



UpStream

Spring
2016

Editor: Brian
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American Baptist Men
of the Great Rivers Region
Men on a Mission - from God

A Word from Our Sponsor

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8 (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. Thanks to Terry Maurizio for putting it together and keeping us informed!

American Baptist Men of the Great Rivers Region
204 Barbara Dr.
Mahomet, IL 61853-9135

2015 AB Men of the GRR Annual Gathering

Highlights from our September 2015 gathering at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp:



Man of the Year: Ron Haynes,
Area IV Vice President



Featured Speaker: Dr. Robert Wallace,
Professor of Old Testament at Judson University



Worship & Special Music: Pat Hargis,
Associate Professor at Judson University



A teachable moment from Don Rogers,
President, AB Men GRR

See the enclosed flier & registration form to sign up for this year's event.

Work Projects

Judson University in Elgin, IL: June 5-10. Judson will provide meals and housing.
Green Lake Conference Center: April 25-29 & September 19-23. Meals & housing will be provided.
University Baptist Church in Champaign, IL: July (dates are being finalized)
NEW! Northern Seminary in Lombard, IL: August (arrangements are in progress)
If you are interested in participating or if you would like more information, please contact George Meyer, our Work Projects Coordinator, at 217/488-7190 or visit our website: www.abm-grr.org.

UPDATE

Informing **Disaster Relief Volunteers and Supporters** of our ongoing mission & ministry.

Mac Shotwell, Editor

Brian & Julie Romanowski, Publishers

Vol. 13 No. 1 March, 2016

“Because Jesus Came, We Come!”



WE RESPOND TO CALL IN KINCAID, IL

Under the leadership of Terry Maurizio, Paul Stivers and Elmer Voudrie, twenty-one men helped with the flood clean-up in the town of Kincaid. Five teams responded from January 7 to 19, working at four sites for 311.5 hours (not counting travel time). This was our 40th response since this ministry was reorganized in 2005.

This was a cooperative ministry. Our teams worked alongside Southern Baptist teams, were fed at the local Methodist Church (as well as by Red Cross). Pastor Ted Marrinan and the members of Bethel Baptist Church offered to house our teams, but all chose to return to their own homes each night.

Pictured below is the team under Elmer Voudrie's leadership. The four teams under Terry Maurizio and Paul Stiver's leadership are pictures on the next page.



Don Rogers (kneeling); Elmer Voudrie, Dave Carpenter, Bill Uphoff, Scott Warfel, Harold Baldock, J.C. & John Doty.



LOTS OF STOOPING AND BENDING!



Kincaid volunteers on the previous page include (clockwise): Picture 1: Harold Monroe, Paul Stivers, Charlie Stivers, Ron Kinner, and John Hoenig. Picture 2: Ron Kinner, George Labadie, Harold Monroe, Terry Maurizio, John Hoenig. Picture 3: Roger Furkin, Terry Maurizio, Theresa Gibson, Paul Stivers, Ron Kinner, Don Rogers. Picture 4: Harold Monroe, Travis Nichols, Shawn McQuire, John Heck, Ron Kinner, Roger Furkin, Everett Meister. In Picture 3 is the home owner, Theresa Gibson, who has just received a Bible with the team members' signatures.

OUR THANKS to the following who have made monetary contributed to this ministry since our last publication: FBC, Galesburg (in memory of LaVerne Shotwell); FBCs of Edwardsville, Macomb, Mattoon, Oak Park and Wood River.

Keep up with the activities of ABM by visiting our web site, <http://abm-grr.org>. Sincere thanks to Terry Maurizio for creating and managing this means of updating our ministries.

We will be represented by Brian and Julie Romanowski at the bi-annual meeting in West Virginia of ABC Disaster Relief leaders this month.

UPDATE, March, 2016 p. 3

Annual Meeting of our Disaster Relief Leadership Team will be on April 2 at Central Baptist Church in Springfield, IL beginning at 10 a.m. For those who can come early, Paul Stivers has extend the invitation for us to join their local ABMen for breakfast at 8 a.m. Let Paul or Mac know if you can attend. Among the agenda items to discuss at the annual meeting is a look at our "Five Year Goals".



Another scene from the Kincaid clean-up. Lots of tear up before rebuilding can take place! A PowerPoint presentation of this ministry will be shared at our June 24-25 Gathering at FBC in Mattoon.

