



the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



November 2007

ABC/NE Date Data
Vital Church Leaders Conference
Moses Merrill
Nov 5-7

ABC/NE Executive Committee
Finance, Mission Departments
Grand Island
November 10

Camp Department
Nov 13 5:00 pm
Moses Merrill

World Mission Conference
Kansas City
Nov. 16-18

Thanksgiving Dinner
Moses Merrill

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GIVING THANKS FOR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

The staff of ABC/NE is approaching Thanksgiving this year with special thanks for the abundant blessings they find in their ministry with Nebraska churches. When asked to select just one or two things for which they are thankful in their ministry (beyond appreciation for their staff colleagues), these were the responses:

Susan Gillies, Executive Minister: "I am immensely grateful for the ABC/NE Board, departments and committees as well as clergy and lay leaders in each local congregation."

Dave Lundholm, Assoc. Exec. Minister: "I am very grateful for the signs of new life and growth that I see in ABC/NE: The Good Soil project is producing amazing things in the participating churches; our outreach in providing emergency services to the people who participate in the Sturgis motorcycle rally; the AB Men providing and provisioning a disaster response trailer; and many other things. All this means that we care not just for ourselves but also for our neighbors."

Steve Bils, Assoc. Exec. Minister: "I am grateful for the churches in our region that are partnering with our missionaries around the world. Paul said it well, *"I make requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."*

Clarence Reiss, Director of Camping: "I'm grateful for volunteers in both program and facility repairs. I'm also grateful for rain this summer and fall to keep things green at Camp."

MaryBeth Robertson, Program Director: "My thanks are for partners in our larger ministry who share our burdens, encourage us, & catch us when we fall. I also give thanks for those with a passion to risk new ways of doing ministry."

Nola Oberhelman, Christian Education Consultant: "I'm grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with new American Baptist friends."

Dick Peterson, Pastor-to-Pastors: "I appreciate reading local church newsletters sent to the region office. I see in them many programs that meet the needs of people. I am also thankful for the thoughtfulness presented in the articles written by the pastors."



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
Vital Church Leaders Conference
Nov. 5-7 at Moses Merrill**

Please support this conference which will draw conferees from nearly a dozen states. Pray for speakers David Laubach and Missionary Duane Binkley as well as all the workshop leaders. Pray for all those who will travel to this event and for the camp staff who will serve them. Thanks!



From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

Giving Thanks for All the "Saints"

Baptists have never been known for doing much with All Saint's Day, but we do, from time to time, sing "For All The Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest." In doing so, we are reminded of those who have gone before us, paving the way for us. It is good to remember.

In this the 140th Anniversary year of the Nebraska Baptist State Convention, it is appropriate to give thanks for all those who have gone before . . . early day missionaries, church planters, colporters, pastors, Sunday School teachers, camp developers and leaders, and all the other leaders who have been faithful to God's call in their lives.

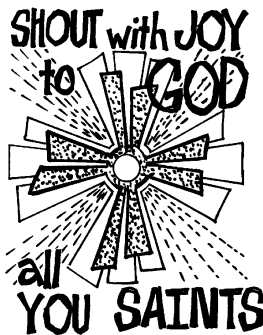
At the Family Reunion in North Platte, I told about five men who were key leaders in the early days of Baptists in Nebraska. Rev. J.G. Bowen came to the territory 1855. I believe he was the first Baptist worker in Nebraska after Moses Merrill's death and Eliza Merrill's departure. Bowen pastored FBC, Nebraska City. Then Rev. J.M. Taggart came as pastor of FBC, Fontenelle. In 1858 G.W. Barnes arrived as a home missionary and became the first Baptist pastor ordained in Nebraska. Over the

next few years, Rev. J.N. Webb joined in the Baptist ministry and mission in the territory. These five men are known as the pioneers of Baptist work in Nebraska.

From then to now, the story goes on and on. As a person who grew up within the Baptist family in Nebraska, I can make a list of Nebraska Baptists who had a profound effect on my life. Many of you could do the same.

On Oct. 21, I attended the Celebration of Ministry held at Parkside Baptist to honor their pastor Joan Stewart as she prepared to retire from active pastoral ministry. It was deeply moving to hear the testimonies of those who spoke about what a difference Joan made in their lives. I thought about how blessed we are to have her in Nebraska. And I thought about how many times, over and over, through pastors and through lay leaders, the churches have been the hands and feet of Christ.

