

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



March 2006

ABC/NE Date Data

- Mar 11 Camp Department
Camp Moses Merrill
Mar 17 Mission Dept. 4pm
Evangelism Dept. 6pm
FBC Grand Island
Mar 18 ABC/NE Board Retreat
Gibbon Baptist
Mar 23 Personnel Committee
Region Office
Mar 24-26 YOUTH RETREAT
Camp Merrill
Apr 17-20 ABC-USA Pastors
Conference-Orlando
Apr 28-30 YOUNG ADULT
RETREAT
Camp Merrill

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The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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Evangelism

Children In Poverty

Church Renewal

Leader Development

Camp Moses Merrill

Sturgis Ministry

WHAT DO THESE HAVE IN COMMON?

All of these, and many more, are ministries supported by your gifts to **The America For Christ Offering (AFC)**. These ministries are all part of reaching America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Most ABC/NE churches take the AFC offering March. Others put a set amount in the church budget. Some churches have AFC Walk-A-Thons or other special fund-raisers. And a few haven't yet discovered the blessing of giving to AFC. This offering is a tremendous way to make a difference for Jesus in the USA!

If you'd like more information about what you can do to support AFC, contact the ABC/NE Office, 1-877-244-7339

Mark Your Calendar Now . . .

Family Reunion in Lincoln, 9/15-17

This year's Family Reunion (annual ABC/NE convention) will be held at the downtown Holiday Inn in Lincoln, September 15-17. All Nebraska Baptists are invited to put this on their calendars and plan to be there. The Reunion will feature **Dr. Reid Trulson** ABC's Director for Europe and the Middle East. Trulson is a noted preacher and teacher.

Music will be an important part of the reunion. There will be a convention choir that will rehearse Friday night and Saturday afternoon and sing in worship on Sunday. The choir is open to all who enjoy singing.

The AB Youth Convention will be held simultaneously at Camp Moses Merrill. The youth and adults will join together for a grand time of worship on Sunday morning at First Baptist Church of Lincoln. [Transportation will be provided from the Holiday Inn.]

The Family Reunion is a great time with worship, workshops, speakers, music, exhibits, bookstore, time for R&R and visiting. This year is YOUR year to attend!

Special Combined EVENT — First Annual Family Bible Conference and CMM Reunion June 31-July 3 See story on p. 4.

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

A Witness

I have seen the America For Christ Offering at work. This is a sampling of what I have seen . . .

- At the Milwaukee Christian Center I saw a child who never in his life had eaten enough to feel "full." The Center was ministering to his body, his mind and his soul.
- At Friendship House in Hamtramck, Michigan, I met children who had no games or athletic equipment and no playground to play in. Volunteers came to Friendship House and took wagons filled with playground gear to parking lots where they organized playtimes and told Bible stories.
- I have seen a military chaplain who told me about ministry in Afghanistan. When confronted with the dangers of war, service men and women often want to talk about their relationship with God. A critical time in ministry.
- I met with Hopi and Navajo ABC leaders who take White Cross fabrics to remote reservation locations and teach sewing to small groups of women while sharing Bible teaching.
- I have seen the transformation of ministry at a church in Puerto Rico that is taking seriously the opportunity to serve

people caught in the most difficult of urban poverty.

- I have seen (and experienced!) National Ministries staff working around the clock to respond to crisis and disaster.
- I met with people who live in an area of excessive industrial pollution seeking help to put faith into action to make their children safe.
 - I have visited Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and seen the amazing ministry done in that humble place for so little money.
 - I have met with directors of American Baptist Homes and listened to their stories of compassionate ministry with our elders and our children.
 - I have seen churches considered "dead in the water" come to life because the denominational family cared and provided renewal strategies, leadership and motivation.
- I have walked and talked with new church planters as they sought to share new life with folks caught up in a maze of materialism and self-centeredness.



These are some of my experiences. They help explain why I care so much about the America For Christ Offering.



From the Minister of Mission Support Steve Bills

76,000,000 unchurched Americans underline the need for the *America for Christ* Offering

You've read above in Susan's column of some of the tremendous ministries made possible by the America for Christ offering. To these examples I can only add a hearty "Amen!" With 76,000,000 unchurched Americans within our borders, the United States is the third largest mission field in the world. Every spring, when we receive our **America for Christ (AFC)** offering, we celebrate how much we are able to do . . . and are reminded of how much more remains to be done.

