

the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



May 2006

ABC/NE Date Data

- May 4 Finance Dept. Omaha
- May 19 Evangelism Dept.
- May 20 ABC/NE Executive Com & Mission Dept. —Grand Island
- May 26-29 Family Camp 1
- May 29 MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC
Noon
Camp Moses Merrill
Everyone Is Invited!!
- July 9 Omahaland Musical Extravaganza 6pm
FBC—Omaha

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MAGNIFY!

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Psalm 34:3

The theme for the 2006 Family Reunion (annual convention) of American Baptist Churches of Nebraska is “MAGNIFY!” Planning is underway for a memorable event September 15-17 at the downtown Holiday Inn in Lincoln. It’s not too early to mark the dates and make plans to attend.

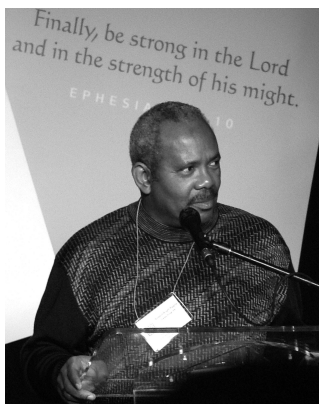
The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Reid Trulson, Area Director for Europe and the Middle East for ABC’s International Ministries. He initiates and strengthens American Baptist partner relationships with the 51 European and Middle Eastern Baptist Unions

that comprise the European Baptist Federation. Dr. Trulson and his wife, Janelle, are authors of *Good Neighbor Hospital*, a mission curriculum for use in VBS, Sunday School or other settings.

The concluding session of the convention is Sunday morning worship which will be held at First Baptist of Lincoln. (shuttle service will be available from the hotel) The speaker of the morning will be Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, Executive Director of National Ministries — ABC’s home mission agency. Dr. Wright-Riggins is a dynamic Biblical preacher and a leader in church transformation.



Dr. Trulson



Dr. Wright-Riggins

KACHINS RETURN THE BLESSING OF MISSION

The First Kachin Baptist Church of America, located in Omaha, took a dramatic step on Easter Sunday as they made the most significant mission gift in Kachin history. The church presented a check for \$15,000 to ABC of Nebraska Executive Minister Susan Gillies to help pay for a room in the new Calvary Lodge at Camp Moses Merrill. The room will be named the Ola Hanson Room in honor of an American Baptist missionary who had a profound impact on the lives of the Kachin people. Other individuals and churches in Nebraska have also been raising money for Calvary Lodge, the next-to-the-last project in the Building Bridges Campaign. [Our thanks to them will be featured in the June Messenger, ed.]

Pastor Gam Lapai said, “Dr. Hanson came Burma to bring light to jungle people. We have now come to America to share that light with you.” Lapai thanked those present at the combined service of First Kachin Church and Parkside Baptist saying “We thank you, American Baptists, for sending missionaries. You did this, through your parents and grandparents.”

Gillies responded on behalf of Nebraska Baptists, “It is awesome and humbling to see very talented people, most of whom are working minimum wage jobs until (con’t p. 4.)

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

ABC KEY MINISTRY AREAS

I am sometimes asked, "What are American Baptists up to these days?" I am pleased to report that while we continue to face challenging and difficult days, we are not waiting to embark on a fresh journey of ministry. This can be an exciting time for us as part of a national fellowship of churches.

Based on surveys of ABC folks from across the nation, the denomination has a new mission statement. This is the focus:

"American Baptist churches are healthy missional churches that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God."

The longer version of the mission statement was in the March *Messenger*. You can also find it at www.abc-usa.org and click on "vision."

In addition, we have seven key ministry areas. These are the areas of focus for the ABC family.

A great new brochure gives a sketch of the Key Ministry Areas but let me just give you a preview:

ABC KEY MINISTRY AREAS:

- + RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP
- + HEALTHY MISSIONAL CHURCHES
- + LEADERSHIP
- + CHURCH PLANTING
- + YOUTH
- + STEWARDSHIP
- + MUTUAL FAITHFULNESS

In the months ahead, our ABC/NE Board and local churches will be challenged to identify ways they are at work on the Key Ministry Areas. We'll share this information with other regions across the country and they will share with us.



