



# The Central Pacific Coast B•a•p•t•i•s•t

American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast . . .  
resourcing, empowering and equipping congregations to discover and fulfill  
their unique mission in their neighborhood . . . and around the world.

Volume 76 No. 4

Winter 2013

## Dates to Remember

### Christmas!

December 25

Orientation to ABC Life/  
National Ministers  
Conference - Orlando  
[www.abccmerge.com](http://www.abccmerge.com)  
January 6-9

MCGBA Annual Retreat  
(see page 11)  
January 13-14

ABCCPC Board Retreat  
Jan 31-Feb 1

MC Oregon Annual Retreat  
(see page 10)  
April 6-7

CPC Missions Conference  
(see page 12)  
May 2-3

## Region Staff

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Executive Minister

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In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
*and the Word was God.*

He was in the beginning with God.  
All things were made through Him,  
and without Him nothing was made that was made.  
In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
And the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.  
This man came for a witness,  
to bear witness of the Light,  
that all through him might believe.  
He was not that Light,  
but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.  
That was the true Light which gives light  
to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world,  
and the world was made through Him,  
and the world did not know Him.  
He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

*But as many as received Him,  
to them He gave the right to become children of God,  
to those who believe in His name:  
who were born, not of blood,  
nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,  
but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld His glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.*

John 1:1-14

## Merry Christmas!

—The Board and Staff of the  
American Baptist Churches of  
the Central Pacific Coast

## The Spirit of Luther Rice is alive and well

By Rev. Steve Bills, Executive Minister



Back in 2007 I was honored to be inducted into *The Order of Luther Rice*. This society recognizes those who have served American Baptist regions in the area of mission support and development. Our role was and is to pick up where <sup>1</sup>Luther Rice started, raising interest and money by telling the stories of our missionaries and their work while they represent us on the field.

We are exceedingly fortunate in this day and age to have almost instantaneous access to all kinds of information via the internet. (When I read about the “new” and “modern” tools celebrated by our predecessors in ministry in old issues of *The Oregon Baptist*, I wonder what kind of chuckle future generations will get out of reading that sentence.)

*(Unfortunately there are really no quality controls available online and it is imperative that we be discerning when accessing information from this medium. There are many self-proclaimed experts willing to publish their opinions as fact, so it is safest to approach most sites with a healthy dose of skepticism.)*

Let me share a few ways I am able to stay connected and encourage you to see if they will work for you as well:

- Several times a week I go to the web site of ABC-USA’s International Ministries to read the latest by and about the missionaries we have on the field. Just go to [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org) and select the person, project, or country in which you are interested from the menu bar at the top of their site. Many missionaries also post photos and videos which you can view. This is a great way to stay abreast of your favorite missionaries as well as to secure information for mission reports for your Sunday School class, prayer circle, or worship service.
- Susan Gillies, the now-retired Executive Minister under whom I worked in Nebraska, is utilizing her years of experience in public broadcasting by producing a regular podcast for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies under the title, “Faces and Places of Hope”. There are dozens of these stories archived on their web site ([www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org)) with more being added weekly. Just click on the *Faces and Places of Hope* logo on the home page. See if you can find the interview Susan did with me about the American Baptist Emergency Services Center ministry in Sturgis.
- Frequently I am asked about specific mission fields or specific missionaries. What do they do? When are their birthdays? How many kids do they have and what are their ages? While I am more than happy to find and forward this information, I have no desire to be the gatekeeper or fount of all knowledge, so let me clue you in on my sources of information. The main web site for the ABCUSA is [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org). From that site there are links to IM, NM, The Ministers Council, every region, all our colleges and seminaries, our national and international partners, historical documents, conference centers, pastoral development, worship aids, mission and volunteer opportunities, administrative tools, research resources, calendars of events (the list literally would more than fill this column space).
- Our own region web site ([www.ABCCPC.org](http://www.ABCCPC.org)) has a wealth of information about our region including a directory of all of our churches (if your church has a web site that is not listed on our site let me know and I will see that it is added). A three year archive of past issues of *The Oregon / CPC Baptist* is available here.
- The Camp Arrah Wanna ([www.CampArrahWanna.org](http://www.CampArrahWanna.org)) and the Redwood Glen ([www.RedwoodGlen.com](http://www.RedwoodGlen.com)) web sites are a great source of information about our youth camping, adult conferences and retreats, facility availability for church retreats and family reunions, and summer employment and year round volunteering opportunities.