Sturgis Ministry Opportunities

It's time once again to begin thinking about the possibility of participating in the joint ABC Nebraska / ABC Dakotas ministry at the motorcycle rally in the Black Hills this summer.

As I travel the state and have the opportunity to share stories about the lives we touch and the needs we meet, I hear comments like, "Every time I hear about Sturgis I think that I'd really like to go and help some year." Perhaps this is that year!

The dates for this year's rally ministry are August 5-12. If you would like more information about what we do and what volunteering to help would look like, visit the www.SturgisAid.com web site.

Volunteers don't need to be motorcyclists, but ought to have a heart for evangelism and helping others. We especially need women staff to help minister to the large number of women and children who need our help.

This year's **America for Christ** Leader's Guide is full of wonderful stories of effective mission and ministry that American Baptists are able to do across the United States and Puerto Rico as we pool our talents and resources. From evangelism and discipleship to colleges and seminaries to ministry to children and youth, the **America for Christ** offering delivers a great return on the investment of our mission-minded churches.

Recently I reviewed the AFC giving history of each of our congregations and wrote a letter to the pastor and missions chair in each church, suggesting a challenging but realistic goal based on that data. We would like to see our ABC Nebraska congregations take advantage of the opportunity to make a real difference in the effort to fulfill the Great Commission here on the home front. Take a moment this week to communicate with these leaders in your church. Encourage them to challenge your church to do its part in helping us reach our national goal of \$3,000,000. And when you see the AFC offering envelopes in your bulletin or church newsletter, remember these stories of how your gift can truly make a difference in lives throughout America, and give generously.

After all, if we don't reach America for Christ, who will?





Let your
light so
shine

Youth Gather for Retreat

Junior High and Senior High youth from ABC/NE churches will gather at Camp Moses Merrill **March 24-26** for their annual retreat.

The theme for the weekend is "The Chosen One." For some parts of the program, Junior Highs and Senior Highs will meet separately and for others parts, they will be together.

Worship during the weekend will be led by youth groups from two different churches.

There will be the opportunity for challenging games and a whole camp relay. The event is designed to provide surprises, learning, fun and fellowship.

ABC/NE Youth Ministry Adjunct Jason Workman said, "The youth who participate in the retreat are great! We invite all churches — from every part of Nebraska — to bring youth to camp to experience the awesome fellowship."

To register, contact: www.campmerrill.com and click on the registration link, or call the ABC of Nebraska office toll-free at 1-877-244-7339.



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING
FACT

Every year nearly
90 Volunteers
in Mission

**SHARE CHRIST
WITH AMERICA**

Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Ed Consultant

VBS Program Ideas:

1. Trading Places--Where Jesus Makes a World of Difference (Standard Publication)
2. HolyLand Adventure--Bethlehem Village (AhHa Group)
3. Trueassic Park (TruthQuest)
4. Treasure Cove (Gospel Light)
5. Fiesta! (AhHa Group)

See these at a local Christian book supplier or website. You can also check www.judsonpress.com, click on "curriculum" and then click on "Vacation Bible School" for other ideas.

New ABCUSA Mission Statement

"American Baptists are a Christ-centered, biblically grounded, ethnically diverse people called to radical personal discipleship in Christ Jesus. Our commitment to Jesus propels us to nurture authentic relationships with one another, build healthy churches, transform our communities, our nations and our world, engage every member in hands-on ministry, and speak the prophetic word in love.

"As a people of prayer, purpose, and passion, we are in the forefront of creating a diverse community of faith where people of every race, nationality and culture gather as one in worship, witness and work. "The heart of the gospel is God's redemptive love. In our life together, the world will see the power of forgiveness to overcome alienation, the strength of love to transform hate, the power of grace to break the bonds of guilt, the triumph of hope over despair, and the victory of faith over doubt.

"Through the cross of Christ we embrace the world as neighbor. Our vision for mission energizes a multitude of servant ministries of evangelism, discipleship, leadership, new church development, social justice, healing, peacemaking, economic development and education. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we work together in mutual trust, humility, love, and giving that the gospel might be preached and lived in all the world."

Approved by ABCUSA General Board June 2005

Program Ideas . . .

March Winds—April Showers

A childhood ditty goes, "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers." It's a nice description of spring and sometimes it even matches reality!