From the Minister of Mission Support..... Steve Bills

Thanking our 2005 Pacesetting Mission Giving Congregations

My column this month is to publicly thank all our congregations and highlight specific accomplishments. There are numerous ways that we can participate in the mission outreach of the American Baptist Churches regionally, nationally, and internationally. The primary source of funding for ministry on the regional level in Nebraska and throughout the ABC family is **United Mission (UM)**. National and International Ministries also receive substantial income from UM. This is the monthly gift that each church has covenanted to give as an ABC church.

In addition to UM, churches have the opportunity to participate in four annual targeted offerings each year. **America For Christ** is designated to ministry here at home and is received in the spring. **One Great Hour of Sharing** is used for disaster relief throughout the world and is received in the summer. The **World Mission Offering** is our foreign mission emphasis and is received in the fall. The **Retired Ministers/Missionaries Offering** provides emergency and gratitude gifts to our retired clergy and widowed spouses.

The lists to the right show the churches that are leading our region in total dollar giving to each offering and in per capita (based on reported worship attendance) giving to each offering.

To these churches and the members in them that are so generous, we express our deepest gratitude.

"God loves a cheerful giver."



United Mission Total

- Benson Baptist Church, Omaha
- First Baptist Church, North Platte
- First Baptist Church, Fremont
- First Baptist Church, Lincoln
- Second Baptist Church, Lincoln

America For Christ Total

- First Baptist Church, Fremont
- Arthur Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, North Platte
- First Baptist Church, Kearney
- First Baptist Church, Holdrege

One Great Hour of Sharing Total

- Gibbon Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Kearney
- Arthur Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Lincoln
- New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue

World Mission Offering Total

- New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue
- First Baptist Church, Fremont
- First Baptist Church, Kearney
- Arthur Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Lincoln

Retired Ministers/Missionaries Offering Total

- First Baptist Church, Holdrege
- First Baptist Church, Wayne
- New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue
- Arthur Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Kearney

United Mission Per Capita

- Miracle Hills Comm Baptist Church, Omaha
- Palestine Baptist Church, St. Edward
- Parkside Baptist Church, Omaha
- Benson Baptist Church, Omaha
- Second Baptist Church, Lincoln

America For Christ Per Capita

- Arthur Baptist Church
- Prairie Union Baptist Church, Stella
- Parkside Baptist Church, Omaha
- Palestine Baptist Church, St. Edward
- First Baptist Church, Broken Bow

One Great Hour of Sharing Per Capita

- Palestine, St. Edward
- Gibbon Baptist Church
- Arthur Baptist Church
- Guide Rock Baptist Church
- Miracle Hills Comm Baptist Church, Omaha

World Mission Offering Per Capita

- New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue
- Arthur Baptist Church
- Palestine Baptist Church, St. Edward
- Prairie Union Baptist Church, Stella
- Parkside Baptist Church, Omaha

Retired Ministers/Missionaries Offering Per Capita

- First Baptist Church, Wayne
- Arthur Baptist Church
- Guide Rock Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Holdrege
- New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue

Two Events For Pastors . . .

ABC/NE, ABC of the Dakotas and Mid-American Baptist Churches will provide a clergy ethics seminar Aug. 7-9 at Camp Moses Merrill.

A Financial Management Seminar for Pastors will be held at Camp Merrill Oct. 23-25.

Pastors can register by calling the region office.

Welcome to Koinonia

The newest church in the ABC/NE family is Koinonia House of Worship in Bellevue. The Board of ABC/NE voted on March 18 to accept the church as a cooperating church of the ABC.

Koinonia House of Worship is a congregation that worships on the campus of Bellevue University. They average 60-70 in attendance on Sunday mornings. The pastor, Tony Sanders, founded the church a year ago. As the church began to consider affiliation, Pastor Sanders met numerous times with staff and attended a meeting of Omaha area pastors. Pastor Sanders found a connection with ABC. In his letter to the Board, he wrote, "We find a synergy between the vision of ABC and our vision for ministry."

The formal welcome of the congregation will take place at the annual Family Reunion in Lincoln, Sept 15-17, 2006.



Tony Sanders (right) and Kevin Walden visit under the watchful eye of Adoniram Judson.

Jim Green will speak at First ABC/NE Annual FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

Jim Green, pastor at First Baptist of Scottsbluff, will be the Bible Study leader for the first ever ABC/NE Family Bible Conference. Green's study is titled: "Habakkuk -- Asking God the Hard

Questions." The conference will be held at Camp Moses Merrill June 30—July 3.

