

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

	<h1><i>UpStream</i></h1>	Fall 2012 Editor: Brian Romanowski (309) 826-8116
---	--------------------------	---

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

---

### **A Word from Our Sponsor**

*"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." – Deuteronomy 15:11 (NIV)*

### **More Money for Ministry**

Help us to be good stewards of our resources and save postage costs by providing an email address to receive the UPSTREAM. Send your email address to [bs.romanowski@gmail.com](mailto:bs.romanowski@gmail.com) .

### **AB Men Website**

Thanks to Terry Maurizio, we have a website again: [www.abm-grr.org](http://www.abm-grr.org). Be sure to check it out!

## AB Men Work Project at Judson University

A group of 12 men and women from the Great Rivers Region spent a week at Judson University in Elgin, IL doing a variety of projects, including tearing out a bathroom and kitchen, building walls in a basement and installing new bathroom fixtures and kitchen cabinets in a home the University owns. They also built a ropes course and reinforced the bridge. The group included Don Cox, Chuck Davidson, Dave & Christina Harman, George Meyer, Don & Shirley Rogers, Ellis Loper, Chuck Searcy, Les Sorenson, Jack Sparrow and Earl Troyer. The group photo includes the now retired president of Judson University, Jerry Cain.



If you missed this year's trip, plan to attend next year, scheduled annually for early June.

## AB Men Work Project at University Baptist Church

Five AB men descended upon the 312 House at the University Baptist Foundation on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign the week of July 16-20 for a work project. The group consisted of George Meyer, Dave Harman, Allen Hanegan, Ellis Loper, and Les Sorenson. They converted an enclosed porch on 312 house into rooms for the housing ministry.



Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this work project next July!

## AB Men Work Project at Green Lake

A national work project is scheduled for September 17-28 to help with the renovation of Roger Williams Inn at Green Lake Conference Center, WI. There is a need for both skilled and unskilled volunteers to help with drywall, painting, wall paper, carpet, electrical, carpentry, fall gardening, tree trimming and much more. Housing and food are provided at no cost for all volunteers. If you've never been to Green Lake, it is a beautiful place to enjoy God's creation and some great Christian fellowship. Contact, Ron Greenfield, via email at [ronfrang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ronfrang@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 217/523-2601 or you can contact Brad Carroll at Green Lake via email at [BradCarroll@glcc.org](mailto:BradCarroll@glcc.org) or by phone at 920/294-3323. More information is available on our website at [www.abm-grr.org](http://www.abm-grr.org).



# UPDATE

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

***“Because Jesus Came, We Come”***

Mac and LaVerne Shotwell, Editors  
Brian & Julie Romanowski, Publishers  
Vol. VIII, No. 3 August, 2012

## **CHAIN SAW PROFESSIONAL TO LEAD CHAIN SAW TRAINING ON SEPT. 21 AT LAKE SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CAMP**

As a prelude to this year’s ABMen’s Fall Gathering, there will be a special training event for all Disaster Relief volunteers (men, women and youth), beginning at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 21.

Stan Woodfin has been engaged to lead a session on “chain saw” use and maintenance.



He is a Product Applications Specialist with Crader Distributing Co. headquartered in Marble Hill, Missouri.

The training will include:(1) Fuel related issues regarding the power equipment industry, (2) Chain Saw Protective Apparel, (3) Chain Saw Safety Features,(4) Chain Saw Maintenance and (5) Chain Saw Cutting Techniques (classroom lecture).

This will be followed by a Q and A session on "mud out" preparations led by Van Peters and general information on our disaster relief ministry led by Mac Shotwell. **It is hoped that all of our volunteers (men,women and youth) can attend this important event.**

**A certificate will be awarded all participants.** (con’t on next page)

Stan Woodfin has been employed by Blue Mountain Equipment in Dallas, TX, from 1987 to 1995 and then transferred to Crader Distributing Company from 1995 to present. His career includes various fields in both sales and technical service. Though Stan's roots are deep in the landscape industry he has worked with loggers as well, taught numerous landscapers and loggers the proper usage and maintenance of STIHL equipment. His specialty is teaching the operation of and maintenance of the two-stroke engine. He has attended all three levels of the STIHL Service Advantage program developed by STIHL Incorporated and is Gold Certified. He now teaches the Bronze and Silver levels across Crader Distributing Company's four state territory.

**A Fall Gathering registration form is included in this edition. When registering be sure to check the Friday afternoon disaster relief event. ATTENTION WOMEN VOLUNTEERS: Even though you will not be staying for the men's fall gathering, please join us for the 1 to 5 p.m. training session.**

---



#### CHAIN SAW TRAILER GOING TO GREEN LAKE

With approval of our ABMen's Board of Directors, this disaster relief trailer and it's equipment will play a key role in the Green Lake work project reported elsewhere in this newsletter---Thanks to Harold Monroe, driver, and Ron Greenfield, coordinator.

#### STIHL CHAIN SAW COMPANY MAKES ANOTHER DONATION

Thanks to Jake Swartz we have two new Stihl harnesses for our pole saws. Brian Romanowski, Jake's pastor, said "The boxes had gotten wet, so they could not be sold and were thrown in a waste bin. Jake got permission, rescued the boxes and donated them to our disaster relief ministry." Thanks, Jake. This is gift no. 3. Two chain saws before!



## Mac's Musings....

**“BE PREPARED!”**....The Boys Scouts are not the only ones who should live by this motto! When we started the reorganization of our Disaster Relief ministry in February, 2004, we began shaping goals relating to the building of response teams and how to “be prepared” when calls come for help.

