

The Northwest Baptist

August 2006

ABC Northwest
"Growing disciples through healthy churches"

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ABC Northwest Churches have
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One Great Hour of Sharing in



BUT, IS IT MISSIONS? Dr. Charles Revis, Executive Minister

Somewhere in Baptist history a line formed dividing missions—usually conceptualized as *foreign* missions—from the work of the local church. Church ministry was seldom considered to be mission work. Yes, there was *home* missions, but that was something a national board did. Complicating the situation was the attitude that relegated home missions to secondary status behind foreign missions. Perhaps that's why over time many denominations stopped using the term "home missions". Maybe the term sounded like a quaint throwback to a former time in national Baptist work.

A close observation of foreign mission work reveals that effective missions has a lot to do with planting and growing healthy congregations in mostly unchurched environments. Much foreign mission work concentrates on exegating the culture, evangelizing the population in culturally relevant ways, starting new congregations, and training pastors. Overseas missions also conduct social ministries that not only meet human needs but foster receptivity to the Gospel. The hoped for result of foreign mission work is the establishment of numerous indigenous congregations that will expand and grow by reaching the unchurched with the Good News of Jesus Christ and by attending to the needs of the hurting, hungry and homeless through various relief efforts.

The vision of the ABC of the Northwest is to "grow disciples through healthy, mission-focused churches." We invite the congregations that comprise the Region to support this vision through prayer, work, involvement and financial contributions. By joining forces between churches we believe that we can assist congregations to be more effective in reaching the present generations for Christ.

But, you may wonder, is that missions? Is the ministry of the Region legitimate mission work on par with foreign missions? The simple answer is, "yes." And, here is why. The Region's first priority is to expand the Kingdom of God in the Northwest. We seek to do this in a highly unchurched part of America in which thousands of people need to experience the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ. This expansion of the Kingdom is accomplished primarily through the growth and multiplication of churches. This strategy is identical to that of international mission work. Whenever the church is being formed through the continuous birthing of new disciples it is evident that someone is taking the Gospel to the surrounding culture, and that is mission, whether it is conducted locally or globally.

Since the Northwest is a giant mission field and since mission focused churches are God's primary tool for reaching the lost, then it stands to reason that as the Region strengthens and multiplies churches that it is engaging in legitimate missions.

There are numerous ministries the Region is conducting to foster the

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BUT, IS IT MISSIONS? (Continued from page 1)

expansion of the church. One that is highly demanding and somewhat unheralded is the work the

Region does to come alongside churches during pastoral transitions. This entire period is critical for the church's future. The best scenario is when a church leans into the future anticipating exciting new faith ventures and is able to call an excellent pastor to lead them there.

To this end the Region provides multiple layers of service during the transition period to help churches continue to be faithful and growing. These services include encouragement during the closure time of the vacating pastor; assignment of a search consultant to work with the search committee; the provision of a detailed search process handbook developed by Region staff; recruitment of excellent pastoral candidates; availability of a church assessment to clarify future direction; and appointment of

a qualified interim minister in partnership with Interim Ministries-ABC. Once the pastor is called and installed, the Region continues to provide assistance to the pastor through the ongoing peer-to-peer support of the Leadership Learning Communities and the All Region Ministers Conference. The Region offers coaching to the congregation and pastor as they launch strategic initiatives to be more effective in its ministries.

This is just one example among many of how the Region conducts missions alongside its member congregations so that the churches will be healthy and mission-focused. The intended result is that more people will experience the joy of knowing Jesus Christ and the Northwest will be transformed by vibrant and relevant, outward focused churches working together to advance God's Kingdom. May our partnership in mission together give Glory to

2007 World Mission Offering be surprised by God. pray. give. be amazed!

"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us..."