A women's or men's group, a Sunday School class, or other groups in the church may find a helpful pattern here.

The March emphasis for a group or club could be on the harsh winds of life using the scripture of Jesus calming the storm. Or the theme could be on the winds of the Spirit blowing new life and new perspectives through tired congregations.

In April, the emphasis could be on showers of blessing. Often being caught in a shower is a negative thing — as when something "rains on your parade." But showers of blessing are wonderful and life giving.

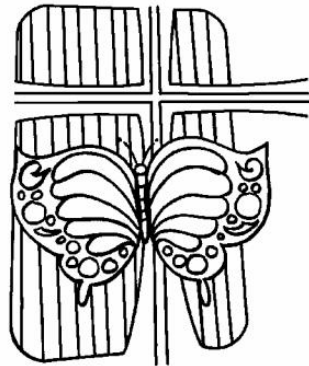
In May, the emphasis could be on blooming where you are planted. Celebration. Becoming all God created us to be.



MARCH PRAYER:

a part of the ABC/NE 2006 Prayer Emphasis

Join Baptists across Nebraska in prayer in March for:



- **FBC, Bridgeport**, Pastor Darren Stroh
- **FBC, Broken Bow**, Pastor Betty Johnson
- **FBC, Chadron**, Pastor Rick Wheatley
- **FBC, Chapman**, Interim Pastor Richard Henderson
- **FBC, Columbus**, Pastor Larry Adams

Pray that these churches will be:

- Surprised by signs of new spiritual growth
 - Filled with a renewed spirit of sharing and caring
 - Focused on reaching their community
- Pray that these churches will discover:
- New joy within the congregation.
 - New ideas for special events in the life of the church.
 - Renewed commitments to inviting.

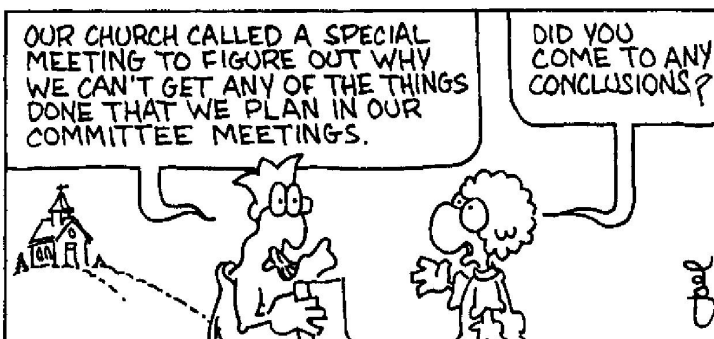
ABC/NE Trivia (Answers on page 8)

Some Nebraska Missionaries

1. ABC Missionary Laura Johnson served in what country?
a. China b. India, c. Brazil, d. Burma
2. ABC Missionaries Dr. & Mrs. Hjalmer Ostrom served in what country?
a. Congo, b. Thailand, c. Costa Rica, d. Sierra Leone
3. ABC Missionary Anna Buzzell served in what country?
a. Brazil, b. Costa Rica, c. India, d. Japan
4. ABC Missionaries Dr. & Mrs. Oliver Hasselblad served in what country?
a. Finland, b. Assam, c. Cuba, d. Nigeria
5. Where did ABC Colporter Missionary Rev. J.F. Judkins serve?
a. Nebraska, b. Alaska, c. Arizona, d. Mexico



Pontius' Puddle



FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE



The first ever ABC/NE Family Bible 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.

Hey! Here's Something Interesting...

NATURE COLLAGE BEING DESIGNED FOR FULLERTON CONFERENCE ROOM

Martha Sorenson of First, Lincoln, is organizing a group to do a NATURE collage on a wall in the Ward Conference Center at Camp Merrill. They need everyone across the region to contribute material for it.

Martha says, "Collect stuff that is dried from your area - grains, dried plants, bones, shells, seed pods, tree bark, etc. Pick up stuff on vacation or travel abroad. If there is a story in it, drop in a note. Be sure it's dried (or it will get moldy packed up) and free of live critters."

Send it to any ABC/NE meeting with a person attending, or with a car going to camp, or give it to a staff member that is in your area. Just label the container "MARTHA."

If you have questions contact Martha Sorenson at 402-489-6082 or Raghangup@HuskerAccess.com. Deadline is October 31.