Families and singles may rent cabins or rooms in Calvary Lodge. Or, they may bring their own RVs or tents. Folks are welcome to come for part of all of the conference. The conference will feature Bible study, family crafts, music & worship, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, hayrides, campfires and a fireworks show.

At the same time, the **Camp Merrill Reunion** will be taking place and sharing in some of the same program and recreation activities.

For more info contact Camp Moses Merrill 402-666-5639.



Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Ed Consultant

Ways your Sunday School or Sunday School Class can recognize graduates:

1. Give a giant card with all members signing
2. Invite the grad to tell his/her plans and hopes to your class
3. Frame and give a collage of church people/happenings
4. Present a booklet of class members' favorite scriptures
5. Send a subscription to THE SECRET PLACE to the new/college address

ABC/NE Receives Clark Grant For "Good Soil Project" On Church Vitalization

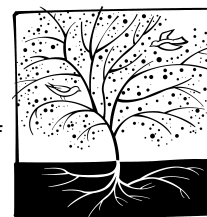
ABC/NE is receiving a grant from ABC's National Ministries for the administration of a renewal process with small churches in small communities.

The Frank E. Clark grant in the amount of \$8,293.44 will fund a two year effort to help churches achieve greater spiritual health and vitality, impacting their communities.

About 20 Nebraska churches will be a part of the first phase of **The Good Soil Project**. One cluster will be centered in Alliance, the other in Grand Island. Area Minister Dave Lundholm wrote the grant proposal and will be the administrator of the grant.

"We hope the experience we have with the first phase of Good Soil will be helpful in eventually reaching all our churches." stated Lundholm.

Lundholm also explained that the grant was limited to helping churches of a particular size located in towns under a certain population.

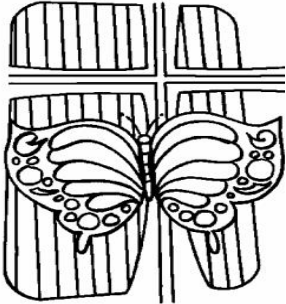


ABC/NE Trivia (see answers on p.8)

1. Which ABC/NE church has the most members who can brand a calf?
a. Chadron, b. Arthur, c. Alliance, d. Benson
2. Which church will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year?
a. Chadron, b. Omaha First, c. Superior, d. Benson
3. Which of the following churches has a musician as pastor?
a. Fremont, b. Scottsbluff C. FBC-Omaha, d. Benson, e. Miracle Hills, f. all of the above.
4. Which of these churches has a pastor raised outside the USA?
a. Grand Island, b. Riverside, c. North Platte, d. Benson
5. Which of the following churches share space with another congregation?
a. North Platte, b. McCook, c. Parkside, d. Guide Rock

MAY PRAYER:

a part of the ABC/NE 2006 Prayer Emphasis



Join Baptists across Nebraska in prayer in May for:

- FBC, Hastings, Pastor Tim Semotan
- FBC, Holbrook, Pastor Dale Whitson
- FBC, Holdrege, Pastor Gary Winget
- Juniata Community Church, Pastor Tom Murray

Pray that these churches will be:

- Filled with New Life.
- Renewed in their commitment to their communities.
- Dedicated to ministry with children and youth.

Pray that these churches will discover:

- Deep harmony as they worship & serve.
- Energy for outreach and caring ministries.
- God's Spirit at work among them.

ABMen's Conference To Be in West Virginia

The 2006 national conference for American Baptist Men will be held at Parchment Valley, WV, July 14-16, and ABMen from Nebraska are invited to attend!

Dr. Al Fletcher, Executive Minister of Main will be the keynote speaker. The theme is "BACK TO BASICS."

The conference will feature testimonies, fellowship, Bible studies, morning devotionals, swimming and campfires.

There will be a simultaneous program for youth led by Layman Pierce, National Coordinator for ABBoys and YoungMen.

For more information, contact Conference Chair Dave Cross at 607-222-4959 or dave.cross@abmen.org

A Nice Idea . . .

May is a great time to share a gift of a plant, in a pot or for the yard. There are many good green thumbs in ABC/NE. Do you have a day lily someone else might enjoy?

LEGAL AID . . .

