

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



November 2006

ABC/NE Date Data

Finance, Evangelism, Mission
Dept., Grand Island, Nov. 4, 10 am

ABC/NE Executive Committee
FBC—Grand Island, Nov. 4, 1:15

SMALL CHURCH CONFERENCE
Camp Moses Merrill
Nov. 6-8.

Camp Dept. Meeting, Second Bap-
tist, Lincoln Nov. 7, 5:00pm

ABC-Omahaland
Thanksgiving Service
FBC Omaha, Nov, 22, 7:00 pm

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Responding to Ministry Opportunities With A Grateful Heart

Nebraska Baptists are spending some time this Thanksgiving season thanking God for ministry opportunities. Here are a few:

- "I am very grateful for the opportunity this year to facilitate a clergy covenant group... it has been a great blessing for me and has expanded my heart!" **Diane Jorgensen**, Chaplain, Maple Crest Care Center
- "We are thankful for our children's and youth ministries. Last year we had no youth ministry at all -- now we have both a middle school and high school ministry as well as excellent children's ministries!!" **Jim Green**, FBC, Scottsbluff.
- "I am truly grateful for the ministry of our executive Susan Gillies who not only ministers here in the great state of Nebraska, but is a solid, and respected voice on the national scene. Susan, I am truly grateful for you!" **Harry Riggs**, Pastor, FBC, Lincoln.
- "I am grateful for the many volunteers who come forward as a ministry team to work with youth. Without their involvement the youth program would be limited to only what I could do, or only those I connect with. They truly are a blessing to me. **Kevin Hollo-way**, Youth Pastor, FBC, Kearney.
- "I am grateful that FBC North Platte has helped us focus on ministry opportunities outside our walls, God is at work all around us and it has been a privilege to both observe and to join in what He is doing." **Bob Phares**, ABC/NE Past President.
- "I am grateful for the Love of God that I see in so many people and places: Camp Moses Merrill; the helpful Region staff; our local loving congregations; state, national, international and local missions; and the wonderful Pastors." **Paul Marine**, Pastor, Benson Baptist Church.
- "I'm grateful that Christ is our measuring stick not by His miracles but by His love demonstrated through his death, burial and resurrection." **Thredrice Jones**, Pastor, Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church.



Thank You, God!

Darren Stroh Elected President for 2007; Ted Hartung Will Be Vice-President

Rev. Darren Stroh, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Bridgeport, was elected President of the ABC/NE at the annual meeting in September. He will assume office in January. Stroh has served for two years as Vice-President. Current President Beryl Hornberger will conclude her term at the end of December but will continue to serve on the Board as Past-President.

Ted Hartung of Second Baptist in Lincoln is the newly elected Vice-President.

In a letter this month to Board members, Stroh called on them to engage in weekly prayer "for the region, the region staff, and for your role as a leader in this work of God." He is asking Board members to read I and II Timothy or Titus and to memorize the ABC/NE Mission Statement before the February meeting of the Board. He wrote, "We are getting ready to embark on a great adventure together and I am thoroughly excited about what God has prepared in advance for us to do."

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

CELEBRATION

I am writing this on a Sunday evening at the end of a day with two pastoral installations -- truly a great day for the churches involved. At each installation I saw folks from other ABC/NE churches -- they understood it was a good day for ABC/NE, too. Church celebrations are good things.

Your region staff works very hard with churches that are dealing with conflict and crisis. We assist churches with the sometimes lengthy process of searching for a new pastor -- and getting through the interim period. We help churches and pastors find new learning opportunities so that they can seek congregational and personal renewal. These are some of the reasons we are here and we are grateful that we are able to help. But it is a special blessing when we are able to celebrate with churches.

In the six years I've been here, I've experienced some great celebrations for pastor installations, church 100th and 125th anniversaries, and pastor retirements. As far as I'm concerned, it

would be OK if we had more. Celebrations (for all kinds of reasons) can be ways of reflecting the joy of the Lord. It is great that this year the Omahaland churches will celebrate Thanksgiving together in worship the night before the holiday.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I offer my thanks to God for you. Nebraska Baptists demonstrate the love of Christ in many ways. As I travel around the state and as we hear from churches, I am deeply moved by the commitment of our folks to ministry beyond the church walls as well as to nurturing ministry within the life of each congregation.

Most of us need a gentle reminder from time to time to stop and give thanks. Are there experiences in your church worth an extra celebration? I encourage you to celebrate the good things that are happening.

Blessings!



From the Associate Executive Minister for Mission Development Steve Bills

What does it mean to “walk by faith”?

As an airplane pilot I spent the majority of the time flying and navigating according to visual flight rules. I could see the horizon so I could fly straight and level. I could see the highways and other landmarks on the ground so I would know where I was and where I was going. However, there were times when darkness or haze obscured the horizon or when distinguishing landmarks was difficult (such as over water). At these times I was still able to fly and navigate safely because I could rely on my charts, my instruments, and the air traffic controllers to tell me where I was and that I was flying true.