On Sept. 11, 2004 in Congerville (where our 18 wheeler was kept at that time) 26 volunteers participated in the first training session.

The next Saturday twenty six more volunteers received training at Lake Springfield Camp. Since then we have had seven more training events with a total of 269 volunteers participating in one or more of these sessions. Two events have been at Blackhawk Camp, four at Lake Springfield, two at Illinois Wesleyan and one in Kansas City.

In addition to “hands on” training with chain saws and “mud out” equipment, there has been training in CPR/AED, first aid, chain sharpening, administration and organizational preparation. Also “on-site” training has been done at the scene of disaster responses.

As I “muse” on these facts, I praise God for all who have participated, leaders and learners alike, and I pray that we will have



another great response for our 10th training session on Sept. 21. In addition to plans announced on the previous two pages, Bob Gebhardt (pictured at left), our trailer coordinator, will be available to train volunteers in the use of the chain sharpening tools and all three trailers will be open for inspection.

I look forward to seeing YOU and others you will bring with you on Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. **--Mac Shotwell**



## Ongoing Thanks for Our Faithful Supporters

“PRAY....GIVE...GO” was the three-fold charge issued when we restarted our Disaster Relief ministry. Hundreds, if not thousands, have prayed....many have and continue to give...and 270 volunteers have been “on call” to go when disaster response calls come our way.

Since the last edition of “UPDATE”, the following have sent monetary gifts for this ministry, and we hereby say a big THANK YOU to: Men’s prayer breakfast participants in Area One and in Peoria; offering from the Mission Conference; and the First Baptist Churches of Dixon, Macomb, Marissa, Mattoon and Wood River. *Your generous gifts help to keep us prepared and ready to help!*

Others (churches and individuals) can send their gifts with their regular mission reports to the GRR, listing Disaster Relief ABMen /GRR on line 10, or they may be sent direct to our new treasurer George Vest, 1293 S. 34th St. C145, Decatur, IL 62521.

### UPSTREAM (continued)

#### AB Men Work Project at the Hopi Indian Reservation

A group of AB men and women traveled from the Great Rivers Region to the Hopi Indian Reservation at Second Mesa, AZ. Ron & Glenda Kinner were among the early arrivals and Ron did several electrical projects, including completely rewiring the church. The week of July 8-13 Wes Wikoff, Stephanie Wikoff, Merle Monroe, Ben Manly, Ron Greenfield, Roger Lake, Chuck Searcy, Earl Troyer and Brian Romanowski worked primarily on the community center doing a makeover of the kitchen, putting up gutters on the building, creating a new bathroom and a few other projects.



Plans are being made for the second phase of this national work project in April of 2013. Phase II includes building an addition onto the community center to be used as a temporary shelter for people in need. Funds are needed for the project, along with volunteers to complete the work. Visit our website at [www.abm-grr.org](http://www.abm-grr.org) for more information about how you can help with this project.



in Illinois and Missouri are invited to our  
Sept. 21-22, 2012 Men and Boy's Fall Gathering at  
**LAKE SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CAMP**

# Come & Share your Happiness:

## Faithfully Serving God & Man

(Our 2011 GATHERING THEME)

### **++ TO FELLOWSHIP**

WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS

### **++ TO WORSHIP**

WITH MUSIC, MESSAGES, BIBLE STUDY & COMMUNION

### **++ TO SHARE**

UPDATED HAPPENINGS IN:  
NEW COMMANDMENT MEN'S MINISTRY  
DISASTER RELIEF  
REBUILDING WORK TEAMS  
ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFASTS  
OTHER ABMEN'S MINISTRIES

### **++ TO WORK**

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING  
CAMP CLEAN UP AND WORK PROJECTS

### **++ TO GROW**

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

Featured speaker: Rev. Dr. Jerry Cain, President of Judson University

**COST: \$35.00/adult (\$25.00 before Sept. 1); \$20.00/boys, includes three meals, snacks and overnight accommodations.**

***Detailed confirmation letter will be sent when you register.***

*Registration forms are available below or at [www.abm-grr.org](http://www.abm-grr.org)*





REGISTRATION FORM  
AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN'S & BOY'S  
FALL GATHERING  
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp  
Springfield, IL  
September 21 and 22, 2012

Please PRINT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YOUNG MEN AND BOYS ATTENDING WITH YOU:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

**There will be opportunities to select two (2) INTEREST GROUPS.**

**Check the two topics that interest you the most:**

- New Commandment Men's Ministry
- Disaster Relief Team Ministries
- Rebuilding Work Teams
- How to organize a Prayer Breakfast
- Magical worship: Using magic in worship

*MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION TO:*

**George Vest**

1293 S. 34th St. C145

Decatur, IL 62521

Make Your Check to: ABM/GRR

**There will be opportunities to do WORK around the camp and also receive DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING . Check if you can help:**

- Disaster Relief Training Friday afternoon 1 to 5 pm
- Work at Camp Saturday afternoon (after meeting)

REGISTRATION COSTS: (Registration fees include overnight lodging at the camp, three meals and snacks. Bring a pillow, sleeping bag, linens and towels.)

Adults: \$35.00 (\$25.00 if mailed before Sept. 1)

Youth (18 & under) \$20.00

Additional Youth (from same family) Free

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration at the Camp:

Noon on Friday until 6:30 pm

Saturday, Sept. 22, 8-9 am