

American Baptist Men of the Great Rivers Region
416 Glendale St.
Creve Coeur, IL 61610-3242

	<h1><i>UpStream</i></h1>	<p>Winter 2011-2012</p> <p>Editor: Brian Romanowski (309) 826-8116</p>
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American Baptist Men
of the Great Rivers Region
Men on a Mission - from God

Work Projects

We would like to invite you to join us in our ministry by participating in the upcoming work projects. The American Baptist Men are currently planning a work project at Judson University in Elgin tentatively scheduled for June 4-8, University Baptist Church in Champaign July 9-13 and the Hopi Indian Reservation in Mesa, AZ this summer. If you would like to participate in these projects or want more information, please contact George Meyer, our Work Projects Coordinator, at 217/488-7190. For more information about the Hopi Indian Reservation project please visit the national website: <http://abmen.org/>.

A Word from Our Sponsor

Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. – 1 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

AB Men's Gathering at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

If you missed this year's annual AB Men's gathering, you missed a fantastic opportunity to hear about the work of the AB Men in sharing the love of Jesus. Everyone enjoyed good food, good fellowship, great music, and powerful worship, including a time of worship around the campfire.



There was inspiring worship with some great speakers sharing their stories about the influential work of the AB Men of the GRR in Illinois, the U.S. and beyond.



We also recognized some people that have been influential in our ministry. This year's awards went to Candy Stivers, Van Peters, and Dave Comstock.



Whenever men get together, there's also food involved. Thanks to our cooks!



UPDATE

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

Mac and LaVerne Shotwell, Editors

Brian and Julie Romanowski, Publishers

Vol. VIII, No. 1 February, 2012

VAN PETERS NEW COORDINATOR WITH MAC SHOTWELL

We are pleased to announce that Van Peters has agreed to join our Disaster Relief Leadership Team as coordinator. One of our ABMen of the Year, Van has served as assistant vice president and vice president in area 3; vice-president under Steve Otis; president, past president and disaster relief team leader in area 4.



Van & Mac

Van graduated from Indiana State University with a B.A. and Illinois State with an M.A. He was a high school history teacher, coach and guidance counselor. Most of the years in education were in Minonk, where he was active in the First Baptist Church there. Now retired, he is living with his wife, Maryellen, in Creal Springs and they attend Grand Ave. Baptist Church in Carterville. Working closely with Mac in overseeing our disaster relief ministry, Van will be the first responder onsite to appraise the work to be done. *"An answer to prayer and some great news to start the new year"* Mac reports as he looks forward to sharing this leadership.

JOPLIN MISSION HIGHLIGHTED ON DVD John McConnel, Jr., coordinator with Paul Webb and Mac Shotwell, for our thirty day mission in Joplin last June and July, has produced and made available a seven minute DVD of that experience. All disaster relief team leaders (names and contact information on page 4 in this edition) have copies that can be loaned to anyone interested. A few extra copies for permanent use are available from Mac. Ask for one and share it.

WE GOT A CHRISTMAS GIFT, TOO

Jake Swartz, a former member of Mahomet First Baptist who works for Stihl Chain Saw Company in Virginia, called Brian Romanowski, pastor, and said he had a gift in his trunk that he would give to him on Christmas Day--a new Stihl chainsaw!

It seems they have an employee drawing for a chainsaw and Jake told a coworker that if he won he was giving it to our Disaster Relief ministry.

The coworker said he would give it to us if he won. Jake's name did not get drawn, but his coworker's did!

Thanks to Michael Roberson, Jake's friend and now ours! and thanks to Jake for the suggestion.

NEW TEAM THREE CAPTAIN

Because of family responsibilities, David Comstock had to resign as captain for team three. We are grateful to Brian Romanowski for agreeing to take over this leadership position, working with Dick Gillaspie, assistant. Our appreciation to Dave for his years of faithful leadership.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ABMen's Disaster Relief ministry seeks to serve those affected by federally declared disasters, as well as disasters within Illinois and Missouri, in cooperation with ABMen/USA, the Great Rivers Region of American Baptists and the wider disaster response community. In so doing we further fulfill our Christian mission by demonstrating the compassion of Christ and the ministry of wholeness and renewal.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTINUE TO GIVE TO OUR MINISTRY

During 2011 we received \$11,004.95 for our Disaster Relief treasury and \$8,059.10 was spent on equipment, food and travel expenses for workers. Special thanks to One Great Hour of Sharing funds, individuals and churches for their generous gifts.

Your ongoing support assures us of keeping the trailers properly equipped and funds available to assist with travel, housing and feeding our workers.

When Earl Troyer, our treasurer, was elected president, Paul Juriga of Decatur agreed to be our treasurer and was looking forward to serving His Lord in this way. Sadly for us, God called him home on January 6, so we are looking for another treasurer.

