways of encountering scripture
- Learn to plan and promote successful Bible study groups
- Acquire new leadership skills
- Energize your church’s educational program
- Build congregational unity
- Take the Kerygma Challenge

The workshop cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch and workshop materials. A group rate of \$100 is offered for groups of 4 or more.

Register online for this workshop at:
<http://www.kerygma.com/workshops/registeronline.htm>

Or you can call to register at 1-800-KERYGMA (537-9462)

Email explore@kerygma.com for more information.

Alvin Wilkerson
Pastor
Flagler Baptist Church
Flagler, CO

Colorado American Baptist Women’s Ministries 2009 Summer Conference

The American Baptist Women’s Ministries 2009 Conference will be held in the beautiful city of Grand Junction, CO. It will be hosted by Grand Junction First Baptist Church, with Palisade First Baptist Church assisting.

Conference Dates - June 12-14, 2009

Theme - “Come to the Edge...And Beyond”

Guest speaker – Jan DeWitt

Guest Missionary – To Be Announced

Jan DeWitt is a well-known retreat and conference leader who has a conversational style connecting Biblical teachings with everyday life. She has been active for years in American Baptist Women’s Ministries and looks forward to speaking to women who are open to growing spiritually and personally.

Jan DeWitt began her professional ministry as director of Christian Education at First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. In 1976 Jan started the Center for Women at the University of Sioux Falls where she served as its first director. The Center focused on helping women in the community discover their gifts and do life planning. These themes are very much a part of Jan’s life and are her passion as a speaker and retreat leader.

Jan will be speaking on “Lessons Learned from the Past”, “Lessons Learned in the Present” and “Going Beyond our Expectations.” She will also be teaching a class on “Living the Life of the Beloved.”

White Cross Mission Project: Hilltop Latimer House. Latimer House is a safe house for abused women and children.

Items needed:

- Twin sized bed linens and pillows
- Journals
- Toddler diapers
- Bath towels and wash cloths
- \$10 gift certificates for Walmart, K Mart, Target, JCPenney

For more information see www.abcrm.org/missions/women or contact Estelle Torpy at 303-442-7841 or emtorpy@comcast.net.



Oklahoma Board of Nursing Grants Billie R. Tower Nursing Program Five Years Accreditation, Plus Commendations

Muskogee, OK, Bacone College's Billie R. Tower Department of Nursing recently obtained five-year accreditation for the associates degree program (ADN).



Due to past problems, the state board reviewed Bacone annually for the last three or four years, Dr. Robert K. Brown (pictured right), Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty said. "The fact that we didn't already have five years accreditation," he said, "means not only are we meeting OBN's expectations, but exceeding them."

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing (OBN) visited Bacone in November to survey the program. About six weeks later, Bacone's Director of Nursing Stephanie Jett, M.S.N./ED, R.N. received a letter the program had received four commendations as well as accreditation. "That means instead of an A, we received an A+," she said.

One commendation praised Bacone's recent partnership agreement with Muskogee Regional Medical Center, Brown said. That relationship enables Bacone to give 20 annual nursing scholarships and the hospital to provide the school's department of nursing chair. "We're the only nursing school in Oklahoma to have that kind of a relationship with a regional hospital," Brown said.

According to Jett, an accredited associates program is extremely important. Not many nursing programs in the U.S.

accept students to a bachelors program from a non-accredited school, Jett added. Bacone's BSN program also requires students to come from an accredited program if they transfer from another school. "So, being accredited is a blessing from God," Jett said.

In order to receive accreditation, the school must follow certain Standards of Practice set by the state board of nursing, Jett explained. For example, if the OBN came in and requested to see last year's medical/surgical syllabus, Jett must be able to say, "here you go." "They are very meticulous."

Accreditation is also important to current nursing students. Frank Palmer, freshman nursing major, chose Bacone mainly because of the reception he received when applying for the program. "Bacone treated me kindly," he said, "like a face and not a number." However, he would not have attended if the program was not accredited. "You should always check and make sure," Palmer said.

Another freshman nursing major, Nicholas Makaya, chose Bacone for nearly the same reasons. He first found Bacone on the OBN website's listing of accredited schools in Oklahoma. After speaking to Paula Netherton, former interim director of the nursing program, he decided to come to Bacone. "This is different from other schools I talked with," Makaya said. "They treat me like a person here, like they really want me to be here." He was not worried that Bacone's ADN program was in the process of obtaining re-accreditation. "I was confident they would be re-accredited," Makaya said.

Bacone College Press Release

Seminar on Interim Ministry

This seminar is for ministers considering a change in vocational expression and for retired ministers

It will be held at the Ross Point Conference Center in Post Falls, Idaho on **April 27-29, 2009**. (Between Spokane, WA, and Coeur d'Alene, ID. 33 miles from Spokane airport.)