Luther Rice would have been amazed at the tools we have available to help us tell the story. Email me at [sbils@abccpc.org](mailto:sbils@abccpc.org) with your questions, tips, and electronic resources ideas.

<sup>1</sup>Luther Rice sailed to Calcutta, India in February, 1812 with Adoniram and Ann Judson. After Rice and the Judsons became Baptists en route, Rice returned to America to raise support for Judson’s work from the Baptists. Rice worked to organize *The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in United States of America, for Foreign Missions* (also know as the “Triennial Convention” and now known as “American Baptist Churches in the USA”). He spent the rest of his life traveling across America by horseback to raise funds and awareness for Baptist missions.

## An Adaptive Challenge...Are We Up for the Challenge?

By Rev. Miriam Méndez, Associate Executive Minister

How does the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast live out the good news of Christ with the Hispanic/Latin@ community through existing and emerging faith communities in the midst of our complex and diverse world?

This is the question that an adaptive challenge team: Miriam Mendez (facilitator), Curtis Buthe, Manuel Magana, John Nichols, Shakespeare Osorio and coach – Rosie Oaks-Lee, has been creatively thinking about for several months.

According to the 2010 census, the Latin@ population has increased by 43%, making up approximately 16.3% of the total U.S. population. Did you know that the total Hispanic population in Oregon is 466,000, making up 12% of the total state. California has the nation's largest Hispanic population, with about 14.4 million Hispanics. California's Hispanic population alone accounts for more than one-fourth (28%) of U.S. Hispanics. (*Pew Research-Hispanic Trends Project*)

Why does this matter? Reaching the Latin@ community with the Gospel must be an imperative of ABCCPC. However, forming missional strategies must be appropriate to the geographical demographics of the ABCCPC region Latin@ community. How do we as a missional organization best structure ourselves to live out the Gospel to the Latin@ community? Without answering this question, we risk excluding this community from our common life together as American Baptists. This would be a great loss to the entire ABCCPC community.

Our question pinpoints "existing and emerging faith communities" as the tool God provides for living out the Good News. These faith communities will include established churches, new church plants, and other networks of Christians who seek to build the kingdom of God in their communities. We as a region cannot hope or expect that this key issue will take care of itself within the immense (and growing) Hispanic/Latino populations of Oregon and Northern California.

I have been in conversations with several of our pastors and churches that have seen the growth in their communities and have expressed their desire and vision for birthing a new Hispanic faith community. In my travels I have had conversations with pastors who have expressed their desire to be part of this challenge and serve as a church planter in our region. Indeed, these are exciting days for our region!

What about you? Do you know the demographic of your own church? Does the demographic of your church reflect the demographic of your community/neighborhood? Ask questions in your own church...what does this mean to you...to your church? Is God calling your faith community—your church—to network with other organizations to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the growing Latino community in your area? Want to be part of this challenge? Give me a call, I would love to talk with you!

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities for the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast as we live out the good news of Christ together.




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## American Baptist Women of Oregon

By Diane Weidkamp, Co-president of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Oregon

The American Baptist Women of Oregon have been busy this summer and fall planning the yearly fall retreat. We met this year at The Inn at the Commons in Medford, Oregon, so that our California AB Women could easily join us. Our main speaker was Lisa Harris from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Lisa's main theme was helping people affected by poverty in our nation. Her inspiration was well accepted by our group. The main event of our gathering was to make lunches and deliver them to a few homeless people in Medford. Our family in Christ had a wonderful time renewing relationships and making new ones.



One of our projects for 2013-14 is to build up the state scholarship fund so girls can be supported and encouraged by our women. If your women's group has not sent our treasurer, Jolae Reed, any funds for that purpose yet, we encourage you to do so. Jolae attends Calvary Baptist in Salem where you can send funds. Our other project is sending dollars for *Break the Chains, Stop the Pain*. These dollars can be sent to our national ABWM through the ABCCPC region office for that purpose. I hope many of your groups can have fund raisers to support these projects.