In the meantime, please continue to send your gifts to Earl Troyer PO Box 211 Goodfield, IL 61742 or with your mission gifts to the GRR, designated ABMen's Disaster Relief.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS MARCH 24

Each year the Leadership Team (listed on page 4) meets to evaluate, share ideas and seek to improve our ministry. The March 24 meeting, our 9th one, will be at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

If YOU have ideas for strengthening our ministry, please share them with one of our team leaders.

Mac's Musings:

REFLECTING ON EIGHT YEARS OF MINISTRY TOGETHER

As we begin our 9th year of this reorganized disaster relief ministry, let's take time and reflect on what has happened.

Since our restart in 2004, when we brought out of "moth balls" the 18 wheeler that had been dedicated and put into service in 1996, this ministry has involved 571 volunteers at 458 sites for 176 days in 29 communities. Almost 12,000 volunteer hours of free labor were given to help clean up from floods, ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes.



ONE OF OUR ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

It is difficult to put a monetary figure on this ministry, but national volunteer "points of light" estimates that this ministry has saved disaster victims more than a quarter of a million dollars in labor costs. With the ten new members that we welcomed at our Fall gathering, we now have 275 men, women and youth "signed up" to help when needed and available.

"PRAY....GIVE...GO!"---These words were sounded as we began our ministry and they are still germane to our calling. *"When Disaster Strikes"...* we need to remember that we need God's help, each others help and a willing team to be ready to go. Thanks be to God, this has happened on each of our 29 responses that took us to 22 communities in Illinois, two in Missouri, two in Iowa, one in Kentucky, and longer trips to Mississippi and Haiti. *"In so doing we fulfill our Christian mission by demonstrating the compassion of Christ and the ministry of wholeness and renewal"* (to quote a part of our mission statement).

I invite you to "muse" on these facts and join me in thanking God for the privilege of being in this ministry. *To God Be the Glory! --Mac Shotwell*

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ABMEN's GRR DISASTER RELIEF LEADERSHIP TEAM
(updated: Jan. 2012)

Coordinator: Mac Shotwell 8048 Wilson Terrace Springfield, IL 62712
217-585-0580, cell: 217-891-4463 macshotwell@att.net

Coordinator: Van Peters 159 Faith Drive Creal Springs, IL 62922
cell: 309-212-8797 v.peters@yahoo.com

Trailer Coordinator: Robert Gebhardt 4001 Sandhill Rd. Lot 216
Springfield, IL 62702 217-523-7665, cell: 815-519-3130

Assistant Trailer Coordinator: Gary Short 100 Timberridge Dr. Springfield, IL 62702
217-546-4672, cell: 217-622-7669 jsgs88@comcast.net

TEAM ONE Captain: Jack Smith 566 Wolverine Lane Dixon, IL 61021
815- 284-6156, cell: 815-499-4779 jacksmith@grics.net

Assistants: Chuck Johnson 103 Elmwood Pl. Sandwich, IL 60548
815-786-6655, cell: 815-970-6095 vinedresser2@aol.com

John H. McConnel, Jr. 14440 Ivey Rd. Mt. Carroll, IL 61053
815-244-4005, cell: 815-980-0166 elifestyles05@yahoo.com

TEAM TWO Captain: Ron Greenfield, 2601 Sherborn Rd. Springfield, IL 62702
217- 523-2601 ronfrang@sbcglobal.net

Assistant: Gary Short, (see Assistant Trailer Coordinator above)

TEAM THREE Captain: Brian Romanowski 204 Barbara Drive, Mahomet, IL 61853
cell: 309-826-8116 bs.romanowski@gmail.net

Assistant: Dick Gillaspie, 7019 N. Teton Drive, Peoria, IL 61614
309-692-5320, cell: 309-648-1267 gillasr@netscape.net

TEAM FOUR Captain: Elmer Voudrie, 29 Wintercress Mattoon, IL 61938
217-235-0436, cell: 217-246-8492 embgg@consolidated.net

Assistants: Ron Haynes, 219 W. Spring, Marissa, IL 62257
618- 295-3664, cell: 618-334-6213 oldhaus@newwavecomm.net

Les Sorensen, 14536 Cooks Mills Rd. Humboldt, IL 61938
217-234-9751 lessoren@webtv.net

TEAM FIVE Captain: Paul Webb, 6321 W 78th Place, Kansas City, MO 64151
816-505-0619, cell: 816- 809-5275 paulville2@sbcglobal.net

Assistant in WEST: Bill Humenczuk 8624 W. 116th Street Overland Park, KS
66210 913-338-4478 bhumenczuk@kc.rr.com

Additional Team leaders (On Call): Team Two: **Ron Kinner**, 1306 Oakbrook Ave.
Chatham, IL 62629 217-483-5814, cell: 217-899-7399 ronkinner104@live.com/**Harold**