Get the Word to Older Adults

Share the word that Legal Aid of Nebraska has started a ElderAccessLine, a legal hotline for Nebraskans 60 or older. This is available to answer legal questions and provide brief services to callers throughout the State. Legal Aid of Nebraska is a privately funded not-for-profit law firm, so there is no cost to callers.

Folks can call for information about Medicare/Medicaid, grandparent rights, consumer protection, simple wills, power of attorney, advanced directives, homestead exemptions and other legal concerns.

The hotline is open Mon./Wed./Fri. from 9am-noon and Tues./Thurs from noon—3pm.

The hotline number is 1-800-527-7249 In Omaha, it is 827-5656.

Kachin Gift . . . Continued from page one

their language skills improve, accomplish this kind of fund-raising goal. Their passion for mission and ministry is a witness to us all."

By giving a gift of this size, the Kachin church was able to designate the name of a Calvary Lodge room in honor of Ola Hanson. Hanson, who grew up in Oakland, NE, spent nearly forty years of his life in Myanmar (Burma). When he arrived in Burma, he found that the Kachin people had no written language. He put the Kachin language into an alphabet and translated the Bible into Kachin, compiled a Kachin-English dictionary, developed a Kachin grammar, edited a Kachin hymnal of 346 hymns, and wrote several books in English, Kachin and Swedish. The fund-raising in honor of Hanson was directed to all Kachin people, including those in Myanmar. The campaign was directed by Norman Maran of First Kachin Baptist Church.

Missionary Makes A Difference in India

Catherine Holmes is an ABC missionary in India. She is director of admissions for Woodstock School, a coeducational Christian school (grades 1-12) with approximately 475 students from 25 countries around the world. About 40 percent of students come from non-Christian homes. The strong Christian emphasis at Woodstock ensures that every student is exposed to the gospel through Bible classes, chapels, residence devotions, and Christian activities.

Cathy looks after high school students from the U.S. and Europe who come to Woodstock for a year under the Studies Abroad for Global Education (SAGE) program, helping them make the transition to life at a boarding school in India. She also serves as a resource person for women and children in India.

Cathy sees whatever she is asked to do as an opportunity to witness to Christ's love. "We can know that God's goodness will reach many places we cannot go through the lives and Christian witness of many of these young people," she says.

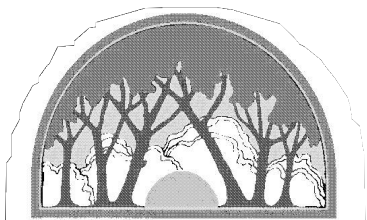


Pontius' Puddle



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© Joel Kaufmann



Camp Moses Merrill News

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Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

Summer's Almost Here! Are You Ready?

SUMMER CAMPING . . .

A full range of summer camps are available for children and youth. It's not too late to register!

What can children expect?

- Lots of friends to make.
- Interesting things to learn.
- Activities that are really fun!

What can parents expect?

- Good leaders who have had background checks.
- Programming that helps kids grow.
- Caring and concerned staff.

What should churches be praying for?

- That good learning and growing takes place.
- That life-changing decisions are made.
- That the children and youth are safe.

SUMMER CONFERENCES . . .

WOW! This summer is amazing! Look at the opportunities for adults and families:

- Family Camp 1 May 26-29
 - Project Camp May 29-June 2
 - ABW Ministries Conference June 2-4
 - ABGirls Conference June 2-4
 - Family Bible Conference June 30-July 3
 - Pastoral Ethics Seminar Aug. 7-9
 - ABMen's Conference Aug. 11-12
 - Family Camp 2 Sept 1-4
 - Women's Retreat Sept. 29 - Oct. 1
 - Adult Ministries Conference Oct 2-5
- Call Camp for Information!



Next-to-the-Last Stage of Building Bridges Nearing Completion — Dedication July 2

Calvary Lodge, the next-to-the-last stage of the Building Bridges Campaign is nearly complete. The Lodge, which consists of 11 motel-style rooms, will be dedicated on Sunday afternoon, July 2, 2006, at 3pm.

"From the beginning, the vision for Camp Moses Merrill has been that it would truly become a Center for Christian Growth," stated Director of Camping Clarence Reiss. "The Building Bridges Campaign is making it possible for us to bring the vision to life."