Take a few moments to give thanks for the



From the Associate Executive Minister Steve Bills

Resources at our Fingertips

At this year's Family Reunion I was honored to be inducted into *The Order of Luther Rice*. This society recognizes those who have served in the area of mission support and development. Our role is to pick up where Luther Rice started, raising interest and money by telling the stories of our missionaries and their work while they represent us on the field.

We are exceedingly fortunate in this day and age to have almost instantaneous access to all kinds of information via the internet. (When I read about the "new" and "modern" tools celebrated by our predecessors in ministry in old issues of the Messenger, I wonder what kind of chuckle future generations will get out of reading that sentence.)

Communications have changed radically since the personal computer became affordable and easier to use. Email, blogs, internet-based project management sites, podcasts, etc., all make staying informed much easier than before. Whenever I put my Palm PDA in its cradle and synchronize my calendar and address book, I am also automatically synchronizing over a dozen web sites with news, weather, and opinions so I can read and keep current throughout the day.

(Unfortunately there are really no quality controls available online and it is imperative that we be discerning when accessing information from this medium. There are many self-proclaimed experts willing to publish their opinions as fact, so it is safest to approach most sites with a healthy dose of skepticism.)

Let me share a few ways I am able to stay connected and encourage you to see if they will work for you as well:

- Several times a week I receive an email with a journal of the missionaries we have on the field through International Ministries. I forward these to a number of individuals who have requested them. If you would like to be placed on my mission letter forwarding list, please let me know.
- From October 15 through October 30, American Baptist leaders will visit missionaries we support through IM and its mission partners in South Africa, Zambia and the Democratic Re-

public of the Congo. I am following their journey by reading their entries and see how God is using American Baptists as hands and feet of Christ. Although you will receive this issue of the Messenger after this trip is concluded, I know that their journal entries will be fascinating reading. Check out <http://abc-usa.blogspot.com/>

- Frequently I am asked about specific mission fields or specific missionaries. What do they do? When are their birthdays? How many kids do they have and what are their ages? While I am more than happy to find and forward this information, I have no desire to be the gatekeeper or fount of all knowledge, so let me clue you in on my sources of information. The main web site for the ABC-USA is www.abc-usa.org. From that site there are links to IM, NM, The Ministers Council, every region, all our colleges and seminaries, our national and international partners, historical documents, conference centers, pastoral development, worship aids, mission and volunteer opportunities, administrative tools, research resources, calendars of events (the list literally would more than fill this column space).
- Our own region web site (www.ABCNebraska.com) has a wealth of information about our region including links to the web pages of our churches that have one (if your church has a web site that is not listed on our site let me know and I will see that it is added.) A three-year archive of past issues of The Messenger is available here.
- The Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center web site (www.campmerrill.com) is a great source of information about our youth camping, adult conferences and retreats, facility availability for church retreats and family reunions, and summer employment and year-round volunteering opportunities.

Luther Rice would have been amazed at the tools we have available to help us tell the story. Email me at sbills@abcnebraska.com with your questions, tips, and electronic resources ideas.



White Cross Convoy Rolls Across Nebraska Once Again

The White Cross Convoy again rolled across Nebraska to collect and deliver White Cross materials to First Crow Indian Baptist Church in Lodge Grass, Montana.

The Mission Department of the ABC/NE assists American Baptist Women's Ministries of Nebraska in this project. The women's groups across the state gather materials needed for the ministry in Lodge Grass. Materials range from school supplies to baby layettes.

At this year's Adult Ministries Conference, Lodge Grass pastors Revs. Newton and Amelia Old Crow, shared mission stories from Lodge Grass and told of the positive impact of the White Cross gifts.



The trailer left Omaha on Oct. 25 and headed west.



Amelia & Newton Old Crow speaking at Judson Baptist

White Cross materials allow local churches to fill specific requests from mission workers in the USA and around the world. Through White Cross gifts, church members provide urgently-needed supplies that cannot be purchased with limited mission budgets.

American Baptist Women's Ministries has given leadership in this ministry, which now provides some \$800,000 annually in mission support. Often entire congregations work together to fill White Cross requests.

