



UpStream

Winter
2017

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

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!

A Word from Our Sponsor

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.
– 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

2016 AB Men of the GRR Annual Gathering at First Baptist Church of Mattoon

Men of the Year:



Harold Monroe, Trailer Coordinator (right)
with Ron Greenfield, AB Men GRR President



Don Rogers, ABM National Rep. (right) with
Mac Shotwell, Disaster Relief Coordinator



Larry Stanton, Missionary, Hungary
Speaking about working with Syrian refugees



Featured Speaker: Rev. Paul Gibson,
GRR Regional Executive Minister

SAVE THE DATE: June 23 & 24, 2017 AB Men's Gathering.

Work Projects

Green Lake Conference Center: April 17-23 & September 17-22. Meals & housing will be provided.
NO Judson University Project this year due to campus remodeling.

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.

A Message from Our Missionaries – Larry & Becky Stanton

Working in Greece last year, Larry met Petros Tsetris and Deena Stevens. This couple founded an NGO (non-governmental organization) called Yalla Help to support the refugees. Larry made them aware of the situation with the refugees in northern Serbia. They offered to come and buy supplies to donate and distribute. Last week Deena and Petros and two volunteers arrived in Serbia. Zoltán, the Baptist pastor, offered the team a place to stay at the church. They bought and distributed 500 pairs of gloves, 100 pairs of leggings and other supplies and distributed them to refugees along the Serbian border. Petros, Deena and their team discussed the possibility of buying food and firewood for the Serbian community. They put together a plan to organize and distribute commodities and a hygiene bag to 40 families in the villages near the Baptist church. Larry was amazed at their love for people--not just the refugees, but the poor in Serbia as well.

UPDATE

Informing Disaster Relief volunteers and supporters of our ongoing mission and ministry. Mac Shotwell, Editor Brian and Julie Romanowski, Publishers, Vol. 14, No. 1
March 2017

“Because Jesus Came, We Come”

CALL FOR HELP IN BATON ROUGE, LA.

In October 2016, around 60,000 homes and businesses in Baton Rouge, LA were damaged by 2-4 feet of water in the structures. Twenty-four inches fell in less than 72 hours.



Three teams responded from our region; two teams in Nov. 2016 and one in January of this year.

Fifteen of our volunteers spent 15 days at six sites, giving 484 hours of labor. Jack Cobb, our national ABMen’s disaster relief coordinator, extended the call and Vickie Goff, volunteer coordinator for American Baptist Home Mission Society,



indicated houses in various degrees of rebuilt help.

Members of the first team were Jack Cobb and Lucky Ray from West Virginia (green shirts), and Terry Maurizio, George Labadie and Richard Ruyle from our GRR Disaster Relief ministry. Other team members listed on the next page.



A visual report and personal testimonies of this ministry will be shared at our Summer Gathering June 23-24 in DeKalb. Plan to come and bring another American Baptist man and boy with you.



Team two included John Hoenig (Edwardsville, IL), Don Rogers (Sullivan, IL), Jack Cobb (National AB Men Disaster Relief Coordinator), Geraldine (homeowner), Lucky Ray (AB Men Executive Director), and Dan Theobald (Mahomet, IL). The bee on Geraldine's shoulder is our reminder from FBC Mahomet to "Bee the hands and feet of Jesus". Not pictured is Brian Romanowski, team captain

Team three consisted of Everett Meister & Gordon Frobish from Area III, Don Rogers from Area IV, Mark Nelson from Area V and Richard Ruyle, Tim Johnson, George Labadie and Terry Maurizio (captain) from Area II, They were joined by 4 men and 1 woman from West Virginia and 1 woman and 2 men from Indiana. The picture below shows the full team with members from True Light Baptist Church. The team worked at home of Donna Rogers to insulate drywall.



"Don't Just Sit There" ----- "Do Something!"

(Editor's note: The following was a letter Terry Maurizio sent to his team, requesting responses. It needs to be shared with all teams and all churches.)

"Pastor Joel Lohr (of Bethel Baptist Church, Jerseyville) spoke on 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18 Sunday and it moved me to want to lead a team to Baton Rouge. The title of his message was **"Don't Just Sit There"** and verse 13 was the key verse for me, *"As for you brothers, do not grow weary in doing good."* His 4 points about doing good work were as follows:

- God commands us to work (Exodus 20:8-9)
- God models work for us (Exodus 20:11)
- Work is part of the plan for creation (Psalms 104:23)
- Work is a gift from God (Colossians 3:17)

Pastor Lohr concluded by adding on to his title **"Don't Just Sit There" ----- "Do Something!"**. Our final hymn Sunday was "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go."

THE NEXT TIME A CALL FOR HELP COMES, PONDER THIS CHALLENGE and say **"YES!"**



Pictured here are the team 3 members with Donna and John, a Deacon from the church who delivered supplies.

Mac's Musings...



There comes a time, and an age when one needs to realize he cannot do what he used to do. I will be 85 in August. At our June Gathering, I will pass the “baton’ to our friend, Van Peters, who will lead this exciting and relevant ministry. Since 2004, I have had the honor of working with many dedicated men, women and youth. During these 14 years, 755 volunteers have given 14,226.5 hours of labor at 538 sites for 254 days in 46 communities. Disaster victims have saved over \$320,000.00 from these “labors of love”.

I do not have the words or the space to express my heart-felt thanks to all who have helped make this ministry so meaningful, “**Because Jesus Came, We Come**” summarizes our reason for being and doing. THANK YOU to all who have helped and will continue to put hands and feet and hearts into making this motto an ongoing reality. Give Van the same support that I have received and the days ahead will be even more productive. You will be in my prayers.

With Love and Thanksgiving, *Mac*

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS APRIL 8

The 13th annual gathering of our disaster relief leaders will be held at Bethel Baptist Church Jerseyville, IL on Saturday, April 8, beginning at 10 a.m. The purpose of these annual meetings, which consist of the coordinators, team captains and assistant, is for (1) communication, (2) planning (3) evaluating and (4) ongoing support. *Anyone having suggestions for the strengthening of this ministry is invited to contact Van or Mac.* Following the noon meal, the Board of our regional ABMen, under the leadership of President Ron Greenfield, will meet.

CLEAN UP DAYS AT LAKE SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CAMP

April 13-16, 2016 twenty-four volunteers gave 277 hours of work, cutting lots of trees and cleaning bushes, helping to get the camp ready for the summer season. Thanks to Van Peters, captain, Glenda Kinner and Gail Stivers for serving delicious food. The workers included Charles Heyl, Bill Seifert, Ron Reiman, Elmer Voudrie, Jack Risley, Ron and Glenda Kinner, Gordon Frobish, Ellis Loper, Judy Fritz, Marilyn Parsell, Terry Maurizio, Patrick Embley, Josh Albertson, Duane Miesner, Richard Ruyle, Jacob Chase, Brian Romanowski, Dan Theobald, Don Rogers, Paul and Gail Stivers, John Hoenig, and Van Peters.

Here are a few scenes from that work day:



KEEP UP TODATE ON OUR MINISTRY BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE:
www.abm-grr.org and plan to join us for our annual gathering on June 23-24