The Building Bridges Campaign has raised over \$1-million for construction of Friendship Chapel, Smith Amphitheatre, Ward Conference Center - including Fullerton Room, Calvary Lodge and the infrastructure to support these facilities.

The last stage of the Building Bridges Campaign is an Activity Building. Planning for that is underway. Fundraising will begin in earnest later this year.

Thanks For all who make a difference at Camp! Especially Philip Gardner in memory of Vava Arnold, Dean Thompson, Pauline Parke, Carl Edwards, Lou Grotelueschen, Bob Fairchild, Fairbury ABMen, Ron Hornberger, Dennis Flanigan, Perry Laten, Stan Oberhelman, the Steeles (Mark, Lucas & Nathan).

NEEDED: cabin leaders, nurses, cabin cleaning volunteers, dvd & vcr players.

You are invited . . .

The Annual Memorial Day Picnic

**Camp Moses Merrill
Monday, May 29**

Noon

- *Picnic Lunch*
- *Visiting*
- *Touring new bldg*
- *Swimming*
- *Horseback Rides*
- *Hiking*

From the Area Minister Dave Lundholm

I hope that the series of articles on the Covenant and Code of Ethics proved helpful. I admit that is a relief to me (and perhaps to some of you) to write about something else in this column.

I want to tell a story. Linda and I recently took our five-year-old granddaughter Shealynn to the Disney theme parks in Florida for a whole week. I saw a remarkable thing. Shea had come with only \$30 to spend for souvenirs. I asked if she wanted help figuring out the best way to spend her money and she said 'sure.' So I asked what she wanted to take home with her. She was adamant that she wanted to come home with at least one dollar! She was looking for: stuffed animals, princess toys, pins, and perhaps a book.

She had already spent some of her money before this conversation but we agreed to develop a budget for the rest. She decided that the best place for her to find the things that she wanted was the place we were to visit on Monday and on Friday. So she budgeted \$10 for each day. Monday before we left the park we went shopping. She really wanted a stuffed animal but the least expensive stuffed animal was \$13. So for 45 minutes she searched among the princess stuff and the pins trying to discover the best value (we just watched and waited.) She finally found it. It was a princess locket that was just the right price and just perfect for her. When we reviewed the budget that evening she was pleased with her purchase and that she had followed her budget perfectly.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday she knew that she had budgeted no spending and she wasn't interested in any of the gift shops on those days.

On Thursday night she had a windfall and an additional three dollars became available to her (Grandpas will be Grandpas). She revised her budget so she could now spend \$13 the next day. Again Friday we shopped and again she was picky and selected the perfect stuffed animal. She left contented with her purchases and pleased with her financial management.

Budgeting worked for her.

We live in a time when churches are suffering financially because people are over their heads in consumer debt. Are you or someone you know in that suffering situation? What does your budget look like? Do you (or do they) even have one? Budgets are a tool to help people use their financial resources wisely so that can achieve their goals. It's not hard. Even a five-year-old can develop and implement one.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

June/July Deadlines

May 8, 2006 - Print Copy

May 12, 2006 - E-Mail

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E-Editor

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Subject: Messenger

ALLIANCE FBC ABY member Brittany McCoy was inducted into the National Honor Society at a special celebration on Mar 5. Pastor and Joyce Rowe were guest speakers at the Mar 8 meeting of MOPS. The annual Teacher and Christian Education Workers dinner was held at Pryor's Heritage House, Sunday, Mar 26. Mrs. Holly Trout provided an evening of music and song.

ARNOLD FBC: Easter events included the showing of "The Passion of the Christ" on Apr 8, the movie, "The Resurrection", sponsored by the Ministerial Assoc. on Apr 15, and community Sunrise Service on Easter morning at Tallin Union Church. An open house was held at the new church building, which is progressing nicely.

BEATRICE FBC: A Maundy Thursday service was held. The youth of FBC led the Sunrise Service and served a breakfast following for the church family. Pastor Dan Osborn attended the "Wait on the Lord" Conference Apr 16-23.