The cost is \$180 per person and includes lodging, meals, and the training. There is a discount for couples.

You will learn about some essential aspects of interim ministry:

- Interim Developmental Tasks—What

the church focuses on during the interim

- Ethics of an Interim Minister
- Congregational Dynamics During the Interim—What you never experienced as an installed pastor
- Transformational Interim Ministry—Longer term ministry to turn a church around

You will be introduced to:

- Levels of Conflict
- Assessment of your Conflict Management Style
- Systems Theory

CEU credits are available. Make reservations with Janet Newman at (800)222-3872 ext 2064

Inquire about scholarship assistance:

- through *Interim Ministries-ABC*, inquire with James Munro, 800/222-3872 x 2062.
- through National Ministries, inquire with Lynne Eckman, 800/222-3872 ext. 2446
- through your region office.

Presented by Interim Ministries-ABC
www.interimministries-abc.org
800/222-3872 x 2064

Prepare/Enrich Training Workshops

This nationally & internationally acclaimed Prepare/Enrich program enables clergy & counselors to identify a couple's specific strength/growth areas, teach them communication & conflict-resolution skills, and help them resolve key relationship issues.

- ♥ Taught by Rev. Dr. Jan McCormack, with 30+ years of experience
- ♥ Prepare/Enrich will help you to provide professional pre-marital and marital counseling to clients.
- ♥ Prepare and Enrich will help you to help build stronger marriages and therefore stronger communities.
- ♥ You will receive certification to administer and counsel from 3 pre-marital and 2 marital inventories immediately following the one-day workshop!

When? Spring '09: Saturday, March 14th, 9 am to 5 pm
Summer '09: Saturday, July 18th, 9 am to 5 pm

Where? Denver Seminary (Room 100/LDC bldg 200)
6399 S Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, CO 80120

Cost? \$155 general public
\$105 for current Denver Seminary students/mentors
Free for "refresher" participants, please still register

Contact? sharon.gipe@denverseminary.edu
Phone:: 303.762.6954; FAX: 303-762-6976

Register: Pick up a registration form from the Denver Seminary counseling office or download from either <http://www.denverseminary.edu> or http://prepare-enrich.com/workshop_schedule and send with a check made payable to "Denver Seminary."

*Jan McCormack
Professor
Denver Seminary
Denver, CO*

Save the Date!



Dear Friends 55+,

Plans for this year's SoulJourners Retreat on **September 1-3, 2009**, have come together and we are excited to share this information with you. You are invited to come for this great time together.

Our theme is "Covenant Connections: Then and Now!" Covenant is a key theme in the Scriptures and in our own lives. Dr. Slayden Yarbrough, Interim Pastor at First Baptist Church, Boulder will be our Keynote Speaker. Recently retired as Professor of Religion at Oklahoma Baptist University, Dr. Yarbrough will bring a wealth of knowledge and biblical scholarship to the gathering. Our missionary speakers, Tom and Terry Myers, American Baptist Missionaries in Bulgaria, look forward to sharing their vital ministry with us.

On Tuesday night our worship leader will be Hal Aqua a Jewish song leader and prayer leader, musician and teacher from Denver. Wednesday night, Mary Hulst, Pastor Emeritus, of Calvary Baptist Church, Denver and current President of American Baptist Churches USA will lead us in worship. Wednesday afternoon a variety of workshops will be offered for your selection.

This will be a great time to be together with old friends and to meet new friends within the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains Region family.

Who are SoulJourners? Life is a journey to be lived with mind, heart, and soul. As we mature in our journey we become storehouses of wisdom and truth. We encourage Senior Adults who are 55 plus to take time together to reflect, grow, renew, befriend and seek God.

In the near future the complete brochure including registration information will be available on the region's web site (www.ABCRM.org) and in your church office. We expect another exciting, informing, thoughtful and restful SoulJourners retreat and look forward to having you with us.

*May God be with you,
John Pipe &
Tam VanSpriell
Co-Chairs*

University of Sioux Falls Concert Chorale to Perform in Colorado & Wyoming

Save the date and get ready for a treat! Fifty fine vocalists from the University of Sioux Falls Concert Chorale will be at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver, CO on **March 24 at 7 pm** as part of their six-state regional tour. While the choir is in the Denver area they will be splitting up and tackling a couple of mission projects. The choir will make their way into Wyoming. Then on **March 26 at 7 pm** they will perform at First Baptist Church of Gillette, WY.

The USF Choir performs sacred and secular music from throughout history and from many cultures. You'll want to invite friends to this concert. There will be no charge for the concert, however, a freewill offering will be taken. Please come and support this American Baptist University.



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Reprint permission is granted to ABCRM churches.

Committed to the Gospel!
Learn It, Live it,
Share It, Be It!

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