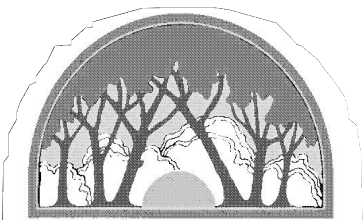
New Missionary Appointment

Charles Jones, acting executive director of International Ministries, announced the appointment of Susan Linderman for missionary service, effective February 1, 2006.

Linderman, a native of Huron, South Dakota, is the first new missionary to be appointed after the lifting of the freeze mandated by IM's board of managers in 2004 and

2005. She has extensive volunteer missionary experience serving with the International Baptist Theological Seminary and with Project Hope, both centered in Prague, Czech Republic. Project Hope, led by IM missionary Luran Bethell, is a ministry to persons caught up in the global sex trade, especially the victims of human trafficking.





Camp Moses Merrill News

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Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

An opportunity for ALL Nebraska Baptists . . .

Invite Your Friends (of every age) to Camp!

This year, don't put it off! Invite folks you know to take advantage of the great opportunities at Camp Moses Merrill.

Invite children and youth:

- Adults: Invite children and youth in your church, your neighborhood, and others you know to attend CMM. Give them a brochure. Tell them what a great time they will have.
- Children and Youth: Invite your friends and others you know to go to camp with you. Awesome!
- Churches: Promote camp enthusiastically. Support campers with scholarships. Organize car pools to help keep expenses down. Make sure everyone knows about the opportunities!

And what about opportunities for adults?

- Adults: Invite women to Women's Conf. And men to Men's Conf. Invite retirees to Adult Ministries Conf. Also think about church retreats, family reunions, spiritual retreats, R&R time for you and your family.
- Children and Youth: Tell the adults what a great place camp is. Tell them they can enjoy camp even if they don't do a mud slide! Ask your folks to go with you to Family Camp.
- Churches: Promote camp with your adults, children and youth. Encourage attendance at Family Camp as well as the Family Bible Conference. Use camp for church gatherings, retreats, training, etc.

AND EVERYONE PRAY FOR A GREAT CAMPING SEASON!



Summer Camp

Thanks to all the special folks who pray for camp, who volunteer, and who contribute money and materials. We simply couldn't do it without you!

Thanks to all who helped this last month with camp through contributions, gifts, and volunteer service, including Joyce Gallu, Patricia Riggins, Cliff and Marilyn Morrrows, Betty Kizlin, Fairhaven Baptist Church, Ron Hornberger, Stan and Nola Oberhelman, Darlene Shrader and Dennis Flannigan. We also received memorial gifts in honor of Al Grotelueschen and Karl Dewey.

We continue to thank all who are supporting the Building Bridges Campaign. A special thank you will be found in a future Messenger when Calvary Lodge is completed.

PROJECT CAMP & YOU!!

Make plans to send a team of volunteers from your church to Project Camp—May 29th through June 2. You can come for the week or just one day. If your church sponsors a cabin, there may need to be work done on it. If your church doesn't sponsor a cabin, there are plenty of other buildings and grounds that need to be prepared for the summer camping season.

"Thank you to my AB Church friends across the state for their cards, flowers, memorials and words of condolence at the time of Al's death. Your prayers during his illness and since are a great comfort. God's blessing to all of you."

- Lou Grotelueschen
CMM Receptionist

From the Area MinisterDave Lundholm

An Opportunity for Laity to Take a Look at the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches (part 9)

Affirmation 10 reads as follows:

“I will hold in confidence any privileged communication received by me during the conduct of my ministry. I will not disclose confidential communications in private or public except when in my practice of ministry I am convinced that the sanctity of confidentiality is outweighed by my well-founded belief that the parishioner/client will cause imminent, life-threatening or substantial harm to self or others, or unless the privilege is waived by those giving information. “

Pastors have access to lots of different kinds of information that people don't like or need to have shared. For example: Pastors visit their people in the hospital and in the course of that visit often discover more information about the patient than the patient would be comfortable sharing with the church or community. Pastors, in their work of evaluating the need for couples to seek professional counseling, often are privy to family secrets that don't need to be known by the congregation or the community. Pastors giving spiritual counsel to teens who are struggling with becoming their own person and making the faith of their family into their own faith sometimes share that they have done things or thought about things that would be very troubling to their families.