The presidents and co-presidents of ABW Montana, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon will be planning a Leadership Retreat for the women of our states. We are applying for a \$4,000 grant from National AB Women for that purpose. Please be praying and considering this for the women in our state to attend. If you are interested in being a part of this venture, please let me know at 503-524-5593.

May the Lord comfort and protect all of you.

# What I Learned at Summer Camp

By \*Doreen Dodgen-Magee

I just returned from my second year of high school camp. Serving in the roles of “camp elders” this year, my husband and I were responsible for encouraging and caring for the counselors and staff and stepping in for whatever else was needed. Over the course of the week I had both beautiful and difficult conversations with staff and campers, helped out in the infirmary (I have come to believe that every camp infirmary needs a mental health expert/volunteer), led the staff in contemplative prayer and meditative exercises, delivered a lot of encouragement notes and tokens, and generally loved on everyone present. What surprised me most, both this year and last, is that I was lonely for the experience as soon as it ended. Exhausted, completely spent, and ready for the week to end, I also felt sadness as I loaded my car to depart.

The lessons I learned this year were different from last. I share them here as a form of motivation for each of you who read this blog. Volunteering is costly. It is inconvenient. It certainly rarely wins one raises or rewards. It stretches and shapes and moves us into new, and sometimes uncomfortable, spaces. Even still, it is important. So much so that I believe it is essential for a life that values empathy and other awareness. It grows us, I believe, and shapes us. Here is what my week of volunteering taught me.

- **It isn't all about me.** Given the way in which we live these days, it's easy to believe that everything really is all about “me.”...In direct difference to this, when you spend a week sharing time, space, and a communal schedule with 250+ others, you give up seeking only what you'd like...to pay attention to a shared rhythm because it gets us out of ourselves. This actually works.
- **Recreation and arts and crafts are important.** Physical challenges and arts and crafts opportunities allow us to open our creative potentials while, at the same time, busying our bodies while we engage with those around us...We are made body, soul, and mind. Each needs time for recreation and refreshment...Why not build games, barefoot walks, sketching or sculpting into our days? It takes a little effort yet the pay off is a more well rounded and grounded sense of self.
- **Love languages matter...** you can learn how those around you best receive the love and care you have for them. When you pay attention like this you can begin to minister to others in much more meaningful ways. You'll also begin to feel freer to ask for what you need in the way of support, making it easier for those who love you to do so tangibly. This helps build and maintain community and gets us out of the myopic thinking (everyone likes what I like and will also read my mind so I don't have to ask for anything) that reigns today.
- **How you look (externally) does not matter (if you're willing to take risks)...** A highlight of my camp experience was found in watching kids and staff who would appear to have nothing in common bond and begin to relate authentically with each other. This is community in its richest form.
- **Dancing is a great way to end every day.** There is nothing like a huge group of folks you know dancing to the village people (or any other number of dance classics) to bring a day to a close...15 minutes spent dancing, with no care for how you look, heals a multitude of stressors and leaves you tired. Try it. You'll see.
- **There is no difficult/hard conversation that is not worth having.** Over the course of the camp week everyone present was given ample opportunities for challenging conversations...This is where growth occurs.
- **It's important to be kind to everyone.** At high school camp, as in life, it's easy to want to avoid the others you suspect will take every bit of energy you have and natural to want to write some off as “that” way, “unreachable,” or “disinterested.” It's important to take the opportunity to get to know them and to encounter them well...we just might come to love them or they us... I want to be a person who welcomes them up front....not only after hearing how they became who they are.
- **Intergenerational interchange is important...** We have so much in common and, at the same time, so much to learn from each other. It's important to find ways of being within each other's radius so that we can do so.
- **Saying goodbye should be hard.** If you've spent a week with people (or a few hours or days...whatever you can afford) and you feel nothing at leaving them, you have likely held back.
- **Giving yourself away is something that is rarely regrettable...** On the front end it can feel costly to commit to time spent for others and yet, on the back end, it is almost 100% of the time life giving, instructive, and rewarding.

\*(Excerpts taken from a blog by Doreen Dodgen-Magee, a licensed psychologist in Portland. Though not about an experience at Camp Arrah Wanna, her camp insights are valid for us all. Her entire blog post can be read at [http://doreendm.blogspot.com/2013/08/what-i-learned-at-summer-camp-part-2\\_13.html](http://doreendm.blogspot.com/2013/08/what-i-learned-at-summer-camp-part-2_13.html). Used by permission.)