Ephesians 3:20 The Message

When Charles West helps a Zambian pastor to become a more effective servant of Jesus Christ... that is International Ministries. When Kim Brown and her co-workers from Thailand's hill tribe people groups develop a breakthrough strategy for HIV/AIDS education and prevention that UNICEF uses as a model throughout Southeast Asia... that is International Ministries. When Ketly and Vital Pierre lead young people in Bluefields, Nicaragua away from drugs and into a life-changing relationship with Jesus... that is International Ministries. When Lauran Bethell accepts the 2005 Baptist World Alliance Human Rights Award for what God has enabled her to do globally among the victims of human trafficking... that is International Ministries.

These, and all the missionaries of International Ministries (IM), strive to glorify God in all the earth, by crossing cultural boundaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ. They pursue this goal through an amazing variety of ministries done in partnership with local believers around the globe. The staff members of IM both support

these creative missionaries and also do additional mission work directly with local church leaders in many places where IM does not have missionaries. Through over 170 mission partnerships in more than 70 countries, IM works to both to proclaim and to embody the good news of Jesus Christ.

IM was founded by Baptists in America in 1814 as a tool for doing mission throughout the world. Over the last 192 years, many secondary things have changed (methods, structures—even our name!), but the primary thing has remained constant: to see people enter into a deeply transforming relationship with God in Jesus Christ. IM continues to look to American Baptist congregations to make this global outreach possible, through your praying, your giving and your going.

The World Mission Offering is the single largest source of financial support for the global outreach God accomplishes through IM. Your gifts to the World Mission Offering make it possible for missionaries to serve in over thirty countries, and for staff to provide vital support to the mission outreach of local believers in even more places. What God is doing in our world today is truly amazing, and the World Mission Offering is a vitally important tool you can use to join God in that amazing work!



A

ALL REGION MINISTERS & SPOUSES CONFERENCE

September 25-27, 2006 At Ross Point Camp, Post Falls, ID

“Leadership for the Present—Future”

The challenges of being a church leader in today’s world are nothing but daunting. The world has moved from a modern worldview to one that is postmodern bringing new opportunities for ministry while calling into question approaches that were effective in the past. This shift calls for new skills and deep wisdom from the leader. Neither is available apart from radical change along with a vital spiritual life. This year’s All Region Ministers Conference will provide a context for identifying today’s cultural changes while providing guidance for leading ministry in the midst of them. Our speaker line-up is awesome. We’ve heavily underwritten the cost to bring in two top drawer speakers that will encourage and challenge you. Consider bringing your entire staff. If Ross Point fills up consider staying at one of the nearby hotels.



Speakers:

Rev. Reggie McNeal is the director of leadership development for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Drawing on twenty years of leadership roles in local congregations, and his work over the last decade with thousands of church leaders, McNeal counsels local churches, denominational groups, seminaries and colleges, and para-church organizations in their leadership development needs. He has gained national recognition for his insights through his books and appearances on the Christian Communication Network. Reggie is the author of *The Present Future*, *A Work of Heart*, *Revolution in Leadership* and *Practicing Greatness: Seven Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders*.

Rev. Dick Sipe is the Senior Pastor of FBC Marshalltown, Iowa. He is a colleague and friend to many in the ABC/NW Region including Patti and John Duckworth and Charles Revis. Dick is a graduate of Central Baptist Seminary and has served ABC churches in California, Kansas and Iowa. His present church in Marshalltown, IA is one of the largest ABC church in the Mid-America Region with a strong outreach ministry to all ages.



Worship Leader:

Karl Pettit returns this year to lead us in worship. Karl is the associate pastor and worship arts minister at FBC Pocatello, ID.

Scholarships:

We have a limited number of scholarships made available through Cornerstone Church Network. Please call the office to request one.

Conference Rates (includes program fee):

Ross Point Lodge Double or Triple Room (includes meals) \$120 per person

Add Sunday Evening (no meal) \$20 per person

Ross Point Lodge Single Room (includes meals) \$170 per person

Add Sunday Evening (no meal) \$25 per person



**Mark your calendars
for the next session of**



Oct 30 – Nov 3, 2006

What is Leading Edge?

