



# *UpStream*

Spring  
2015

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American Baptist Men  
of the Great Rivers Region  
*Men on a Mission - from God*

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## **A Word from Our Sponsor**

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.  
– Hebrews 13:7-8 (NIV)

## **AB Men Website**

For the latest information on the AB Men of our region, be sure to check out our website at: [www.abm-grr.org](http://www.abm-grr.org). Thanks to Terry Maurizio for putting it together and keeping us informed!

## **AB Men Work Project at Green Lake**

**NEW** for 2015: In addition to the fall work project, we have the opportunity to spend a week at beautiful Green Lake, WI the week of April 5-12. Green Lake will provide free rooms and meals for everyone who participates in the work project. The fall work project will be September 28-Oct. 2. For more information, contact George Meyer, our Work Projects Coordinator, at 217/488-7190.

Here is more about the trip from our former AB Men National President: Greetings, Brothers in Christ. Happy New Year! I pray you and your families are well and you are all planning for a blessed year of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all you meet. I am also looking forward to seeing you at Green Lake in the Spring. Some of you who were at Green Lake last year in September heard that we might need to return early in 2015. Brad Carroll, VP Operations, has asked for us to return in April. Easter is on Sunday, April 5, 2015. We have been asked to use Monday, April 6, 2015

as a travel day to Green Lake, work through Saturday. Sunday, April 12, 2015 is the travel day to return home. Brad has requested that we limit the work crew size to 50 volunteers. So, it is important for you to make your reservation soon and beat the crowd. Please call 1-920-294-3323 and say that you want to register for the April ABMen work party.

FROM BRAD CARROLL: "The need is great for help. Again, we will have need for men and women who can hang drywall, there will also be carpentry, plumbing and drop ceiling installation needs. Also some painting for those who enjoy painting. Arrangements are the same as before, free room and meals for those that can make it, full week or just for a few days. Thanks again for your help and support!"

Many tasks were left uncompleted last fall, so there will be plenty to do. Please feel free to bring your personal tools, chain saws, etc as you feel necessary.

We are also planning to return to Green Lake this fall, so be sure to leave room for that on your schedule for 2015.

Mark your calendar, call AND E-MAIL your buddies and call Green Lake to register.

**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

Lucky Ray

Past President, ABMen-USA

## **Judson University Work Project**

The annual work project at Judson University in Elgin, IL will be June 1-5. This is a great trip with good accommodations and a variety of projects for everyone, including gardening and painting projects, so please bring your spouse. For more information, contact George Meyer, our Work Projects Coordinator, at 217/488-7190.

## **AB Men Work Project at University Baptist Church**

The annual summer work project at University Baptist Foundation on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign will be the week of July 13-17. For more information, contact George Meyer, our Work Projects Coordinator, at 217/488-7190.

## **AB Men Fall Gathering**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's fall gathering at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Sept. 18-19. If you would like more information or to help with this event, please contact Dave Comstock at 217/777-2740 or by email at [dave.comstock1@gmail.com](mailto:dave.comstock1@gmail.com).



# UPDATE

Informing Disaster Relief Volunteers of our ongoing mission and ministry.

Mac & LaVerne Shotwell, Editors

Brian and Julie Romanowski, Publishers

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## **CAMP WORK DAYS: MARCH 26, 27, 28 @ LSBC**

In appreciation for allowing us to park our disaster relief trailers on camp property and to show our support for the excellent camping ministry at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, our ABMen's board of directors is asking disaster relief volunteers to help with camp cleanup for three days in March.

Harold Monroe, our assistant trailer coordinator, has volunteered to supervise these three days of work and is looking for teams of workers for each of the three days. Jennifer Brady, camp manager, will see that the volunteers are fed and overnight accommodations will be provided. Work will include removal of dead trees, cutting them into firewood plus removal of underbrush and trimming trees.