## A Missional Church Learning Experience Report

### By Carolyn F. Newcombe and Bob Tharalsen

What is M.C.L.E? The letters stand for **M**issional **C**hurch **L**earning **E**xperience. My church, First Baptist Church of North Sacramento, has gone through this learning experience and here is what has happened so far.



The first project was to have more and better contact with our community. The first step was contacting a local school and finding out what they needed. We then brought reams of copy paper, emergency shoes for some children, and other necessities that they said they needed. For continued contact with the school, we have organized a teacher's "thank you" ice cream social at the school. We are available to pray for the teachers individually, if they are willing. We are praying that our relationship will flourish in God's time.

Another sprout is a neighborhood library. One of our retired teachers is working on this. She has a passion to get books into people's hands. This may happen in adjunct with our clothes closet which clothes about 150 people a month. We are still working out the details and it looks promising.

The "Sowing Generous Hearts Garden Group" is another sprout. This venture relies on persons from the community to come along side of us in planning, developing and bringing to fruition a community garden. This group is out to put a garden on the land that the church owns that is just sitting there. There are weeds to be cut, land to be tilled, and the city zoning department to be dealt with. It has been checked out and the city will require that water be put in on the land (cost \$7,000.00). The group can plant a tree or two but that is all. The goal is to start by planting fruit trees this coming spring.

This group has set their minds that the expenses of the garden and upkeep should not cost the church anything. The group is made up of a member from the M.C.L.E. group; a few church members and the rest are from the neighborhood. They have been making things to sell. They have planned to have a craft sale in December, sell 2014 calendars, and Christmas cards also in December. A popcorn fundraiser is being planned. They have put pictures of some of the things



that they have made and people in other countries want some. This group is thinking of asking the ones who want and live in another country to send something made in their country in exchange for what they have made. This way they do not have to deal with money exchange. The item sent would be sold. It looks like they could go global with their crafts.

Our goal in M.C.L.E. is inviting people outside of our church to help us do what we cannot do alone in being the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. We're praying that some of these wonderful folks will meet Jesus as Savior, too!

## "Kids Sing Out" to perform at Lincoln City Cultural Center

First Baptist Church, Lincoln City, Oregon, is celebrating Christmas a little early this year. Kids Sing Out, a children's choir, for children in the fourth through eighth grades are performing "The Gift" a unique new musical written by Valerie Kendall, Director of *Kids Sing Out*, and wife of Pastor John Kendall.

Performance dates and times are as follows:

Friday, December 13 7:00pm  
 Saturday, December 14 3:00pm and 7:00pm  
 Sunday, December 15 3:00pm

Performances will be held at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 N.E. Highway 101, Lincoln City.

In 2012, Kids Sing Out exceeded all its goals on its first Christmas production when it played to packed houses for three shows. A fourth show has been added to this year's program.

"I can't tell you how excited I am," said Valerie Kendall. "We thought it would take several years to pull our kids into the full musical theatre experience, but here we are."

For more information, contact Valerie Kendall at 541-996-4045.

Article and photo adapted from [www.thenewsguard.com](http://www.thenewsguard.com).



## REDWOOD GLEN

### Rooted for Renewal: Strength from the Roots

For 55 years, Redwood Glen in Loma Mar, CA has been a sanctuary for those seeking renewal. Thousands of churches, schools, organizations, and groups have been able to disconnect from the busyness of every day life, and then reconnect (or connect for the first time) with the good news of God's love through their experiences on the camp's 165 acres. In a loving atmosphere, in the midst of nature, at the heart of Redwood Glen's operations, lives are transformed through worship, Bible study, and exploration.

Over the 55 years, the facilities have expanded, camp games and menus have changed, the internet is accessible, but our basic mission remains at the core of what we do.

In 2004, a generous donor family came forward to lend Redwood Glen the monies necessary to purchase the camp property and thus become an independent organization. The camp has faithfully fulfilled its quarterly repayment schedule; however, a balloon payment is due on December 31, 2017. Additionally, the year-round use of the camp has begun to take its toll on several of the heavily used facilities.