Leading Edge is a two-week leadership training program intended for **anyone** in the church who is interested in learning useful, practical skill and knowledge to help transform individuals and congregations into outward, mission-focused churches.

Leading Edge will give pastors and laypeople a "jump start" on developing a leadership mindset to move toward a spiritually vital relationship with Christ and with each other.

Leading Edge content focuses on changing hearts from the inside out; as we draw close to Christ, our hearts become teachable and open to new concepts and ideas. As we accept new ideas and concepts, God uses us to lead others in making His church useful and relevant to the communities in which we serve. When Christ's church is relevant to its community, the people affect what they want to know what distinguishes God's people from everyone else. Then we are in a position to communicate the hope and salvation that Christ offers.

Topics include:

- The Missional Church
- Leading Change and Caring for People
- Emotional Intelligence
- Conflict Issues
- Managing Life Issues for Effective Ministry
- The Process of Change; Vision and Urgency
- Organized for Mission – structures and meetings
- Character of a Leader

Is the program like a retreat? No. Leading Edge is an intensive training process designed to use the time we have together as efficiently as possible, while providing times of reflection, worship and fellowship to promote unity and communication.

How much does it cost? The cost is \$300 for all materials, books, room and board for each entire week. This cost includes lodging on Sunday evening. Wednesday afternoon and evening are free time and the evening meal is not included in this price. Scholarships are available.

For more information: ABC Northwest Region Office: 208-777-2733 or abcnw@adelphia.net

"I had the privilege a few years ago to be part of the first group of pastors to participate in the old "ACTS" program. It helped turn my vision and understanding of ministry as a Pastor from a maintenance minister to missionary and transformational leader. Laurel Church has reaped the benefits of my participation. Many have told me that since my work with "ACTS" they have seen a positive change in how I fulfill God's calling as pastor of this church and how our church is being transformed from a survival lifestyle to a mission station in our community for Christ. The training I received not only gave me specific tools with which to immediately begin the journey of transformation in my life and the life here at Laurel Church, but the hunger continues to learn and grow. With the changes I understand that Patti Duckworth has introduced into the program now called "Leading Edge", I'm even more excited about the potential training and transformation that will take place in anyone who is willing to be part of this important work of God."

Pastor Robert Cameron, Laurel Community Baptist Church, Bellingham, WA

NOT TAKEN FOR GRANTED Rev. Patti Duckworth, Associate Executive Minister

It's the time of year when people begin to think about gearing up for the new school year. That means buying new crayons, paper, notebooks, backpacks, maybe some new clothes and shoes. It means a shopping trip for many of us, anticipated by children and sometimes dreaded by adults.

But what if you don't have enough funds for all those expenses? Most times school supplies can be found – some are donated, and clothes are available at thrift stores. But shoes often present a different challenge. Unlike clothing, they cannot be altered and “approximate fit” can mean damage to feet. Many of us take the availability of shoes for granted – if the store doesn't have what we want or like, we wait for a new shipment or go somewhere else.



The Shoe Bank, FBC, Eureka, MT

If you have limited funds, however, getting shoes may be difficult. And if you find yourself in a small town some distance from a larger shopping area, good shoes that fit may be little more than a dream. This is where the congregation at **First Baptist Church of Eureka, Montana**, has found a way to share Christ's love with the community. **Pastor Pat Lovitt** and the congregation have set up a “shoe bank” at the church. They have taken donations of shoes, repaired and thoroughly cleaned them, organized them by size, and put them in one of the unused rooms of

the church. There is a box outside the church for people to donate usable shoes any time. Then on Wednesdays from 9am to 2pm, volunteers help people who need shoes to find the right fit. *And the shoes are free.* In

addition, if someone has a special need (work boots, sports cleats, sturdy shoes for standing all day), the church is ready to purchase specific shoes if they don't have them. For many people, this ministry will ease the strain for many families.