For more information about how to become involved in White Cross, contact Assoc. Exec. Minister Steve Bils 1-877-244-7339.



Johnny Nelson, chair of the ABC/NE Mission Dept. hooks up the trailer for the trip.

Search Committees Ask for Prayer

One of the special gifts of being part of ABC/NE is that churches know other churches are praying for them. Currently 11 ABC/NE churches are seeking pastors. Every church is encouraged to pray for: Ansley, Beatrice, Belmont, Broken Bow, Columbus, Fairbury, Guide Rock, Lincoln Second, Parkside, Superior, and Tekamah.

Each church is at a different point in the search process but all will be blessed by prayer support.

November 16 - 18

at Central Baptist Theological Seminary
in Shawnee (Kansas City), Kansas (www.cbts.edu)

**Join the Nebraska delegation to the
World Mission Conference!
We will have a great time together!**

International Ministries is eager to give you the chance to catch a glimpse of what God is doing in the world through the missionaries you support.

At the WMC you can develop or deepen a relationship with missionaries engaged in a variety of cutting edge ministries. Through programs, videos and workshops, you'll learn how your missionaries help others to put their faith in Jesus, and be personally transformed.

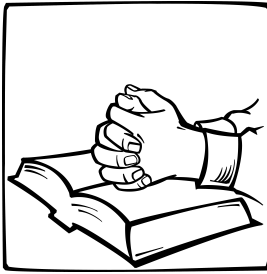
REGISTRATION AND MEALS - Visit the www.cbts.edu web site for program details and to download the registration forms. (Call the Region Office for this material if you do not have access to the web site.) Fill them out and send them in ASAP.

HOUSING INFORMATION - A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn a few miles away from the seminary at a room rate of \$89 (discount code:ABC). To reserve a room call, 1-913-248-1900 (toll-free:1-800-HAMPTON).

TRANSPORTATION - We will travel on our own and meet in Kansas City. If you are driving and have room for passengers, or if you would like to ride with someone from our region, please call the region office as ask for the mission conference carpool coordinator.

ABC/NE Trivia

1. What is the newest department of the ABC/NE Board?
 - a. Evangelism b. Mission c. Vitality d. Finance
 2. Is Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center a separate corporation?
 - a. Yes b. No
 3. Who provides expenses for the Pastor to Pastors program in ABC/NE?
 - a. ABC/NE b. National Ministries c. Tri-Region ABC d. a silent donor
 4. What BIG ABC event is planned for next summer?
 - a. Biennial b. Mission Conference c. Pastors Event d. Youth Event
 5. Is the Building Bridges Campaign at Moses Merrill completed?
 - a. Yes b. No
- (answers on p. 8)



ABC/NE Prayer Focus for November:

- For the Vital Church Leaders Conference at Moses Merrill 11/5-7
- For the World Mission Conference in Kansas City 11/16-18
- For the ABC/NE Executive Committee
- For Roger Williams Fellowship in Kearney
- For a profound spirit of Thanksgiving to fill our families, our churches, and our communities.

Prayer is a vital part of our life together as American Baptists in Nebraska. Each year we have a special prayer emphasis. In 2007, The Messenger is featuring a prayer focus list each month.

CLIP OUT AND PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR OR IN YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY. THANKS!

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES OFFERS NEW VIDEO SERIES

ABC's International Ministries is offering a new series of videos on mission around the world. GOD @ WORK, a series of short videos on a single missionary or missionary couple, is now available through the website of International Ministries.

Each GOD @ WORK video is a stand alone piece, lasting less than three minutes. The short videos profile the work of a missionary and include ministry presentations and up-close and personal interviews. Presently 28 videos are available on the International Ministries website, with several more to be posted in the near future.

The public may watch the videos online, (go to www.internationalministries.org/videos/GodAtWork/), or may email GodatWork@internationalministries.org to get a download of a video.

History Headlines

From the Jan. 1939 Messenger, "Scottsbluff reports 70 tithers!"

From the same issue: "Baptists throughout the state will rejoice in the good fortune which has come to our colporter missionary, Rev. E.C. Barton. Dr. John C. Killian, director of colportage work for the Publication Society has assigned to Brother Barton a 1938 Ford V-8 car with the 1938 DeLuxe Model Covered Wagon Trailer equipped with every convenience. It is the C.G. Neil Memorial car and trailer and we greatly appreciate having this equipment in Nebraska."