BRIDGEPORT FBC: Sound equipment has been donated so that we now have a sound system in the balcony and soon will be able to tape our services for the shut-ins. Bridgeport has agreed to join the Good Soil Project, which is the Small Church Renewal Program within Nebraska. The Friendship Circle has started a Fellowship Hour following church services. "Fiesta" is the theme of Vacation Bible School, which will be in the first part of June. Congratulations to Autumn McGee as Senior of the Month at the Bridgeport High School. The Youth Group men went to the Boys Ranch, providing a worship service and having fun with the guys. There were 73 men at the Men's Bull Fry Supper. There are 23 kids in the Kids Club that have memorized the 10 Commandments. The Elder Board is hosted a Pancake Feed followed by a Maundy Thursday Service. Sunrise Services were at the Randy Conger farm, southwest of Redington. Baptized on Easter were Jonathan Stroh, Keegan Michel, Nick Conger and Belle Stuart. We are proceeding with the land work for the new church bldg.

BROKEN BOW FBC: The Custer Assoc. of American Baptists Spring Rally was held Apr 23 at Broken Bow. Clarence Reiss of Camp Merrill was the speaker.

CHADRON FBC: A Maundy Thursday service was held; and FBC joined with the community at a Sunrise Service held at the high school, followed by regular worship services.

CHAPMAN FBC A pastoral committee has been formed to actively search for a new pastor since Rev. Pat Moore's departure. The interim pastor is Rev. Richard Henderson. The Goldenrod Club met on Apr 4. A good time of playing games, talking and snacking was had by all. The club meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 1-3 pm at the FBC. See you there!

COLUMBUS FBC: Steve Bills was our guest speaker following a potluck on Apr 9 bringing us info on the Alaska Mission Trip and the outreach ministry at Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Host site for Immigration Outreach Clinic on Apr 26. Naturalization testing was given. With a theme

of Renew Your Faith, observed the Lenten season with 4 other area churches in Wednesday noon services and luncheons. A Messianic Passover seder was held on Maundy Thursday. It was the traditional Jewish Passover Haggadah (recitation) with Messianic additions, what Jesus said and did during the recitation. Foods from Jewish Passover recipes were eaten, as well as the obligatory unleavened bread. This gave those attending an idea of what the last Supper was like. Services were held on Good Friday evening and breakfast was served on Easter Sunday morning. An all church Rummage and Bake Sale was held on May 5 and 6.

FAIRBURY FBC: The ABW held their annual "Table Treasures" dinner and program on Apr 24. The theme was "Gimme Me That Old Time Religion." Dwaine and Vernadine Friesen celebrated their 51st anniversary on Apr 10, and LeRoy and Janice Richards their 52nd wedding anniversary on Apr 7. Easter events included Maundy Thursday Service, Sunrise Service, an Easter Breakfast, and an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn. The FBC youth joined in a lock-in held at the Fairbury High School on Apr 1-2.

FREMONT FBC: Maundy Thursday services were held, and on Easter a Sunrise Service was held, followed by a SonRise Breakfast in the youth center, and regular services. FBC hosted a conference, *Strong Faith in a Crumbling Culture*, with Chuck Edwards as the leader and speaker, Apr 21-22. As a fundraiser for the Young Women of Hope and sponsors to go to Green Lake, Burger King is giving 20% of the FBC's patronage on Apr 26 back to FBC.

GIBBON BC: Easter events included a Palm Sunday palm parade by the children, Maundy Thursday service, a community Good Friday Service at Faith United Church, and a Sunrise Service and breakfast at the church. The Ruth Ice Scholarship is being offered to all graduating seniors of FBC.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: An Arts, Crafts, and Bake Sale was held as a fund-raiser for the GI Room at Camp Merrill. FBC held a Maundy Thursday Service, a Good Friday Service, and a breakfast between early service and morning worship.

HASTINGS FBC: Dave Lundholm preached on Apr 9. Several help groups are meeting at FBC: Freedom Seekers Narcotics Anonymous Group, and Unity Narcotics Anonymous.

HOLDREGE FBC: A Maundy Thursday Service was held, FBC joined in at the Community Good Friday Service held at FBC at noon, an evening Good Friday Service was held, a Sunrise Service and breakfast was held on Easter morning. A Spring Bazaar was held on Apr 30 to benefit the Mexico Mission Trip the youth are taking. A silent auction was also held on Apr 16 for the mission trip.

JUNIATA CC: A combined Easter Sunrise Service was held at the United Methodist Church. The WCFM held their annual birthday party on Apr 5, with the theme, "Sweet Sixteen."