There are no shoe stores in Eureka (except for work boots available at the ranch supply), and it is about 140 miles roundtrip to

Kalispell, the nearest town with larger shopping facilities. For people in Eureka, the price of new shoes also includes the price of gas for the trip.

Pastor Pat told of one touching moment when someone called, asking about ordinary sneakers for

a grade school boy. Pat met them at the church, and they found a pair that fit the boy well. For the next 10 minutes he ran up and down the stairs laughing. The shoes he had been wearing were several sizes too big, and he had been unable to run for fear of them falling off.

First Baptist Church's shoe bank has caught the community's attention. In December 2005, there was an



AROUND THE REGION

FBC Idaho Falls, ID Pastor Melinda Oberhelman purchased special t-shirts to wear on July 4th as they conducted a Water Bottle Ministry and Community Extravaganza outreach event to their community. This is the second year they've engaged in this water bottle ministry which involves distributing water bottles with the church's name on it during the city's July 4th parade. The softball team plans to give away the bottles as well. On the front the t-shirts say "With God, nothing is impossible." Luke 1:37, and on the back there is a cube that says, "Don't put God in a box."

Pastor Melinda writes, "What GREAT messages to be reminded of, especially, now during our time of transition! Change is hard—even if it is what we believe that we need to do. And it is especially difficult if we don't believe that we need it because we are comfortable with the way things have always been.

"What we need to remember—to focus on—is that our changes, our transition is being faithful to what God is calling us to be as His church. And that means taking God—and His Church—out of the box we have put them in. Allowing Him to be God and do a new thing in us. In scripture we read: *'But forget all that [I have done before]—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert!'* Is 43:18-19.

This is exciting news! God did not save us for us to remain the same. Change is inevitable, it is always part of His plan—in our lives and in our church. As we grow in our faith, we change and as we change our desires, needs, and what's important to us changes. That is what happens when we mature as Christians! What God wants becomes more important to us than what we want."

Delta Community Church, Everett, WA Rev. Jay Noll from New York will be "on the field" in August.

FBC Bellingham, WA Pastor Jay Smith's last Sunday was July 16. Jay has resigned from FBC to become Assistant Professor of Christian Studies at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX. His wife Melissa will be the new band director at Early Middle School. Jay has been the Mentor Pastor for the north N. Puget Sound area. During his tenure the church moved to a simple one board governance, shifted worship towards a more contemporary and eclectic idiom, added staff, doubled wor-

ship attendance and significantly increased baptisms. In his last newsletter article Jay quoted this thought from Helen Keller: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it." A very appropriate quote for ending one adventure and launching out on another.

Pray for these Churches in Search Mode:

FBC Anacortes

FBC Bellingham

FBC Port Angeles

FBC Renton

Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist

Kittitas Community Church

FBC Snohomish

FBC Nampa

Belfair Community Baptist

FBC Blackfoot

FBC Twin Falls

FBC Lewiston

FBC Oak Harbor, WA has recently changed their name to Church on the Rock. They have launched an excellent web site with information covering their wide variety of ministries. Check it out at www.graceforall.com. Clint Webb is pastor.

FBC Anacortes, WA hosted a "Missions Emphasis Weekend" Aug 12-13 with IM missionaries from Managua, Nicaragua Doctors David and Laura Parajon. FBC has supported the work in Nicaragua financially and through teams they have sent to the field to work beside the Parajon's in the local rural communities. Dick Ottoson is interim pastor.

FBC Livingston, MT Recently installed a new roof to their facility and they are making progress on finishing interior improvements. They will be serving as a "Relay Center" for Operation Christmas Child this winter. They will be a drop off center for churches and individuals who will give shoeboxes for Franklin Graham's annual Christmas endeavor. Rich O'Brian is pastor.

AROUND THE REGION Continued

FBC Olympia, WA Mark Rambo led an intergenerational mission team of 15 people to Washington, D.C. July 8 through July 16. The team partnered with a Quaker organization called "Youth Services Opportunities Project" which does community ministry in areas of poverty and homelessness. Rev. Mark Rambo has completed ten years as the associate pastor at FBC Olympia and is presently completing a D.Min. at George Fox University. Congrats Mark.