While the elimination of the debt will make considerable dollars available for on-going facility improvements and program improvements, some spaces require immediate attention. It is estimated that the cost for debt elimination, plus improvements and renovation, is in the range of \$2 million dollars.

It is with a desire to honor God and continue the fulfillment of the camp's mission that the Board of Directors elected to embark on the Rooted for Renewal Campaign. These monies will be raised primarily through the generous gifts of individuals and faith-based organizations. The campaign period commenced with the Board of Directors, staff and a core group of supporters in spring 2013. Celebrating 55 years of ministry, an anniversary banquet on Saturday, October 5, 2013 launched the public phase, with the goal of receiving all pledges by December 2016.

If you have felt the fullness of God at Redwood Glen, please prayerfully consider how you can be part of the Rooted for Renewal Capital Campaign. Your gift insures that this life-transforming ministry of Redwood Glen will continue for at least another 55 years.

For more information, check our website at <http://redwoodglen.com/support/contribute.php> or contact Executive Director, Mike Socia, at (650) 879-0320 x12 or [exec@redwoodglen.com](mailto:exec@redwoodglen.com).

Thank you for doing your part as Redwood Glen is Rooted for Renewal.

#### Pictures from our 55th Anniversary Banquet (October 5, 2013)



# CAMP ARRAH WANNA, INC.

## Winter Camp 2014

**High School Winter Camp**  
 February 7 - 9, 2014  
 For Campers in grades 9 - 12  
 \$100 if registered on or before Jan 6th  
 \$110 if registered Jan 7 - 27th

**Middle School Winter Camp**  
 February 21 - 23, 2014  
 For Campers in grades 6 - 8  
 \$98 if registered on or before Jan 20th  
 \$105 if registered Jan 21 - Feb 10th

**Elementary Winter Camp**  
 February 21 - 23, 2014  
 For Campers in grades 3 - 5  
 \$90 if registered on or before Jan 20th  
 \$100 if registered Jan 21 - Feb 10th

**For All Camp Sessions:**  
 Check-In Friday @ 6:30 pm  
 Check-Out Sunday @ 2:30 pm

**\*\*BUS TRANSPORTATION IS NOT PROVIDED FOR WINTER CAMP\*\***



## "Live Like That"

2014 Theme

We welcome campers from our community, the Portland area, and around the Northwest. Our leadership & staff work hard to create a comfortable, safe, fun and powerful environment for all involved. **IT DOESN'T MATTER** where you are from or what your background is like... we just want you to come and get to know God, experience his Love, and make life-long friends. So **REGISTER TODAY** and experience one of the **BEST** weekends of your life - we're looking forward to serving you!

### Volunteers Always Needed!

Mark these dates on your calendar now so you can spend a powerful weekend at camp leading and mentoring our amazing campers. Email us TODAY about your interest in helping as a Counselor, Camp Nurse/Medic, Camp Grandparent, Worship Leader, and so much more!

Application & Reference instructions can be found at

[www.camparrahwanna.org/staff](http://www.camparrahwanna.org/staff) or email us at [info@camparrahwanna.org](mailto:info@camparrahwanna.org)

## Camp Arrah Wanna



IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO CONTRIBUTE TO GOD'S MINISTRY ...

Give a donation

**ONLINE TODAY**

and sign up for a monthly, quarterly, or yearly gift, too!

WE SERVE OVER 5,000 PEOPLE EVERY YEAR - THINK OF ALL WE COULD DO FOR OUR CAMPERS IF...

*100 people gave \$25 per month = \$30k*

*50 people gave \$50 per month = \$30k*

*20 people gave \$100 per month = \$24k*

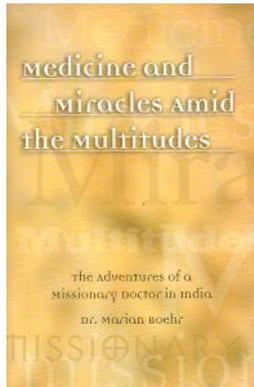
THAT'S \$84,000 THAT COULD HELP US PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS, REPLACE THIN MATTRESSES, UPGRADE BATHROOMS, AND FINISH PAYING OFF THE NEW POOL BATHHOUSE. WILL YOU HELP US BY BEING ONE OF THE FIRST TO SIGN UP?