In the Oct. 1942 Messenger: "Let every Baptist church agree, By nineteen hundred forty-three, To make its pastor worry-free—With "M. & M." Security!"

From the same issue: "There were 24 men present at the fish fry of the BOOM Club of the First church, Beatrice, September 28th. The name 'Boom' comes from the Baptist Order of Men."

Through the years of WWII, the Messenger had articles about the condition of missionaries serving in war zones. Many had to leave their area of service. Some were taken prisoner by the Japanese. Some medical missionaries were able to assist the allied forces. The Messenger also had long lists of members of Nebraska Baptist churches who were serving in the armed forces.

In the Jan. 1944 Messenger: "One of our Nebraska boys in overseas service wrote the state secretary . . . 'I'm glad that opportunity was given at Camp Merrill for young people to accept Christ as Saviour. The good record of last summer's camp meetings speaks for itself. I wonder if the camp will be adequate for the hundreds who will try to get a camp course after this war is won. I certainly hope my wife and I will be able to attend. I AM ENCLOSING MY PLEDGE FOR \$100. . . . (first payment enclosed) May God bless you in all your work at Camp Merrill.'"

Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five book titles with content to spark up your class:

1. *More Than Cookies and Punch*, 50+ Bible Story Snacks and Lessons, by Tina Houser from Warner Publishing
2. *Give It Away Crafts for Kids* from The Group Resources
3. *30 Interactive Stories for Young Children* by Steven James, Standard Publishing
4. *Not of This World*, Devotions for Youth Ministry from The Group Resources
5. *Nelson's Annual Youth Ministry Sourcebook for 2008*

Find these or ask for them in your local Christian bookstore. They each contain lots of adaptable ideas.

A Longing

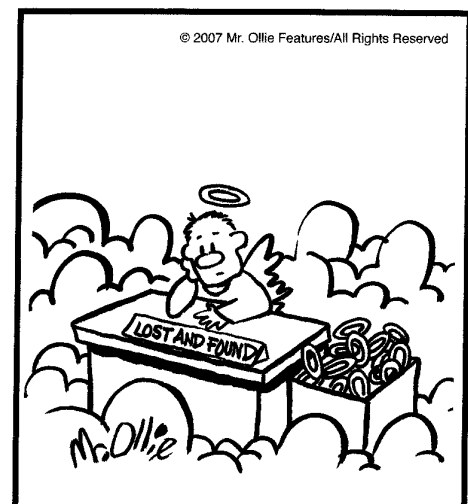
Offered life through death
A proclamation of acts
Brought on by a tattered soul
A submission of control
To a spirit of divine nature
Alive in a carcass
That is cursed until it returns
To that from which it came -

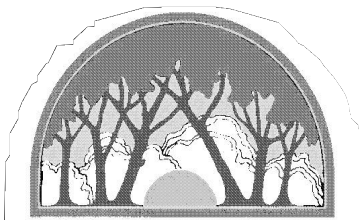
Although I'm set free by a promise
I still suffer a life in a world
That sees not its potential
A society lost in the aroma of its own righteousness
Fools corralled by fools
The blind leading the blind -

Now with purpose I relinquish myself
I watch and listen as the power
Of the unseen works within
My small and humbled world
As I long for the time of the gathering
When the bride is finally revealed
To the glory of her throne

-- Jeff Struck, a member of FBC, Hastings
Reprinted with permission

Book of Timothy





Moses Merrill News

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 E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net Web site: www.campmerrill.com

Dear Friends,

Wow! There have been a lot of people at camp this fall. I hope you were one of them. People came for retreats and conferences and some just came to see the place. I'm exhausted from greeting everyone!

A special thanks to all the volunteers who came and helped with all kinds of projects. I especially enjoyed meeting the members of **First Kachin Baptist Church**. (I understand they are willing to hunt wild turkeys if Clarence or the Camp Dept. ever changes the **NO HUNTING** rule. Personally, I could live without the turkeys!)

And, of course, thanks to our champion volunteer, **Ron Hornberger**, who puts in a tremendous number of hours. I'm not sure he likes cats but I don't bother him because he helps keep the place running. Come see us soon.

