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growing healthy,
mission-focused
churches
that multiply
disciples & churches

the north west baptist

news from American Baptist Churches of the Northwest

Summer 2010



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for granted, there is a
tendency to under-
appreciate its value and
under-fund the expense
required to offer it.*

The Importance of Bread and Butter Ministry

Dr. Charles Revis, Executive Minister, ABC of the Northwest

When I choose a restaurant I like to eat something different with a main dish like “Bang-Bang Shrimp” at *The Cheesecake Factory* or “Sirloin & Rainbow Trout” at *The Wolf Lodge*. I never select a restaurant for their bread, much less their butter.

My wife is an amazing cook. When she’s preparing a meal seldom do I ask, “What vegetables are we having?” I like veggies. They just don’t garner my primary attention. Nor do I ask, “What butter will we use on the bread?” Yet, at most meals I expect bread and butter (actually, margarine). I want veggies and fruit, too. In fact, I actually have preferences for both. I prefer whole wheat because it’s healthier. And, I like lots of vegetables and fruit for the same reason. They’re important to me, and my health, but they seldom command my attention.

As a Region of churches I have a nagging feeling that we take “bread and butter ministries” for granted, much as we do “bread and butter” in our diet. The same can be said for the local congregation. When we take something for granted, there is a tendency to under-appreciate its value and under-fund the expense required to offer it.

What do I mean by “bread and butter ministries”? In the church, they are the activities we assume a church does as part of its normative life together: worship, fellowship, congregational care, teaching, discipleship, building maintenance & repair, etc. These are seldom flashy, but when done poorly, or not at all, the church suffers. People know it and are disappointed.

At the Region level we conduct many ministries that are in the “bread and butter” category. These are activities that the Region has traditionally done as a service to the churches. They’re not flashy, but they are essential. These

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include: resourcing search committees, placement of interim ministers, helping pastors relocate, maintaining ordination and discipline processes, collecting and distributing missions giving, coaching pastors and/or church leaders, just to name a few.

When Dr. Bill Hoyt, our Region consultant, studied the results of our Region-wide online survey he discovered that many of the Region's "bread and butter" resources are highly valued. These include (ranked in order): Identifying and Placing Pastors; Licensing, Ordaining and Maintaining Ministerial Standards; and Pastoral Search and Placement. Resourcing Church Planting, Coaching Pastors and Leadership Learning Communities were also highly valued by both pastors and lay leaders.

When a church or leader is on the receiving end of these services there is usually a significant level of appreciation for them. When a church or individual has not needed or taken advantage of them for some time there is a tendency to take them for granted. Over time what is taken for granted becomes under-appreciated and is in danger of being under-resourced.

As a Region we believe it is our ultimate purpose to reach the Northwest for Jesus Christ. This happens primarily through outward focused churches that are endeavoring to reach their communities with the Gospel. To that end we resource churches and church leaders so that churches will be highly effective in mission.

"Bread and Butter Ministries" play an important, foundational role in these efforts. They're not snazzy. They may not command our attention. But, they are highly important, none-the-less, and deserve our support and appreciation.

I'm grateful that a majority of our churches and leaders understand this, and are committed to the mission we are endeavoring to do together. The Lord has given us a mission, to reach the Northwest, and beyond, for Jesus Christ. Yet, that mission is supported through mundane resources that are just as important as veggies, fruit and bread are to a healthy diet.

If you agree, would you be willing to communicate this to your missions committee, leadership board, or elders... whoever, determines the missions budget? For it is only through the ongoing support of our churches and donors that we are able to provide these essential ministries. And, they are essential to the ongoing health of our churches and our mission together.



Dr. Charles Revis, Executive Minister ABCNW works to grow healthy, mission-focused churches that multiply disciples and churches. Read more insights and leadership articles online at missionnorthwest.blogspot.com and abcnw.org



Associate Executive

There When You Need It

Patricia G. Duckworth, Associate Executive Minister

In May we held our Region Biennial Celebration of ministry as churches of the ABC Northwest in Boise, ID. The Summit Church, its pastor Jim Steiner, staff and congregation were gracious and wonderful hosts. They were aided by some of the other churches in the area. It was a good time to be reminded by Efrem Smith of what we are about together as churches of the ABC of the Northwest. Clearly the Biennial Celebration is one of those "up front" and obvious things we do together, an event needed to refocus and encourage us.