Monroe, 804 St. Rt. 29 Cantrall, IL 62625 217-487-7742, cell: 217-341-4845/**Paul**

Stivers 13660 Gilmore Auburn, IL 62615 217-438-9125, cell: 217-553-4933. Team

Three: **Jon Dainty, Sr.** 2721 West Parkridge Drive, Peoria, IL 61604 309-256-4697, cell:
309-686-6631/**David Harman** Box 245 302 Oak St. Adair, IL 61411 309-653-2588, cell:
309-252-1801 chris14@winco.net Team Four: **Larry Cutright** 2825 E. 1300 N. Greenup,
IL 61938 217-932-6524, cell: 217-273-6536.

PLEASE SAVE THIS IN CASE A DISASTER HITS YOUR AREA AND YOU NEED HELP! The team numbers correspond to the GRR areas---so Team One represents Area One, etc. When a disaster strikes CONTACT the team captain or assistant in your area and he will start the process for creating a team to come and help.

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ATTENTION: Mark Your Calendars

When? September 21 & 22.
What? Men's gathering.
Where? Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.
Why? Fellowship, Renewal, Food, Fun. Challenges.
Come and join us.

AB Men's 90th Anniversary

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the American Baptist Men, there are hats, shirts and jackets with a special anniversary logo. For more information contact our national representative, Ron Greenfield, at ronfrang@sbcglobal.net or 217/523-2601.

AB Men Leadership

The next AB Men Board meeting is scheduled for Sat., April 14, 2012 at Blackhawk Baptist Camp

How can you help the AB Men or the GRR?

Pray: The power of prayer is immeasurable. It is the one thing everyone can do and doesn't cost a thing. Please pray for the ministry of the AB Men to continue to reach men & boys in the region and beyond and to proclaim the name of Jesus to all nations.

Give: Donate time, talents, and/or resources. The AB Men are funded entirely by donations from individuals and churches. We need your help to continue to provide important ministries like disaster relief. If you can give any amount, those funds would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made to: AB Men GRR
Please send to: Earl Troyer
PO Box 211
Goodfield, IL 61741

Also, please consider joining the ABMen's 500 Club by removing and mailing in the card below.

YES! I want to join the ABMen's 500 CLUB

Add my name to the 500 Club Membership Roster. I pledge to support the work of the American Baptist Men by answering two calls per year for \$10.00 each call!



#1 Call: Funding for general expenses of ABM-GRR

#2 Call: Funding for the Disaster Relief Ministry

- Email Newsletter
- Work Projects
- Men's Annual Breakfast
- Men's Conference
- Disaster Relief

Name _____ Telephone: _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip code _____ Email _____

Thank you

We say thank you to our past president, Dave Comstock, and our interim president, Mac Shotwell as we welcome our new president, Earl Troyer. Thank you for your leadership and hard work.

Help Wanted

The AB Men of the GRR are currently searching for a new treasurer. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Earl Troyer at 309/965-2342 or etroyer@juno.com.

Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to join other men in the region for breakfast and prayer.

First Baptist Church Peoria, Sat. Feb. 4, 2012 at 8 AM

First Baptist Church Maringo, Sat. Feb. 25, 2012 at 8 AM

First Baptist Church Decatur, Sat. Feb. 25, 2012 at 8 AM

Elliot Ave. Baptist Church, Springfield, Sat., Mar, 17, 2012 at 8 AM

New Commandment Ministries

The New Commandment Ministry for Cherry Hills Baptist Church (CHBC) has been a demonstration of God proving faithful and loving in putting the right people together for the right work. What Ellis Loper started with passion following a meeting with the American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Ministry a year ago has been embraced with equal passion by the seven care receivers and 35 care team members for Cherry Hills. All our teams are comprised of at least two men as well as women becoming "family" to single moms, widows, and couples with health concerns. We have marveled how the team composition has matched the care receiver's needs which could not always have been anticipated. We didn't know, but the Father did, that one of our families would need nurses on their team, or that another family would benefit from team members with empathy for families with someone who has been incarcerated. The mutual benefits of the relationships between the care teams and the care receivers has clearly been blessed by God.

Monthly projects have been diverse in the care receivers' homes including home repairs, yard work, cleaning gutters, going to doctor's visits, and garage sale preparation and sales. We have learned that the greatest benefit of the ministry is the relationship that is built between the care receivers and the care team members. At the same time, the care receivers have been a huge blessing to those "serving" them. For more information about how the New Commandment Ministry is working at Cherry Hills Baptist, please call Ellis Loper at 217-414-9467 or email Carol Diedrichsen at diedrichsen@comcast.net.

Place
Postage
Here

AB Men's Membership
c/o Earl Troyer
P.O. Box 211
Goodfield, IL 61742