These are the kinds of things that pastors don't share. It is not appropriate for a pastor to discuss these things with their spouse, or their local church leadership. (It is appropriate for a pastor to share with their clergy support group such situations in a "case study" format, where the goal of sharing is seeking input on a difficult situation or seeking to be accountable to a high standard of ministry. In such sharing, care should be taken that the individual(s) in question are not identifiable.)

There is also much information that Pastors deal with that is not confidential. For example, things shared in a group are not usually confidential. And sometimes with some people it is hard for the pastor to know what is sharable and what isn't. You can help your pastor by prefacing your sharing with "Pastor I'd like what I share now to be kept confidential." This clearly indicates your understanding about the communication you are about to share.

There are times when great harm can be done by a pastor not sharing confidential information. "Pastor, don't tell anyone but I am planning to take my own life." "Pastor, don't tell anyone but I beat my sixth grader today." "Pastor, don't tell anyone but my husband hits me." In any case where there is the possibility of life threatening or substantial harm a pastor is obligated to break the confidence and get the person/family appropriate help.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS by Darlene Rimpley

April Deadlines
March 7, 2006 - Print Copy
March 11, 2006 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor
Darlene Rimpley
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E-Editor
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Subject: Messenger

ANSLEY FBC: Pastor Bill Ragan has accepted the call to minister at FBC for 2006. ABW held election of officers with Marguerite Bristol, Sandy Goodwater, Connie Braithwaite, Mary Anne Clinger, and Beverly Sherbeck as officers. The church purchased a house and lot near the church, demolished the house and will work on the lot for parking and a playground.

ARNOLD FBC: The outside construction of the new church building has been completed, and work will begin on the inside immediately. Sixty four Valentine bags were prepared and delivered to the elderly and shut-ins. FBC hosted the Community Prayer Group that meets monthly to pray for every family in the area.

ARTHUR, BC Three people from the Arthur Church will soon be leaving on a short-term mission trip to Poland. A small group is enjoying Pastor Keene's midweek bible studies, we have

had to move our time back a little for the ABY group to "quit the facilities". The church has managed to have volunteers feed the ABY group the evening meal each Wednesday between sports practice and their meeting. The year end report showed sufficient funds, several quite major projects finished around the church and plans for a couple more ahead.

BELLEVUE, New Life BC The congregation recently completed a Skills and Abilities Survey. The men have gotten together on several occasions for fellowship time watching football games, etc. The pastoral search process is continuing. We welcomed 3 new members into the church on Jan 15. The church assisted families who suffered losses from apartment fire in Bellevue by supplying household articles, etc.

BRIDGEPORT, FBC The Youth Group held a Valentine's Supper for the church, the theme

was "If you are still having a birthday or if you know someone that is still having birthdays you are welcome". We had 8 graduates for the "God and Country" badge for the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. We have started a 5th Sunday Brunch to be held before church. Different families will take turns hosting.

CHADRON FBC: The MRS Circle held a progressive dinner on Jan 14.

COLUMBUS FBC: A special offering will be received once every quarter for Youth For Christ, with Feb 19 being chosen for this quarter. A Valentine's potluck dinner was held on Feb 12. FBC continues to assist with delivery for Meals on Wheels

FAIRBURY FBC: A Super Bowl party was held at the church on Feb 5. A group of the youth attended Dare2Share Conferences. Susan Gillies was the speaker at morning worship on

Feb 19. Lowell and Lois Thrasher celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on Jan 14.

FREMONT FBC: Kristen Hammer, who is a missionary to the Dominican Republic, spoke on Feb 12. The Young at Heart had a carry-in dinner on Feb 9, after which they watched the video of the Fanny Crosby Story. An all-church fundraiser soup supper was held on Feb 26, with the proceeds going to the expenses of the girls attending Green Lake in July. A Youth Appreciation banquet was held on Feb 17. The "September Project" band with Michael Dwyer performed at the Sunday Night Live youth group on Feb 26.

GIBBON BC: Valentine boxes were prepared and sent to military personnel and college students the first part of February. Mission speaker Herb Rogers spoke at worship on Feb 26. GBC is collecting canceled stamps to send to Mosaic (formerly Bethphage Mission near Axtell) to use in their funding of special projects. "I'll Be There" Sunday was held at GBC on Feb 19, in conjunction with the Gibbon Ministerial Assoc, when they encouraged all church family members to be in their place of worship.