There are, however, a number of ABCNW ministries that go on continually "behind the scenes" that support the essential ministry of the local church. These are not always obvious to those not involved or not in need of that kind of help at that particular time. One of the "behind the scenes" ministries is providing an *interim minister* to churches in the process of searching for another pastor after their pastor has resigned or retired. Our recent Region Assessment by Dr. Bill Hoyt clearly affirmed this as a highly valued ministry. *It is a ministry that is there when you need it.*

Unless your congregation has been or is currently being served by an interim pastor, you may not be familiar with this particular ministry. Briefly, *interim pastors provide general ministry and leadership with a congregation* that a "settled" pastor does. During the time a congregation is without a regular pastor, some uncertainty arises about the present ministries and the future direction of the church. An interim pastor does much to alleviate those concerns by giving leadership and providing an ongoing presence and ministry. This work creates stability for the search committee and the congregation to focus on the work and prayer necessary to discern the Lord's will and call for the next pastor. The congregational leadership does not have to spend time arranging for a guest preacher every week; the congregation does not have to wonder who will be in the pulpit, who will give guidance to the ongoing ministries of the church, do weddings or funerals, or provide crisis ministry if needed.

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Where do these interim pastors come from?

Generally, to fill the need for an interim pastor, we turn to the ministry of [Interim Ministries-ABC](#). The Rev. Dr. James Munro, Executive Director of Interim Ministries, and his staff maintain a list of interim pastors from across the nation who have been screened and are known to have the kinds of gifts and skills churches need during the time they are seeking a settled pastor. Interim Ministries-ABC does not receive regular mission dollars from our denomination's budget. It is supported through the fees of churches that use the program and through offerings and gifts made to the ministry by individuals and churches. It seeks to partner with Region staff to provide this much needed help. Jamie and his staff save Dr. Charles Revis and me many hours of work by maintaining this group, sorting through the possibilities, and making initial contacts with interims about their availability. When a church is in need of an interim, I am able to call Jamie and describe the general situation and need of the congregation. From that basic information, he begins calling different interims who might be a good "fit." When he finds someone, he passes the name on to me. I visit with the person in detail about what seems to be needed. If we are both sensing the Lord's leading, I put the interim in contact with the church leadership for a conference call. Arrangements for housing are made and a start date is agreed on. Since January, we have worked or are working with six churches in need of an interim pastor, having secured five interims with the aid of Interim Ministries-ABC.

How long does it take to secure an interim?

Usually it takes about four to six weeks from the time the congregation makes the request to the time the interim pastor arrives and begins ministry. The time frame can change based on the interims actually available at the time of a request and the particular set of gifts a particular church might need. If an interim has to move some distance and be away from home for a prolonged period of time, the time before the start of the ministry may increase as the interim may have to make additional provisions for care of his or her primary home during the time.

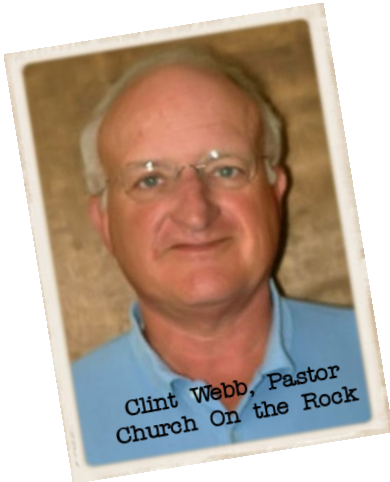
The outcomes?

I believe it is true to say that nearly every congregation that has used an interim pastor instead of pulpit supply has benefited through continued stable or growing ministry, ability to more readily discern the Lord's will for the next steps of ministry, and being challenged to move deeper into ministry. Those churches served by interim pastors through Interim Ministries have reported all these things in addition to a sense of security in the interim's credentials and track record, and his or her promise to serve the church purely as an interim. Securing an interim pastor is one of several vital ministries ABC Northwest provides churches at a critical juncture. Additional information about Interim Ministries-ABC can be found at both the region website (www.abcnw.org) and the weblink to Interim Ministries found there. If you would like to visit about any of these possibilities, please contact me, p-duckworth@abcnw.org

Rev. Patti Duckworth,
Associate Executive Minister ABCNW
helps equip churches for health and ministry so that they will make a difference for Christ in the lives of individuals and communities.