[WWW.CAMPARRAHWANNA.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPARRAHWANNA.ORG)

## “Medicine and Miracles Amid the Multitudes” reprinted by International Ministries and available again

Dear Family and Friends World-Wide,

For those who are not so familiar with me, I was an American Baptist missionary doctor in India for 38 years, in charge of a 210 bed mission hospital which cared for over 6,000 inpatients and 45,000 outpatients each year, and reached 100,000 more villagers with our community health outreach program. A missionary nurse from Sweden and I were the only “foreigners” in the mission hospital and nursing school, the rest of the staff were Indian. I was trained in surgery and performed some 34,000 surgical operations during my 38 years in India. I was also an evangelist, often preaching in village or city churches in the Telugu language. Toward the end of my ministry, the Telugu Baptist Convention ordained me to Christian ministry, telling me they wanted me to be their missionary to my people in the United States when I retired. I am so grateful for all God did through me during my years in India, and continues to do today.



I am writing to notify you that my book, Medicine and Miracles Amid the Multitudes, which was written when I returned from India, and published by International Ministries in 2002, has been sold out for some time. However, there is still a demand for the books, so they have been reprinted and are available again. I found that It is good to have a copy in the church library, and it makes a wonderful gift for young people who are at the point of determining what to do with their life. Perhaps God needs them as a missionary somewhere in the world. As Dr. Samuel Escobar wrote on the book cover, “*In this action-packed and informative book, Dr.*

*Boehr invites us to share the joys and travails of her missionary work in India. She takes us on a fascinating journey of immersion in India to serve those in need, preach the Gospel, and build the church. This book will infect you with the missionary virus. Dare to read it!*”

God’s Blessings,  
Dr. Marian Boehr

(Dr. Boehr is an active member of FBC Portland and is available for speaking engagements. Medicine and Miracles is available from Judson Press for \$15.00 plus shipping and handling at 1-800-4JUDSON. Request “IM 4577”)

## Region Website: A Treasure Trove of Information Region email addresses updated to reflect new web presence

The old ABC of Oregon region web site ([www.abc-or.org](http://www.abc-or.org)) has been retired in favor of the new, ABC of the Central Pacific Coast ([www.abccpc.org](http://www.abccpc.org)) site. In addition to the new, easier-to-update web site, the region is changing all of its email addresses to the @abccpc addresses.

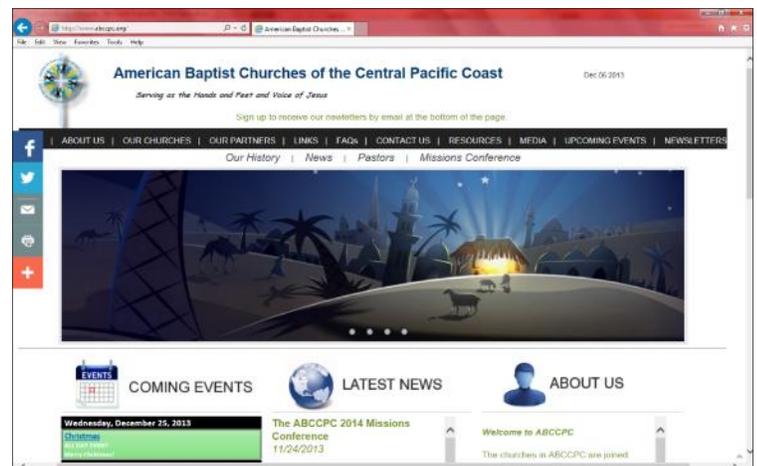
As this issue of the CPC Baptist goes to press, the new web site is completing its beta-testing. To see the progress that is being made, go to the site and check out the various tabs and pages.

One of the features that will come in handy for those who like to visit other ABC churches as they travel is the “Our Churches” tab. Clicking on that tab will bring up a list of our churches (alphabetically by city) and a Google map. Entering the city and state or the zip code where you are will re-center the map to allow you to zoom in and find the churches in your vicinity.

Another handy feature is the “Coming Events” or calendar feature in the left column of the home page. Links to stories about many of the calendar entries are available for more information.

The new email addresses are already being used and email sent to the old addresses will continue to be received until everyone has replaced the old with the new in their address books.