As a young pilot one of the difficulties that I had to overcome was the natural tendency to trust “the seat of my pants” when it seemed to contradict what my instruments were telling me. Often when my instrument panel told me I was flying straight and level my inner ear made me feel like I was banked one way or the other. If I ignored my instruments and relied on my feelings I would bank in the opposite direction, eventually getting into such a tight diving turn that I would spiral out of control.

In 2 Corinthians 5:7 the Apostle Paul tells us that “*we walk by faith, not by sight.*” I believe this means that when navigating this life there are times when our spiritual chart and divine controller tell us that we should go one way but human senses and instincts tell us the exact opposite. For example, “*he who would be greatest among you, let him be your servant*” directly contradicts the intuitive human wisdom that has most aspiring leaders stepping on their colleagues and kicking them to the curb in their attempt to get to the top of the hill.

One of my favorite definitions of faith is found in the epistle to the Romans where Paul describes Abraham as one who “*did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith . . . being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*” (4:20,21) The Bible records the stories of men and women who, by faith, were certain of many things they could not see, feel, taste, hear or smell. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a litany of such heroes of the faith. In spite of the conflicting messages they were receiving from their human senses, by faith they stayed the course charted for them by their God, and “*obtained a good testimony*” that we are encouraged to follow.

Nowhere is the tension between the divine “chart” and the human senses so strong as in the arena of finances and stewardship. Too often the biblical promise, “*if you give . . . your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving, large or small, it will be used to measure what is given back to you.*” is ignored, and the conventional human wisdom that says “whatever I give away is just that much less for us to use for our needs” becomes the controlling guide. Whether it is an individual or a congregation determining how they are going to use their financial resources, this tension is always present. By faith we know that “*he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*” but our “inner ear”, our “seat of the pants,” will attempt to cause us to question its validity and spiral out of control.

Allow me to paraphrase the exhortation that follows the descriptions of the lives navigated by faith in Hebrews, “*Having received the testimony of so great a cloud of witnesses, let us join them in running with confidence the course that has been charted out for us, laying aside the sin of unbelief which so easily ensnares us.*” We can't safely walk by sight in a world where the darkness and haze has obscured the true horizon. We must trust our divine instruments and hear our spiritual traffic controller if we hope to successfully finish our course with joy.



Reid Trulson Nominated To Lead International Ministries

The nominee for the next Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries is Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson. Trulson was the keynote speaker for the ABC/NE Family Reunion in September.

The announcement was made the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of ABCUSA, and the Rev. Ray Schooler, President of the Board of International Ministries (IM). The search committee will present Trulson's name to the full ABC General Board and the IM board for election on November 15, 2006.

Medley expressed enthusiasm for the nomination of Trulson, saying, "Reid has won the respect of Baptists throughout Europe and the Middle East with whom he has worked closely as a missionary and staff person, as well as the respect of our American Baptist family. He will provide strong leadership to our international mission."

Trulson served over twenty years in local church ministry and over eleven years with IM in international mission. During his years in local church ministry, Trulson served on both region and national boards: he was President of the ABC of Wisconsin region board and, during his eight years on the ABC General Board and the Board of IM, Trulson served two terms as the President of the Board of IM.

Trulson himself commented that, "It is both exciting and a bit overwhelming to see how God is calling IM to serve American Baptists to make a difference in the midst of cultures that are clashing and rapidly changing. The challenges before us in the U.S., Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the world are immense. To be called into service as Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries at such a time is very humbling. I ask you to join me in prayer that together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may be found faithful in making disciples of Jesus



Make Mission Come Alive . . .

One of the most important ways we carry out the work of Jesus is to support mission from the front steps of our church to the furthest parts of the world. When adults or youth experience first-hand a mission trip, they often become wonderful storytellers and advocates for mission. Is there someone (or a group) in your church who should be invited on a mission adventure? Contact Steve Bils for ideas and information. 1-877-244-7339

ABC/NE Trivia

- Which of the following cities does NOT have an ABC Christian Center (Neighborhood Action Program)? a. Milwaukee, b. St. Louis, c. Kansas City, d. Billings, MT.
- Which of the following IS both an historic and current site of ABC Missions? a. Nicaragua, b. Granada, c. The Falkland Islands, d. Yucatan.
- What's the newest ABC/NE church? a. Greater St. John, b. Koinonia House of Worship, c. Strangers Rest, d. First Kachin.
- Was Moses Merrill a Baptist home missionary or foreign missionary?
- What racial/ethnic group is the majority group in American Baptist Churches?