Church On the Rock's Evangelism Engine



Most followers of Jesus agree with His command to go and make disciples. It's the implementation of the command that can be challenging, individually and corporately. One way to achieve evangelistic success at the corporate level is for local churches to have an identified "evangelism engine." That is, the church designs several evangelistic strategies and works at them consistently throughout the year(s).

One ABCNW church that does this exceptionally well is Church on the Rock in Oak Harbor, WA. Since a large number of the church's constituency is related to the local Naval Station one-third of the congregation leaves each year, usually in the Fall. This church has little choice but to reproduce or die! So, they reproduce! It is not unusual for this congregation of about 250 in worship to baptize 90 people in a year. Amazing! So, how do they do it? By making evangelism and outreach a priority. Plus, they have an "evangelism engine." Their engine consists of numerous ministries designed to reach new believers.

Rather than focusing on inward needs of members, they focus on the needs of people outside their church. The following is a representative list as reported by Pastor Clint Webb:

- 1. MEW (The Most Excellent Way)** A Christian addiction program that really changes lives. We made the effort to get this program approved by our Court system. When the judge remands the person to attend addiction groups like A. A. and N. A. – our groups are given as an option.
- 2. Stepping Stones** A ministry to women who have been emotionally, physically, and sexually abused. It brings healing and forgiveness, corrects their view of God and deals with trust issues.
- 3. Prism** A Christian weight loss program.
- 4. Alpha** A course that explores the meaning of life. The concept is to invite those who are exploring questions about the existence of God, purpose of life and have never understood the basics of the Christian faith. We also use this as a basic 101 Class to teach what we believe.
- 5. Movie Night** Once a month we show movies like "Blindside", "Facing the Giants" and "Evan Almighty." Free tickets are printed and distributed by the congregation everywhere.
- 6. Financial Seminar** Once a year to help people with their finances (Dave Ramsey Course).
- 7. Raising Kids** We have young families in our community so this course is offered once a year to help them.
- 8. Marriage Seminars** Helps couples maximize their marriages. We alternate between finances, marriage and parenting.
- 9. Agape** A ministry to senior adults in our community. They enjoy lunch twice a month, special speakers, and special trips and outings. Over half the people are not from our church.
- 10. Ladies Night Out** Women from our community are invited to a special night of gourmet food, worship, and a special speaker, crafts and fun things to do.
- 11. Men's Breakfast** Men from our community are invited to a breakfast once a month for breakfast, special speakers, fixing things around the church.



News from Around the Region

Pastoral Transitions



Rev. Bill McCready resigned in April 2010 from Pocatello FBC (ID) to become the senior pastor at LifePoint Church in Minden, NV. He follows Dr. John Jackson who was the founding pastor of this thirteen year old large congregation. Dr. Robert McQuaid will serve as the Interim Minister for FBC Pocatello.

Rev. Gundar Lamberts has resigned from FBC Bozeman, MT. **Rev. Dan Abrams** is serving as the Transitional Pastor.

Pastor Roy Lindberry has resigned from Gorst Baptist Community Church.

Rev. James Green is the new pastor of Lynden Community Church (WA). He comes to the ABCNW from Scottsbluff, Nebraska where he was an ABC pastor for several years.

FBC Filer (ID) celebrates the retirement of **Rev. Gary Gilman**. Pastor Gary was serving in his thirteenth year at Filer. He has also served the ABC-NW in various capacities including several years as a Search Consultant and a Mentor Pastor. More recently he led the congregation to construct a new fellowship hall/community outreach center, a significant addition to their facilities.

Staff Transitions

Zac Sawhill has joined the staff as Family Life Director at Church on the Rock in Oak Harbor, WA.

FBC Billings (MT) has called **Mrs. Barbara Ulrich** as their newest staff member to lead their Children and Family Ministry.

Kevin Olivarez will soon be joining the staff at FBC Anacortes (WA) as Associate Pastor.

Mark Sawyer will be joining the staff at Palouse Federated Church (WA) as associate pastor on August 1. His responsibilities will include leadership development, team building and coordination of various church ministries.