—Camp Cat 



Thanksgiving Dinner at Moses Merrill

Program Director MaryBeth Robertson has invited anyone who wishes to come, to join her at Moses Merrill for Thanksgiving Dinner. "Not everyone has family close by. This is a chance for those without (or with!) family to become a part of the Moses Merrill family on the holiday." Dinner will be at 1:30 pm.

Reservations are a **MUST!** Call camp by Nov. 16 if you'd like a place at the table. 1-402-666-5639

There's Still Time to Plan A New Year's Eve Event

Talk with the Camp staff about having a special event at Moses Merrill for New Year's Eve. How about a youth retreat, a couples get-away, a family winter party, a singles gathering? Greet the new year in a great way!

Friendship Chapel Christmas Vespers

Christmas Vesper services will be held at Friendship Chapel at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center December 2, 9, 16, and 23. The services will be at 4:00 pm each Sunday afternoon.

"There is a special feeling at the Christmas Vespers at camp," said ABC/NE Executive Minister Susan Gillies. "In that incredibly peaceful setting, away from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, we are gifted with holy anticipation. It's worth the trip!"

The Vesper Services are designed for neighbors and friends. MaryBeth Robertson, Program Director, said, "We don't want to interfere with any local church programming but we do want to offer a gift to those who are looking for a place to find Christmas."

For more information call the Camp office at 402-666-5639.

Three Special Ways to Help . . .

1. Begin now to plan a "CAMP SUNDAY" in January. Camp Sunday is a time for local churches to recruit campers and leaders for the summer camping program. Some churches raise money to help kids attend camp. Other churches take an offering for Camp. January is a great time to focus on the great summer programming for children and youth at Moses Merrill!

2. Another way to help with the day-to-day operations and programming at camp is to make a year-end gift.

3. And yet another way is to bring a group to camp that hasn't been here before — church leaders, family reunions, church retreats.

From the Associate Executive MinisterDave Lundholm

The Blessings of Grafting

In my article in the September Messenger I praised the value of pastors being recruited from the American Baptist family. I believe strongly that there is real value in this practice.

In this article I want to go on to say that there is also real benefit brought to our joint ministry by pastors that have been "grafted in" to the ABC mission and ministry.

I have never done grafting but I understand it works like this. A notch is cut in a tree or vine rootstock that is deep enough to expose the sap-bearing heartwood. The end of the grafted branch is shaped and fitted into the notch and then the joint is protected until branch and tree grow together.

In the best of cases that is what happens when a non-ABC pastor is called to an American Baptist church. First of all it is a good fit. But just as important, nourishment begins to flow to that pastor (in the form of resources and connections) from the new tree and connections from with the old tree are minimized.

There are a number of excellent pastors that have been "grafted in" to our ABC-Nebraska tree.

One example will have to suffice: Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles is the pastor at North Platte. His original "tree" was the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and before that the Southern Baptist Convention. Tom was called to North Platte and immediately began the process of learning how we do things and having his ordination recognized by the ABC. He attended Region meetings and educational events. Eventually he was asked to serve on the Department of Professional Ministry and is currently its chair. He has brought his keen mind as well as a thorough knowledge of Baptist history and polity to the work of the department and to the benefit of the Region.

Could you see the process in the example? He was a good fit for North Platte and then he immediately began to draw sustenance from his new denomination (conferences, meetings). He did the things necessary to "grow in" to his new denomination (recognition of ordination) and he has become a fruit bearing branch (work on the department) of his adopted family.

Truly the work of ABC-Nebraska would be greatly diminished without the work of pastors who have been "grafted in." They are truly a blessing.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

December Deadlines

Nov. 4, 2007 - Print Copy

Nov. 10, 2007 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor (Note New Address)

Darlene RIMPLEY

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Arnold, NE 69120

E-Editor

area.minister.ne@charter.net

Subject: Messenger

To newsletter mailers: The postmaster has informed me that newsletters that are not addressed correctly will be destroyed, or in the case of address change requested, returned to the sender. Please see the correct address above. Thanks, Darlene

ALLIANCE FBC: The youth fellowship held its kick off meeting on Sept 9 with a pizza party and planning for the year ahead. Promotion Sunday celebration was held in fellowship hall on Sunday Sept 9. Pastor conducted the Sunday afternoon vesper services at Good Samaritan Health Care Center during the month.