KEARNEY FBC: The Grand Island Assoc. ABWM Spring Rally was held at FBC on Apr 3. A full schedule of Easter events engaged the congregation and visitors.

LAVISTA, JUDSON Thanks to the AWANA children, 185 lbs. of food was delivered to the LaVista Food Pantry. Families from the neighborhood were invited to the Easter Egg Hunt and they were invited to VBS this summer. Easter Baskets were delivered to our shut ins. On Maundy Thursday the men of Judson put on a live portrayal of Leonardo DaVinci's Last Supper. The congregation was greeted Easter Sunday morning by our traditional Easter Garden with the wooden cross and beautiful flowers in honor and memory of loved ones. Easter Sunday morning the youth presented an Easter program with special music from our Praise/Worship Team and our Bell Choir. The J.O.Y. Club meeting this month featured Sandy Seibert of Backyard Birds. The Judson women held their annual Spring Fling with featured guest speaker Charlotte Davidson. The theme was crafts of the 19th century that mothers taught their daughters. The congregation of Judson sends their thoughts and prayers to the friends and family of Rev. Palmer Swenson.

LINCOLN FBC: A Tenebrae Service was observed at the Maundy Thursday worship service. Easter events included A Palm Parade for the children on Palm Sunday, A Prayer Labyrinth Apr 10-14 (at different hours of the day), A Sunrise Service and an Easter breakfast. A Spring Mission Commitment was held on Apr 9, when the church family could sign up for seven different missions such as Heartland Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Friendship Home, Habitat For Humanity, etc.

LINCOLN SECOND BC: Palm Sunday worship began with a Children's Palm Procession, followed by the presentation of a musical drama, "Who Is This Man?" by the Chancel Choir. At noon the congregation gathered near the new Church garage for dedication. Thanks were given to Don Siedband and his Boy Scout leaders for the construction of the garage. In the evening the Youth shared a Passover Seder meal together. Maundy Thursday eve. service invited those present to join with Jesus in the Lord's Supper and to nail their sins to His cross. On Apr 14, The Senior Adult Ministry group entertained with a luncheon and speaker, Robbie Nathan, Branch Manager in Lincoln for Care Consultants for the Aging; Sat. Children and Parents enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt; Resurrection Sunday was begun with a Sunrise Service at Belmont Baptist Church, followed by a Breakfast put on by SBC Youth. Worship was a resurrection celebration. Rather than the usual Capitol Assoc. meeting, a Family Prayer Breakfast was held on Apr 22 at Second with "Back to the Basics" as the theme.

NORFOLK FBC: The York Association Spring rally was held at FBC.

OMAHA BENSON BC: The Chancel Choir presented the musical, "Sacrifice of Glory", during the Palm Sunday service, A Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship was held, the youth led a Sunrise Service, and an Easter breakfast was held with a free will offering going

to the Food Pantry. Camp scholarships are being offered to the children active in Benson's programs. Thirty quilts were completed and given to residents at Maple Crest Care Center in 2005. Items are being collected to be sent to mudslide victims in Leyte, Philippines.

OMAHA MT. NEBO BC: The Omahaland AB Women's Ministries met at Mt. Nebo on Apr 25, with Rev. Charlene Quarells as the speaker.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: The church observed a Maundy Thursday Service, an Easter Sunrise Service at Hummel Park, uniting with the Kachin Church, followed by a breakfast, and Easter worship, also with the Kachin Baptist Church. A Kids' Easter Party was held on Apr 8 for the community children. The ABW raffled off a quilt to raise money for medical supplies in China.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS:

Pastor Emeritus Palmer Swenson died Apr 7. Palmer served Sunset Hills from 1962 to 1972 and as interim from 1989 to 1991. A memorial service was held Apr 9.