Recent Church Assessments ABC/NW churches that have recently been through an assessment are United Methodist-American Baptist Church of Hamilton, MT and First Baptist Church of Anacortes, WA. During each assessment a team listens to the congregation through a variety of tools. At the close of the assessment the team presents a verbal report with Power point slides highlighting affirmations of strengths and recommendations for future improvements. This is a new tool the Region is offering to ABC/NW churches to assist congregations as they seek to grow healthier and more outward focused. It is also a helpful part of the search process in that it sharpens a church's self-understanding, especially as it relates to the skill set required of the next pastor. Future assessments that are presently scheduled include Belgrade Community Church in Belgrade, Montana. Churches that have conducted an assessment include Park Heights Baptist Church in Spokane, WA; Manette Community Church in Bremerton, WA; Belfair Community Baptist Church in Belfair, WA; FBC Bozeman, MT and FBC Great Falls, MT.

Pastor Cathy Johnson was ordained on June 16th through the Evangelical Covenant Church. Ordination in the Covenant church takes place at the national level rather than the local church level. They also require seven denominational classes, writing several papers and going through an intensive interview process. Cathy is the pastor of Queen Anne Baptist Church in Seattle, WA and we are glad that she is serving among we American Baptists!

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA has called Melinda Jarrett to be their acting Senior Pastor for the next twelve months.

FBC Eureka, MT celebrated their 100th anniversary in

a weekend long event, June 23-25. A significant number of former members who have moved away from Eureka as well as former pastors attended the event. Celebration of the church's rich history as a congregation concerned about the lost was an important piece of the time. Displays of the church's past ministry were displayed throughout the church. The life and ministry of the Rev. Carl Pershall was noted by many as important in the church's history, and his recent death has left a gap in the fellowship. Miles Garrison was the chair for the celebration committee; Pat Lovitt is the pastor.

FBC Prosser, WA celebrated its 100th anniversary on August 13. Invitations to the event have been mailed throughout the region. A special morning worship started at 10:45am followed by a potluck dinner and time of sharing. A special visual presentation was prepared entitled "Reflections of Memories." Carol Patterson is the pastor.

Comunidad Cristiana El Camino, Pasco, WA installed Guadalupe Vasquez as pastor on the evening of June 4th. Guadalupe has been called by the Yakima Valley Hispanic Ministries Steering Committee (YVHMSC) to lead a new work in the Pasco area, primarily among Hispanics. He and his family have come to the Pasco area from Portland, Oregon, where Guadalupe had been a volunteer with Hispanic ministry at First Baptist Church. Dave Roberts, pastor of FBC Yakima, is the chair for the YVHMSC.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Spokane, WA, has called Rev. Herman Lewis Sr. to be the pastor. Rev. Lewis began his work with the congregation in July.

Spokane Valley Baptist Church, Spokane Valley, WA will host a Free Picnic and Antique Car Show on August 16th at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited to this fun, unique event. The church is located at 1212 McDonald Road. For more information, contact the church at 509-924-1234. Norman Haupt is the pastor.

Kittitas Community Baptist Church, Kittitas, come the Rev. as interim pastor. cially started his the congregation 6th.



nity Baptist WA will welcome Gordon Vickery. He will officiate ministry with on Sunday, August,



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2006 AREA CONVENTIONS

Big Sky Area-September 14-17, 2006, Belgrade Community Church, Belgrade, MT
Please call 406-388-6791 for information and questions.

Far West/North Puget Sound Area (combined meeting)-October 7, 2006, First Baptist Church, Kent, WA. For information and questions call 253-852-5970.

Intermountain Area-October 19-21, 2006, Clearfield Community Church, Clearfield, UT
For information and questions contact the church office at 801-825-1115.