Partnerships At Work

A group of SBC church planters from Texas were denied entry into Canada and were stuck in Bellingham, WA on June 9, 2010. Gary Irby, a Seattle church planting strategist, contacted our executive minister, along with several other denominational leaders, about the needs of this group. In turn, Dr. Revis sent an e-mail to our N. Puget Sound pastors informing them about the situation.

Lynden Community Church (WA) immediately stepped up to the plate and helped out. One couple opened their home to a dad and mom, three small children, and a grandparent. On Saturday evening, members of the congregation provided a potluck dinner at a moments notice for the entire group, composed of three couples and five children. On Sunday morning, Lynden CC welcomed the church planters at their worship service. They were given an opportunity to tell about their call to plant a church in Canada ("Church on the Rock", which will be located in Pitt Meadows, BC).

Pastor James Green has called on Lynden Community Church to continue to uphold the team in their prayers. The church deserves praise for quickly responding to the needs of this group that suddenly found itself in need. Way to go Lynden Community Church and Pastor Green! This is partnership and servanthood at its best.

Church Transitions



Mike Popovich, Pastor

Olive Drive Church, Bakersfield, CA joined ABC of the Northwest at the end of 2009. Although this historic church is a member of Transformation Ministries (formerly ABC-PSW) it wanted to continue its relationship with ABC-USA and join the ABCNW in the mission that the Region is endeavoring to accomplish. The church had been contributing mission support to the Region for most of 2009. It's pastor, Rev. Mike Popovich, has attended several events in our Region including the All Region Ministers Conference. Dr. Revis has visited the church and met with their elder board. Welcome, Olive Drive Church!

LaJolla Christian Fellowship, La Jolla, CA has voted to apply for membership in ABC of the Northwest. Their situation is similar to that of Olive Drive Church. Dr. Clay Ford is the senior pastor and the national director for the Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries. Dr. Ford has led numerous spiritual renewal events in ABC-NW churches. He has also been a keynote speaker at the All Region Ministers Conference and the 2010 Tools for the Trade event in Bremerton, WA.



La Jolla Leadership with Dr. Charles Revis

Tabernaculo Biblico Bautista Iglesia de Utah has requested membership in ABC of the Northwest. Pastor Mario Majano is the founding pastor of this new church plant reaching the Hispanic population in Ogden, UT. The church emphasizes evangelistic outreach and biblical/theological training. Dr. Revis recently visited the congregation and preached at their Sunday morning worship service. This new church plant, like every ABCNW plant, is in need of financial support. Feel free to contribute to their needs.

FBC Idaho Falls (ID) closed in December 2009. The congregation voted to have the Region shepherd the assets until a decision is made to restart the church or plant a new church in the facility.

Eagle FBC (ID) has withdrawn from ABC-USA and ABC of the Northwest.

News from Around the Region cont.

ABCNW Church Planters at Exponential 10

Thanks to a grant from generous donors who support church planting a good number of our church planters attended this year's Exponential 10 Conference in Orlando, FL, April 19-22. This is the largest church planting conference in the U.S. with over 3,000 in attendance. Our planters were exposed to cutting edge methods, inspirational plenary sessions, and extensive networking. It was also an excellent opportunity for our church planters to spend time together.



Dr. Charles Revis, Peter Gatata, Mario Majano, Oscar Vega, Herb Alvord, Dave Griewe, Don Steinke and David Lodwig

All Region Leadership Conference September 27-28



J.P. Moreland

Ph.D., USC

Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary

Prolific philosopher, theologian and Christian apologist.



James Purves

Pastor of Bistro Baptist Church in Edinburgh, Scotland—founded 1765

Dr. Purves is leading the church through numerous creative ministries.

www.bistrobaptist.org

This year's conference offers two emphases:

1. Spiritual renewal and empowerment for ministry
2. Increasing the Kingdom impact of historic, older congregations (with crossover lessons for a church of any age.)

Bring your whole staff and leadership board for training and team-building at Ross Point Camp in Post Falls, Idaho. More details are available via the forthcoming brochure and website.

Our Common Call Updated

Our Common Call, a resource publication of ABCNW has been updated and is now available through the Region Office and website.

On the Web



In Your Inbox

Sign up for our email updates to keep up on latest news from ABCNW. There's a link at the top of each page on our website.