The new address style is (first initial)(last name)@abccpc.org. For example, Steve Bilis would be [sbilis@abccpc.org](mailto:sbilis@abccpc.org). If you send an email to the old addresses, the reply will come from the new address, making updating your address book easier.



# We Covenant Together as Christian Community

By Carol Wheeler, President, American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast

*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.”*

**Psalm 107:1**

The Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast has just concluded, and my heart is overflowing with thanksgiving for our dedicated missionaries, clergy and lay leaders who came together to praise God in worship, learning workshops, and fellowship around the mission and ministry of our region. The presentations, the worship, the music, the exhibits, the food, the hospitality and friendship were all spiritually refreshing and inspiring. Gratitude is due our diligent region staff and our host church, First Baptist Church of Portland, as they came together to plan and carry out this important event for our churches. During this year’s business session the delegates approved the region’s corporate documents with revised by-laws that reflect our growing region which includes churches in southern Washington, Oregon and northern California. Also, at the annual business session region officers and board members were elected for the coming year. I know we all appreciate and praise God for the dedication, service and ministry of our outgoing and incoming board members.



It has been my privilege to serve the region as your president for these past three years. I am grateful for all we have accomplished and for how well we work and pray together. I am grateful for the opportunity of serving with each and every one of you. We have challenges, yet we are rich in our discipleship and love for Jesus Christ and His Church. I am energized and hopeful for our ongoing work and ministry as we continue our partnership with Camp Arrah Wanna, Redwood Glen Camp, Ministers Council, colleges and seminaries, and ABWomen and ABMen. I look forward to 2014

and the ABCCPC Missions Conference, to be hosted by First Baptist Church, McMinnville, Oregon, and to the Annual Gathering to be hosted by Cornerstone Fellowship Church, San Lorenzo, California.

We have so much to be thankful for as we move forward under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and with the light of the Holy Spirit to guide us. May you be blessed as we journey through this season of thanksgiving and look toward the promise and hope of the Advent Season...the birth of our Savior Christ Jesus.

## The American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast

Dear Carol,

We can do more together than any of us could ever accomplish alone. Please invest these gifts in the work of fostering congregational vitality, evangelism, and new church planting in the *American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, ST Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ [Your church can receive Region Offering credit for these contributions]

Amount Enclosed \$25 \$60 \$500 \$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month quarter year

Optional: I would like to designate all or part [specify amount of your gift \_\_\_\_\_] to **New Church Planting**.

**It is now possible to contribute to the work of the region directly on our web site, [www.abccpc.org](http://www.abccpc.org).**

Please charge my MasterCard Visa AmEx for one-time gift recurring pledge. Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec’y code \_\_\_\_\_

[If you prefer, you may call the office to charge your gift to your credit card or to make your pledge.]

Please have someone contact me about ways to include the work of the region in my will or estate.

Please return this card together with your gift made payable to ABCCPC in the enclosed self-addressed envelope or send to:  
**ABC Central Pacific Coast † 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite G † Portland, Oregon 97239 † (503) 228-8394**

## An update from The Ministers Council of Oregon

By Shane Kinnison, President

It is my privilege to serve as President of our region's Ministers Council along with a wonderful Leader Team that includes Gregg Sneller, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Wood; Paul Lundberg; Victor Reynolds; RT Miller; and Miriam Mendez. Please receive the following as a report from our Leader Team regarding the progress we are making with Ministers Council.

Recently, we had the privilege of listening to a cross section of Ministers Council members from our region through a phone blitz. We listened intently across the region by asking questions that gave our constituents an opportunity to give us their insights and experiences. When asked about the experiences with, the value of and the insights for Ministers Council among clergy, here is what we heard our friends say:



- The primacy of relationships/connections/friendships
- High value for retreat experiences
- Feelings of disconnect/alienation
- Desires to discover the real value of Ministers Council
- High value for Together in Ministry (TIM) Groups
- Acknowledgement of geographical pockets across the Region
- Appreciation for and desire for clergy retiree experiences
- Recognizing and valuing all clergy ministerial leaders
- Regular contact and communication
- CEU events
- Clergy advocates

Our Leader Team continues to meet and communicate to determine how to better organize the Ministers Council in order to focus on the very experiences, values and insights spoken by our friends. In the meantime, we are asking our friends to do the following as best practices of the Ministers Council:

- Invite your clergy friends to become official members of Ministers Council and show them how.
- Pray for the Leader Team and me as we take care of some initial legwork that is important to the future of the organization.
- Be a part of the VISION of Ministers Council by dreaming the "what can become" of our collective friendships.
- Pick up the phone and call me on my cell at 469-658-6567 or in my office at 503-665-2159 and let's talk.
- Send me an email at [pastor@fbcgo.org](mailto:pastor@fbcgo.org) and communicate your thoughts to me.
- Look at your calendar and let's find a time and place to get a cup of coffee together.
- When you think "Ministers Council" think Health, Relationships and Skills.
- When you say "Ministers Council" speak something good.

If you have thoughts, ideas, insights and suggestions for Ministers Council and its future, please feel free to contact me directly. I would be happy to visit with you and to receive your communication so that, together, we can strengthen the arms of our regional clergy who, in turn, will make the most significant investments in our churches and communities.

## Oregon Ministers Council Retreat — April 6-7, 2014

SAVE THE DATE! The Ministers Council of Oregon is excited to invite you to a Spring Retreat on April 6 – 7, 2014 at the Alton L. Collins Conference and Retreat Center and led by MaryKate Morse of George Fox University. The cost of the overnight retreat will be \$150 for a single room or \$125 for a double room per occupant or \$225 for a couple. This price includes three meals, use of the retreat center, your room, speaker and collegial conversations. CEUs will be granted. While there are details still to come, please place this great opportunity of friendship and learning on your calendar for both you and your significant other if you prefer to bring someone. You will hear more from your Leader Team after the holidays.

May this Advent season and your Christmas celebration be filled with the presence of Christ for you, your families and your ministries!





**There are no “magic bullets”  
in ministry.**

***But the 3 C’s of the Ministers  
Council can make a difference.***

The Ministers Council of the Greater Bay Area invites you to join us at our **2014 annual retreat** as we look at the importance of **Collegiality**, **Centeredness** and **Competence** in our ministries.

**Monday to Tuesday, January 13-14, 2014**

*(The retreat begins with Monday registration 9:00 am and ends with lunch on Tuesday)*



## **San Damiano Retreat Center**

710 Highland Drive in Danville, CA. Phone: (925) 837-9141  
(Online at [sandamiano.org](http://sandamiano.org))

**Featuring the Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson**

*Executive Director of the ABC-USA Ministers Council*

In our sessions, Debora will overview the 3 C’s which are foundational to the Ministers Council and provide practical tools for pastors to live in **Collegiality**, **Centeredness** and **Competence**. Other retreat activities include times of worship, opportunities for spiritual direction, small groups to connect with ministry colleagues, all group fellowship activities, good food and fun, along with personal free time to relax, read, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of San Damiano.

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### **MCGBA 2014 RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM**

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 2013 MCGBA Member?  Yes  No  Joining now

Membership dues: Regular \$75; Seminarian \$50 (\$50 of dues go to National and \$25 go to MCGBA)

**RETREAT COSTS: Single room \$150; Double room \$130** *(Less 10% discount for members)*

**(Registration due by January 1, 2014)** Total Retreat Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Double room, roommate requested: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Checks payable to:** “MCGBA”. Please mail registration form and payment to Rev. Karen Yee, *MCGBA Treasurer* at 26232 Danforth Lane, Hayward, CA 94545. For more information, email Karen at [Karen.tina@usa.net](mailto:Karen.tina@usa.net)

# 2014 Mission Conference

Hosted by First Baptist Church  
McMinnville, Oregon

**SAVE THESE DATES!**  
**May 2 - 3, 2014**

**Keynote Speaker:** Roy Medley, General Secretary, ABC-USA

**Missionary Keynote Speaker:** Mylinda Baits, Regional Missionary dealing with human trafficking in the Iberoamerica-Caribbean region, International Ministries

**Mission Resource Provider:** Ruthann Stevenson, Mission Partnership Coordinator, International Ministries

*“Then the King will say to those on his right,  
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance,  
the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.  
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in,  
I needed clothes and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you looked after me,  
I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

**Matthew 25:34-36**



*Mylinda Baits*

**Check out our new web site:  
[www.abccpc.org](http://www.abccpc.org)**

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