ARNOLD FBC: Ruth Circle members attended a luncheon and program at Morning Star United Methodist Church on Oct 4. Ruth Circle is also collecting used eyeglasses for a mission station in Haiti. The steeple was placed on the new church on Oct 7, and work continues on the interior with a goal of being into the church in May 2008.

BEATRICE FBC: Dorothy Bellows was honored on her retirement as a Sunday School teacher and for 60 years of dedicated service. The Board of Christian Education presented her with a large print NIV Bible, her granddaughter, Megan, sang her favorite song, "Here I Am, Lord", and family members traveled many miles to surprise her.

BELLEVUE: KONONIA HOUSE OF WORSHIP The church began an Hour of Power and Midweek worship and Bible study this fall both at the Bellevue and at the North Omaha locations. There was a Pastor Appreciation Service in September.

BELLEVUE NEW LIFE: The church hosted ABC-USA Associate General Secretary Jeff Woods as preacher on Oct 14. He returned to the church with ABC/NE Executive Minister Susan Gillies the following Wednesday for a question & answer session on ABC life.

BLAIR FBC: The church celebrated mission at home and around the world on Oct 21. Susan Gillies spoke. There was a potluck dinner following the service.

BRIDGEPORT FBC: The American Baptist Women hosted the annual Northwest Women's Retreat at Camp Rock Oct 5-7. A silent auction was held as part of the event. The church hosted a training event Oct 20 designed to help churches prevent domestic violence. This training was made possible by a grant ABC/NE received from Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

CHADRON FBC: The church presented Pastor Rick and Linda with a grill in honor of their 32nd year of ordination. FBC continues to accept donations for a van for the Ghana Church.

COLUMBUS FBC: We will be doing the "Operation Christmas Child Samaritan Purse" shoeboxes again this year. The Diaconate quarterly offering for September went to the "Columbus I Can Camp." The Lydia Circle held their monthly meeting at Camp Moses Merrill. Oct 20: York Association ABW Fall Rally will be held at the Palestine Baptist Church. Nov 5: Columbus will host the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer. Our interims for the remainder of the year will be Rev. Jesse and Kathy Brown from Omaha.

FREMONT FBC: Pastor Lee Foreman attended the fall Pastors Seminar at Moses Merrill. A number of our members continue to volunteer at camp. Carolyn Predmore, a missionary from Japan, was at FBC on Oct 28, when a carry in supper and cookies and coffee were enjoyed before and after her presentation. "Becoming a Contagious Christian" study began on Sept 30, with a "Joy of Pie and Ice Cream" being the kickoff. Dona Laten was the grand winner of the Summer Reading program by reading 30 books from the church library.

GIBBON BC: "Got Style", an evangelism program outreach, began on Oct 14. The deacons served a noon meal to the group. The Youth Program for 7-12th grades began on Oct 21. The 89th Sunset Social for area senior citizens was held at FBC on Sept 26, with 54 in atten-

dance. A food drive is being held in October and November to benefit the Gibbon Food Pantry.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: Pastor Charlie Gregory attended the Fall Pastors Seminar at Camp Merrill with our Hispanic pastor Enrique Contreras. Susan Gillies spoke on Oct 28 in morning worship and following a luncheon at the church.

FAIRBURY FBC: A farewell reception was held for Rev. Gale and Janet Mack, who completed their interim pastorate at FBC on Oct 22, and will return to Florida. The ABW held a Victorian evening pm Oct 8, with "Tea Time Treasures" being the theme, and featuring a salad supper and Gay Nineties music, plus other entertainment, as a fundraiser for new carpet for the parlor and the chapel.

HASTINGS FBC: The Southern Union Fall Rally was held at FBC on Sept 30. Pastor Larry Harvey attended the Pastors Seminar at Moses Merrill followed by an Orientation for Pastors New to ABC/NE.

HOLDREGE FBC: All-Stars For Jesus Kids Club resumed meetings on Oct 3, with an open house on Oct 10. In conjunction with Kids Club a parenting class, "The Essentials of Discipline" is being offered. Mary Jayne Circle served pie at the Christian Homes birthday party on Oct 21. Carol O'Connell received the Master Teacher award, and Curly Geer the Barnabas Award during a morning worship service.