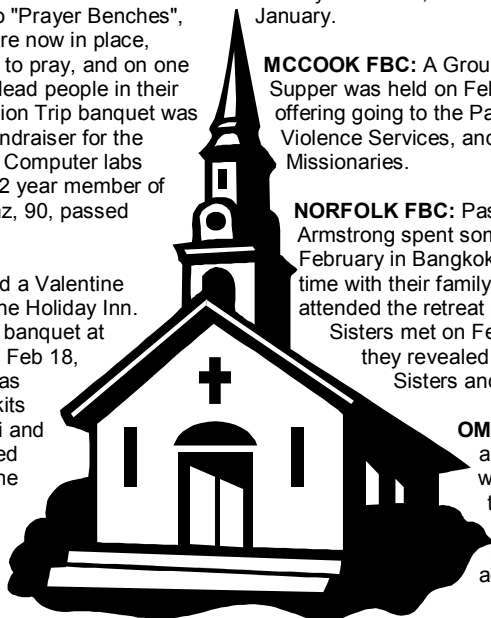
GRAND ISLAND FBC: Several of the ladies served at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in January. Four FBC women were honored at Christmas by Ruth Circle giving monetary gifts to Samaritans Purse in their name for special projects. Forty one shoe boxes were sent to Samaritan's Purse this past Christmas. Letters on the sign that identifies the church that had been destroyed in the hail and wind storm last summer have been replaced.

HASTINGS FBC: A Valentine's party was held on Feb 12 after the traditional worship service at the Garden Cafe. An alternative worship service is held each Sunday morning preceding the traditional service.

HOLBROOK FBC: The Southern Union Assoc. held a Ground Hog Supper at Holbrook on Feb 19. Andy Falk, with Roger Williams Fellowship, was the guest speaker.

HOLDREGE FBC: Two "Prayer Benches", made by Dave Black, are now in place, inviting people to come to pray, and on one requests are written to lead people in their praying. A Mexico Mission Trip banquet was held on Feb 26, as a fundraiser for the youth going on the trip. Computer labs began in February. A 52 year member of the church, Robert Ranz, 90, passed away Jan 2.

JUNIATA CC: JCC held a Valentine banquet on Feb 12 at the Holiday Inn. The annual Valentine's banquet at the church was held on Feb 18, with Rev. Dale Phillips as special speaker, and skits and games. The Naomi and Dorcas Circles combined together to furnish on the rooms at the new Crossroads Center Building in Hastings.



LAVISTA, JUDSON The Judson congregation welcomed Pastor Glenn Williamson back to the pulpit Jan 29. After major health concerns and surgery, Pastor Glenn is back and doing well. Our thanks to the Region and members of our congregation who filled in his absence. On Jan 6 several members attended an Omaha Knights Hockey Game and Christian Concert following the game. The theme for our monthly fellowship dinner was "Ethnic" in January. The variety of food was spectacular. The J.O.Y. Club met in January and brought items they collect or make. A special dedication of the 2006 Deacons was held on the last Sunday in January. In February we recognized each new 2005 member - all 25 of them!. Each Sunday our youth bring in their loose change and some paper money to help with our building expansion program. The grading plan/topography for the Expansion Project is complete.

LINCOLN FBC: Old cell phones are being collected as a money raiser for the handbell ministry. The youth attended the Dare2Share conference in Omaha. FBC is collecting medical aid items to give to the Russian Church, to send to the Ukraine. A pre-retreat leadership session was held on Feb 11, here deacons and leaders took part to prepare themselves to attend the Leadership Retreat at Camp Merrill in March.

LINCOLN, SECOND BAPTIST: The new year, 2006, was welcomed in Dec 31 with a New Year's Eve games/snacks and joyous fellowship party at the Church; During January we had a presentation about the Gideon Bibles Program; a special "Town Hall" meeting was led by Church Moderator, David Shaw; to share ideas and thoughts for the coming year's Church Budget and Program; a new Baptism Class for youth; and an ABMen's breakfast. The ABW Alice Finlay Circle rolled bandages for White Cross; we welcomed our new Church Secretary, Luann Gurgen and her husband, Dean, and introduced them to the congregation. Memorial Services were held for four of our members: Miriam Craig, Howard Cather, Dorothy Schribner, Frances Tate during January.