ABW sponsored a Hope Tote campaign for the Open Door Mission during the Lenten season. The youth served a spaghetti dinner fund raiser at the quarterly business meeting. Holy Week Services included a Procession of Palms on Palm Sunday, A Maundy Thursday service, followed by the Junior/Senior High presenting the "Stations of the Cross", and an Easter egg hunt for the children following Easter worship. The men's breakfasts are moving to the second Saturday of the month. Forgiveness sang the national anthem at the Omaha Royals game on Apr 28 and will sing at the Millard schools' baccalaureate service on May 21. Pastor Bob Molby's final Sunday as interim minister will be Apr 30. Pastor Ron French's ministry begins June 1. The Lightbearers Circle went to Joslyn Art Museum to view "Illuminating the Word." Cindy Thomas, who was received into membership, is 98 years old, and was represented by Eloise Johnson as Cindy was unable to attend.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: A Maundy Thursday service, a Sunrise Service at the Monument, and an Easter Breakfast, cooked by the men, made Holy Week special. The FBC youth went to Denver on Apr 28-29 to attend the "Acquire the Fire" concert and rally. A bake sale was held to help finance the trip. "Take 6", a drama team from Frontier School of the Bible performed at FBC on Apr 5. Youth Leader Chris Smith is part of a new group of local youth leaders, "Unit 12/12 (I Cor. 12:12) working to unite the community youth for the Lord. FBC hosted the kickoff event on Apr 5. FBC hosted the Northwestern Assoc. Meeting on Apr 29, with Ray Gutierrez, a missionary in Tijuana, Mexico, as speaker.

SUPERIOR FBC: The Southern Union Association Meeting was held at FBC on Apr 23, with the theme, "Don't Sit There Like a Bump on a Log!"

TEKAMAH FBC: Holy Week Services included a baptismal service on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday day Camp for Grades K-6, A Good Friday Community

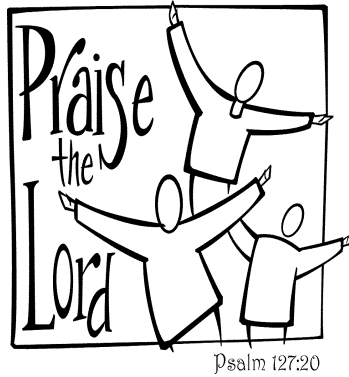
Service at the Methodist Church, A Sunrise Service and breakfast at the church on Easter. Special Missions Sunday was held Apr 2, with an "International Potluck" also held.

WILSONVILLE BAPTIST-CHRISTIAN: Many of the congregation entered into a study class on Rick Warren's book, Better Together, and one project they chose to do was to take the bulletins personally to an absent member's home, and also to continue the men's pancake supper for the community, with every family in the community being personally invited. The result of the final project was that nearly 100 people attended, and enjoyed the evening. The church women hosted the "World Day of Prayer" on Mar 3. The BCW women collected and delivered supplies to the Hospitality House in Norton, KS, which a home where families can stay when visiting family members who are prisoners at the Norton Correctional center.

.....
Don't forget Memorial Day
at Camp Moses Merrill.
Picnic at noon.
Activities all day.

NEW MEMBERS:

BRIDGEPORT FBC: Betty Lamm; Wayne, Sheryl, Titus, and Joshua Kautz; Leora Weborg; Earnest Weimeister; Jonathan Stroh; Belle Stuart; Keegan Michel; and Lois Connell.
LAVISTA JUDSON: Howard Clark, Ruth Clark
LINCOLN FBC: James and Barbara Jackson
LINCOLN SBC: Mike & Becky O'Connell
OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: Cindy Thomas, Dorothy Hallback



ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister.....	Susan Gillies
Area Minister	Dave Lundholm
Minister of Mission Support	Steve Bils
Director of Camps & Conferences.....	Clarence Reiss
Camp Staff	Jerry Buss, Elizabeth Dietrich, Lou Grotelueschen, Joe Huss, Beverly Pacas, Trudy Reiss, Adam Robley, Linda Wilmot
Office Manager.....	Sue Gammel
Office Assistant	Margaret Brown-Moore
Accounting Services	Jerry Buss
Volunteer Mission Secretary.....	Judie Heller
Christian Education Consultant	Nola Oberhelman
Church Life Consultant	A. J. Wagstaff
Pastor to Pastors (W)	Paul Kondy
Pastor to Pastors (E).....	Dick Peterson
Youth Ministry Adjunct.....	Jason Workman

ABC/NE Trivia Answers

1. b. The Messenger thinks Arthur has the most members who can brand a calf. Let us know if you want to challenge that assumption.
2. d. Benson Baptist will be 100 this year.
3. f. All of the above — and more!
4. a. Grand Island. Pastor Charlie Gregory grew up in Thailand, the son of missionaries.
5. c. Parkside in Omaha shares it's building with First Kachin Baptist.



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