JUNIATA CC: The annual beef and noodle dinner was held on Oct 17, plus a craft and bake sale and quilt raffle. Dorcas Circle meetings have become work meetings, making quilts, baby blankets, lap robes, etc.

KEARNEY FBC: A caravan of church folks had a day trip to the site of the Moses Merrill cabin. They were able to stand on the hearth of the fireplace. (The fireplace and chimney are all that remain of the cabin.) Then the group continued their caravan to Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center for a presentation on the camp prepared by Program Director MaryBeth Robertson. Roger Williams Fellowship Director Eric Wood attended the Fall Pastors Seminar at Moses Merrill.

LINCOLN FBC: The Youth Group participated in the Big Red Welcome, where they passed out 1,100 packages of Ramen noodles (and could have passed out many more!) Each package had a "Food for the Soul" label on it. The Lincoln Chinese Christian Church, which meets in the fellowship hall at FBC, welcomed two new UNL students from Asia; and at a recent meeting five of them committed their lives to Christ. On Sept 16 a grandfather and grandson were baptized into the LCCC. A "Me and My Girl-friends" Conference, with Neta Jackson and Pam Sullivan as speakers, was held on Oct 6. FBC has a great problem: they cannot keep up with providing the transportation needed to get the Burmese families to church! The Middle School and High School youth went "trick or treating" for the People's City Mission. Student and adult workers worked at UNL South Stadium selling backrests and picking them up, and earned money towards their future mission trips.

LINCOLN SECOND: Rev. Bob Molby began as Interim Pastor in October and was welcomed warmly.

MASON CITY FBC: The Custer Association of ABW met in Mason City on Oct 5. Two adults who went on the 54 member interchurch mission trip to Louisiana this past summer reported on the trip as they helped rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The ABW hosted a guest day on Oct 18, with the Christian Church and the Litchfield Methodist Church as guests.

MCCOOK FBC: A Halloween Alternative party was held at the parsonage. Pastor Jackson attended the pastor's seminar at Camp Merrill Oct 15-17.

NORFOLK FBC: Carolyn Predmore, an ABC missionary in Japan, visited FBC on Oct 28. The Women's Fall Banquet was held on Oct 11. During the usual AWANA time on Halloween a "Come and Go" event was held, with treats, face painting, balloon animals, a pumpkin patch for carving and painting, and sharing the Gospel. FBC will be a relay center for the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: The North Platte Association ABW meeting was held at FBC on Oct 11. Pastors Tom Wiles & Greg Mamula attended the Fall Pastors Retreat. Pastor Greg stayed for the Orientation for Pastors New to ABC/NE.

OMAHA BENSON: A Dessert and Fellowship time was held on Oct 14, where the group heard Bryan Marine tell of his work with Youth For Christ. A "Trunk or Treat" was held on Halloween in the parking lot to share treats with the community children. "The Ultimate Gift" was shown on movie night on Oct 21. K.I.D.S. Kick-off was held on Oct 3. ABW is collecting soup labels and Box tops for Education for the Omaha Street School. Operation Christmas Child boxes are being filled.

OMAHA FIRST KACHIN: Some church members volunteered as a work team at Camp Merrill. They arrived on a Sunday afternoon and stayed overnight working on clearing trees. The congregation joined with Parkside in honoring Pastor Joan Stewart on Oct 21. Our choir sang for the event.

OMAHA MIRACLE HILLS: The congregation is rejoicing in the new youth ministry which is going great!

OMAHA PARKSIDE: Susie Brann, who had reached her 104th year, passed away on Sept 12. Susie had been a member of Parkside since 1945. Parksiders took part in the "Dine Out Against Hunger" on Oct 9, where over 100 Omaha restaurants donated 10% of that day's profits to the Omaha Food Bank. A reception and program were held on Oct 21 to celebrate the ministry of Pastor Joan Stewart who is retiring at the end of the month. Members and friends honored Joan.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: The men held a breakfast and workday on Oct 13. "Sing Until Sunset" was a success with three hours of music outdoors, provided by musicians from Sun-

set Hills, First Baptist of Omaha and New Life of Bellevue. Plans have already started for next year. The annual ABW Baked Steak Dinner, Craft and Bake Sale and Christmas Cookie Cookbook fundraiser were Oct 20. A new member dinner is planned for November. The women led the morning service on Oct 7. Sunset Hills members Bob and Fayette Molby have begun an interim ministry at Second Baptist in Lincoln and Jesse and Kathy Brown are interims at First Baptist in Columbus. Forgiven was called to provide the worship service Oct 28 at First Baptist in Tekamah. The church's new web page is being designed and developed, with hopes that it is up and running by Jan. 1. Plans are under way for the congregation's 50th anniversary, kicking off on Jan. 5, exactly 50 years after the formal vote to organize.