MCCOOK FBC: A Groundhog Day Pancake Supper was held on Feb 2 with the freewill offering going to the Pantry, Domestic Violence Services, and the ABW Missionaries.

NORFOLK FBC: Pastor and Mrs. Frank Armstrong spent some time in January and February in Bangkok, Thailand, spending time with their family. The deacons attended the retreat at Camp Merrill. Heart Sisters met on Feb 9, at which time they revealed their secret Heart Sisters and drew for new ones.

OMAHA BENSON: Tools and Blanket Sunday was Feb 12. The youth took part in the 24 hour famine on Feb 24 and 25. The youth acquired sponsors who

gave donations which went to the Benson Food Pantry and the One Life Revolution, which feeds Zambian children. Pastor Paul was honored at a surprise Appreciation Ice Cream Social in January. The oldest member for the greatest number of years of Benson, Muriel Tideswell, passed away on Dec 27. Muriel, 93, joined Benson in 1922.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: The women with February birthdays celebrated together on Feb 11 with lunch at Summer Kitchen.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: The church is rejoicing over the call of a new pastor. Ron French and his family will join us following his graduation from Central Seminary in May. The youth held a Valentine dinner for the church family. The Lightbearer's Circle made favors for Maple Crest Care Center at their February meeting. The Sunday Night Live Youth Group went to Kansas City on Jan 28, and attended the Chris Tomlin concert on Feb 2.

OXFORD FBC: Well known author, Stephanie Grace Whitson, shared her ministry at FBC on Feb 4, with a salad luncheon enjoyed at the conclusion of the program.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: A new church directory is being distributed. The BYF groups sponsored a Valentine's dinner and movie on Feb 11, and also provided a nursery. The Drama Group, "Take 6", from the Frontier School of the Bible, performed on Feb 6 during worship, and also at the Middle School BYF on Feb 15. The "Funtastic February Family Festival" was held all the month of February on Sunday nights, with classes offered in Men's Only Bible Study, Art Class, Cooking Class, Woodworking Class, Quilting Class, Church Membership Class, Crafting Class, and Kids, Crafts, and Bible Study. The Middle School and High School kids, which totaled 20 plus three adults, took the "Mission Link" training, and will work at Emerald Court, an Alzheimer's facility in Scottsbluff.

TECUMSEH FBC: The church enjoyed its annual Super Bowl party on Feb 5.

TEKAMAH FBC: Vera Peterson celebrated her 85th birthday recently. Renewal meetings with Rev. Syl Adkins, were held Feb 27-28. ABW Ministries held a Valentine party on Feb 15. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels Feb 12-17.

WAYNE FBC: "For the Master", and many other local talents, gave a free concert at FBC on Feb 19.

NEW MEMBERS:

- ARTHUR BC,** Josh Powers, Callie Lile
- BELLEVUE, NEW LIFE,** David & Sue Crawford, Megan Mayfield
- BRIDGEPORT, FBC** Ardis Stuart
- FREMONT FBC,** Harlan Waugh, Jim Peterson, Ed Layne
- JUNIATA CC,** Melissa Wilmot
- LINCOLN FBC,** Zach Braxton, Melinda Burk
- LINCOLN, SECOND BAPTIST,** Les Christensen

The National Evangelism Team

The National Evangelism Team (NET) was started by ABC's National Ministries in 2002 under the auspices of NEW LIFE 2010, with its goal of making 1,000,010 new disciples. More than 31 of 35 American Baptist regions now participate in evangelism training through NET initiatives. ABC/NE and ABC of the Dakotas share NET associate Steve Bils.

With enhanced training from National Ministries, associates prepare others to teach the strategy in addition to directly teaching it to churches. Their ability to multiply their own efforts could bring the training to 20 percent of American Baptist churches throughout the United States in the next five years, which adds up to increasing progress toward the NEW LIFE 2010 disciple-making goal.



For God so loved the world.
John 3:16

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	Pat Galloway
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

TRIVIA ANSWERS (Questions on page 4)

1. d. Laura Johnson from Mead Immanuel served in Burma.
2. a. The Ostroms from Valley served in the Congo.
3. d. Anna Buzzell from Juniata served in Japan.
4. b. The Hasselblads from Valley, ordained at Omaha Grace, and financially supported by Omaha First served in Assam.
5. a. J.F. Judkins was Colporter Missionary in Nebraska for 32 years. BONUS points if you know what a Colporter Missionary is!



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