So work details can be finalized, and food and overnight accommodations completed, RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED. Reply to Mac Shotwell at [macshotwell@att.net](mailto:macshotwell@att.net) or 2521 Lindbergh Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704 the following:

**Count on me for one or more of the following days: (check)**

<b>March 26</b>	<b>March 27</b>	<b>March 28</b>	<b>Overnight?</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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**Name:**

**Email or regular mail address:**

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL GATHERING MARCH 28**

At 9:30 am on Saturday, March 28 disaster relief leadership team will meet at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp for their annual meeting. Team captains, assistants and coordinators gather for communication, planning, evaluating and ongoing support. Van Peters and Mac Shotwell, coordinators, will lead the meeting and they invite all volunteers to submit suggestions for strengthening this ministry. Send your ideas to Van at [v.peters42@yahoo.com](mailto:v.peters42@yahoo.com) or Mac at [macshotwell@att.net](mailto:macshotwell@att.net)

## **CPR AND CHAIN SAW TRAINING LAST SEPTEMBER**

The following eighteen men participated and received certificates in CPR training on Sept. 19, 2014: Brian Romanowski, Larry Stanton, VanPeters, Harold Monroe, Richard Ruyle, Terry Maurizio, Don Rogers, John Hoenig, Mark Nelson, Ronald Haynes, Richard Gillaspie, Elmer Voudrie, Les Sorensen, Ron Greenfield, Jerry Elliott, Charles Williams and Mac Shotwell. They and Elmer Loper, David Harman and John Rollet also received training and certificates in chainsaw maintenance. Our thanks to Mike Robinson and Van Peters for leading these classes.

## Mac's Musings....



Elsewhere in this mailing, you will read of the home going to Heaven of one of our faithful volunteers Cliff Hopwood. In a letter to his wife Thelma, I mentioned that Cliff was president of ABMen when I was invited to join the board as coordinator for our revised Disaster Relief ministry. Cliff, along with others, saw the need and the vision for this significant work and I was honored to be invited to help.

In the first edition of our Disaster Relief Workbook, Cliff wrote: *"I am amazed at how our Lord's hand is in this effort... I liken this reawakening of Disaster Relief to a garden that was drying up then the rains came and the sun came out and new life came to the garden and it began to bloom. A new era in ABM/GRR is beginning and I am proud to be part of it. I am anxious to see what happens next."*

Cliff wrote those words in 2004 and for as long as he was able, he supported this ministry not only with words but with action. His presence and encouragement was truly appreciated and he will be deeply missed.

Until the Lord calls us home, we need to be faithful like Cliff, and be prepared to help where needed. I thank God for Cliff and all past and present ABMen who incarnate our motto: "Because Jesus Came, We Come!"



**It is with deep regret that we announce the resignation of John McConnell, Jr. as team one assistant leader.** For nine years, John has been one of our most active volunteers, involved in 18 response calls. For personal reasons, he felt it necessary to resign, noting in his letter, *"There have been many good men who I have had the pleasure to work with. Men of God who give unselfishly their time, money and ability to help others in need. I cannot think of a better group than those who make up the American Baptist Men Disaster Relief"*.

Thank you, John, for your faithful and dependable service. You have given so unselfishly of your time and resource. You will be missed!

**Our sincere thanks to the following who have made financial gifts to our disaster relief ministry:** First Baptist Churches of Chenoa, Edwardsville, Macomb, Marissa and Mattoon; Robert Hill, Robert Russell and Steven Ziegler. Contributions can be sent to our treasurer: Earl Troyer, PO Box 211, Goodfield, IL 61742 or with your church mission gifts to GRR designating them to "ABMen's Disaster Relief in GRR".

The fact that we did not get a call for help last year is good news, but the danger is we may get too relaxed and not be prepared when a call for help does come. One way to stay informed and in tune is to respond to the work days call at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp listed on the previous page. I hope to hear from many of you! **--Mac Shotwell**