Mac's Musings.... "Hands That Care!"

As I reflect on the ongoing ministry of our Disaster Relief work, I am thanking God for those who have responded to the calls for help. In this newsletter you see names and faces of some who have used their hands and hearts to help those in need in recent days. This is truly Christianity-in-Action.

For my Lenten devotional time I am reading "Vanishing Grace" by Philip Yancey. He writes: "Guided by the Golden Rule we should concentrate on living out our beliefs, progressing from *hands* to *hearts* to *head*. Practical acts of mercy (extending a hand) will express our love (the heart), which in turn may attract others to the source of that love (head beliefs).....A skeptical world judges the truth of what we say by the proof of how we live. Today's activists may be the best evangelists."

A poem that has helped shape my life and ministry focuses on this "hands, to heart to head" challenge:

"Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell them how He dies;
He has no help but our help to lead them to his side."

It is in that spirit I want to thank all of you who have and will respond with your hands, hearts and heads when a call comes to help.

In this newsletter is an announcement of our annual gathering which is taking on some new dimensions: A new date,
A new place,
A new form, with some new leadership.

Find the registration form, complete it and mail it in, together with the registrations of other men and boys (including your pastor).

I look forward to being with you.

--Mac Shotwell

Men's Gathering 2016



"Called to be Servants"

Mark 10:35-45

First Baptist Church - Mattoon, IL

June 24-25

Join us for a weekend of worship, spiritual growth,
fellowship, food, and activities

Registration @ 3:00 - Dinner @ 6:00 - Evening Session @ 7:00

Breakfast @ 8:00 - Morning Session @ 9:00 - Lunch @ Noon

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Paul Gibson

Executive Minister of the Great Rivers Region

Breakout Sessions:

Serving Men through Brotherhood	Serving your Church
Serving Others through ABM Disaster Relief and Work Projects	Youth Activity with Coach Tom Woodall, EIU

Registration: (includes dinner & lunch)

breakfast available at hotel - or at the church for a love gift

Adults: \$35

(\$25 if mailed before April 30th)

Youth (18 & under) \$20 for the first

additional youth from the same family Free!

Register 3 men from your church by April 30th
and bring your pastor for Free!

Register on-line at: <http://goo.gl/forms/1LxilQqCXi>

Lodging: Super 8 Mattoon \$61.04 + tax (ask for ABM rate) (217) 235-8888
other hotels available without the special ABM rate

American Baptist Men of the Great Rivers Region

FAITHFULLY SERVING GOD AND MEN FOR OVER 90 YEARS

REGISTRATION FORM
ABM Gathering 2016
First Baptist Church Mattoon, IL
June 24-25

Please Print

NAME _____ Phone _____
ADDRESS _____
CHURCH _____ E-MAIL _____

YOUNG MEN AND BOYS ATTENDING WITH YOU:

NAME: _____ AGE: _____ NAME: _____ AGE: _____
NAME: _____ AGE: _____ NAME: _____ AGE: _____

Friday activities will include dinner, worship, fellowship and a movie. Saturday morning activities include optional breakfast with devotion, worship, presentation of the American Baptist Man of the Year award, breakout sessions, communion and lunch.

REGISTRATION COSTS: (Registration fees include two meals and snacks. Breakfast at the church with Mattoon's ABM for a love gift or own your own)

Register 3 men from your church and your pastor attends free. (Must register by April 30th and mail together)

_____ Adults: \$35.00 (\$25.00 if mailed before April. 30)

_____ Youth (18 & under) \$20.00 for the first
Additional Youth (from same family) *Free!*

_____ Friday only \$20

_____ Saturday only \$20

Registration at the Church:

Friday 3:00 until 6:30 pm
Saturday, 7:30-9:00 am

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check here _____ if you plan to eat breakfast at the church on Saturday.

REGISTER ON-LINE AT: <http://goo.gl/forms/1LxilQqCXi>

or

MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION TO: **Earl Troyer**
PO Box 211
Goodfield, IL 61742

Make your check payable to **ABM/GRR**

Lodging: Super 8 Mattoon \$61.04 + tax (ask for ABM rate) (217) 235-8888 (other hotels available without the special ABM rate)