OXFORD, FBC Our church family has been blessed and our church attendance continues to grow along with our Sunday school classes. Our JOY Preschool meets 4 times a week. Cheryl Murdoch is the Director. We now have Sunday evening services at 6:00 p.m. Our church family was treated to a Sunday morning breakfast on Sept 23. Rob, Taffy & Christian Lewis organized and prepared this wonderful meal. Dee, Roni, Jaelyn, Trak & Ryder Lewis and Verlyn & Jean Lewis helped serve the meal. A Sunday "Singspiration" was held at First Baptist on Sept 30, this is held the when there is a 5th Sunday of the month. All of the local churches participate, taking their turns as hosts & helping with the entertainment. We are thankful to be "part of the family of God."

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: The annual FBC Fall Harvest Festival was held on Oct 21, with "Harvest Stew" being the main menu item, which was cooked over an open fire in the parking lot, and comprised of donations from the congregation to "just throw in". The Youth group is on "The Gospel Journey", which is reality scenes in which a group of youth is on a trek through the Rocky Mountains, and how they come into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. "Class Picture Day" was held on Oct 7; A Penny Carnival was held on Oct 28, with lots of games and a cakewalk.

VALLEY: Pastor Carl Ratcliff took part in the fall Pastors Seminar at Camp Merrill. He is also providing leadership in the renovations of an old bathroom into Parkgrove Lodge, housing for adult volunteers at camp.

Welcome New Members

FREMONT FBC: Deb Cleland, MacKenzie Meyer, Matt Hammond, Vincent Hammond, Danny Stricklett, Nichole Seagle

HOLDREGE FBC: Hannah Dimitrov, Bethany Dimitrov, Dennis Dimitrov, Jennifer Dimitrov, James Dimitrov, Kenneth Hastings

OMAHA BENSON: Josh and Lita Billington, Mike and Shawna Mai

What is the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline?

In the early 1980s, financial pressure and related legal and emotional stress reached a crisis stage for many Nebraska farm families. As land values plummeted, debt piled, and foreclosures reached a record high, Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska (IMN), of which ABC/NE is a member, took action. In March 1984, IMN began forming a coalition not only of its member church denominations, but also of agencies and organizations with a direct interest in confronting rural hardship.

Representatives of the coalition realized from the beginning that the underlying problems leading to the crisis would not be solved overnight, nor would the groups be able to provide funds to troubled farmers. But they know they could garner the human and financial resources to help provide sound financial and legal counsel when requested, and to respond to families with needs for emotional and spiritual support.

This unique ministry continues today. When a farmer, rancher, or rural resident calls the HOTLINE, 1-800-464-0258, an experienced staff person will answer to respond directly to callers, discuss issues and needs, provide helpful information, and refer callers to attorneys, financial counselors, clergy, other farmers, mediation.

In addition, staff assists callers in dealing with stress, depression, and other mental health issues that often cloud the decision-making abilities of a caller through the COMHT (Counseling, Outreach, and Mental Health Therapy) Program.

ABC/NE and IMN continue to partner to reach people in need in Nebraska.

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Associate Executive Minister	Steve Bils
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Pastor to Pastors (E).....	Dick Peterson
Youth Ministry Adjunct	Jason Workman

Trivia Answers (from page 3)

1. c. Church Vitality is the newest ABC/NE Department.
2. b. Moses Merrill is part of ABC/NE.
3. b. National Ministries' Volunteer In Mission Program supplies money for the expenses of our 2 pastors to pastors.
4. d. The National Youth Event will be in Estes Park, CO, July 5-11, 2008.
5. b. One more project remains as part of the Building Bridges Campaign. It is the multi-purpose building. Watch for more information in coming months.



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