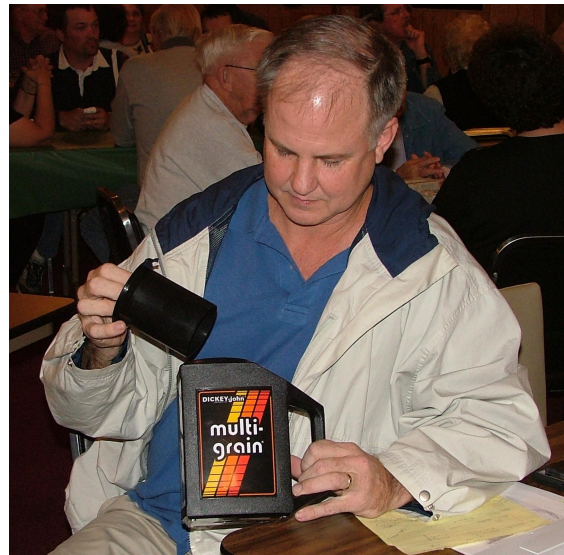
Missionary Speaker Drives Nebraska Combine

ABC Missionary Mike Mann was in Nebraska recently and was able to enjoy an experience not usually available to visiting speakers. Mike serves as International Ministries' Global Consultant for Rural Development. He spoke at Riverside Baptist Church on Oct. 15. Riverside is an open country church north of Tekamah.

Following worship, Mike visited the farm of church member Bill Method. Bill let Mike try out his combine. It was reported Mike was still smiling when he got to Grand Island the next day.

Pastor Beverly Melchor-Young had been quick to request Mann when she learned he would be in Nebraska. She indicated that Riverside doesn't get many missionary speakers but she knew Mike Mann would be popular because of his experience with agricultural concerns.

Following almost fourteen years of ministry in Thailand, Mike is now available to any of IM's international partners who are interested in developing water and/or agricultural projects. Mike and his family live in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he continues to advise the Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP), through which he ministers among the hill tribes of northern Thailand. He is currently working on his doctorate in rural and community development at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom.



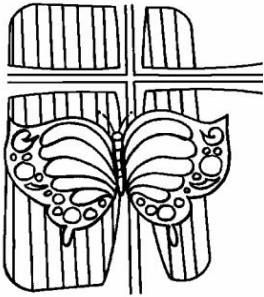
While in Grand Island during his visit, Mike mentioned the need to be able to accurately measure the moisture content in the coffee beans the Thai tribal coop produces before they are packaged for shipment to Starbucks. He was surprised to learn that a device was available in Nebraska, already calibrated for coffee (but primarily used here for corn), that could make such a measurement. FBC Grand Island raised the \$250 to purchase one and sent Mike back to Thailand with it.

Broken Bow Pastor's Ordination Set for Nov. 12

Betty Johnson, pastor at First Baptist of Broken Bow, will be ordained at the church Nov. 12, at a 4:00 pm service. All Nebraska Baptists are invited.

Johnson is from Canada and received her education in New Brunswick and Manitoba. She previously served churches in Nova Scotia and Minn. She passed her ordination council in Broken Bow on Oct. 14.

November PRAYER: a part of the ABC/NE 2006 Prayer Emphasis



Join Baptists across Nebraska in prayer in November for:

- Prairie Union, Stella, Pastor Art Chapin.
- First Baptist, Superior, Pastor Les Warner.
- First Baptist, Tecumseh, Pastor Hugh Giesbrecht.
- First Baptist, Tekamah, Interim Pastor John Dennert
- Riverside Baptist, Tekamah, Pastor Beverly Melchor-Young

Pray that these churches will be:

- Filled with Thankful hearts.
- Blessed with spiritual growth.
- Focused on encouraging one another.

Pray that these churches will discover:

- New energy for inviting
- New or renewed ideas for inter-generational activities
- God's spirit at work among them.



Nola's Take Five . . . Ideas from Nola Oberhelman

ABC/NE Christian Ed Consultant

Mission Projects Your Class Can Do

1. Collect NIV student Bibles for First Crow Baptist Church, Lodgegrass, Montana.
2. Send long-sleeved sweaters for adults to Thailand.
3. Make puppets for missionaries to Mexico, Patti and Tim Long, to use in teaching Bible stories.
4. Gather school and art supplies for Mark and Sandy Thompson, missionaries to D.R. Congo.
5. Make up party goods packages for Murrow Indian Children's Home.

These and other projects are in *Mission Service Projects book, ABC/USA.*

Appreciating the Pastor's Spouse!

Children's worker, musician, Bible study leader, doctor, teacher/professor, nurse, business owner, human resources consultant: what do these have in common? They all are just some of the occupations in which you will find pastors' spouses! Your pastor's spouse brings many talents and gifts to your church: some are readily visible as they are used within the local church, many may not be readily observed.

We value those spouses who are able to devote their time and talents volunteering to teach a children's Sunday school class, working in VBS, participating in the church's music ministry, and leading in women's and men's ministries. We know less about those spouses who work full-time outside the home and may have their own professional careers.

October was Clergy Appreciation Month. During November when we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us also express appreciation to all pastor's spouses. Take some time to get to know your pastor's spouse and to learn more about their interests, talents, and occupation. Then offer them your thanks and support for becoming the person God has equipped them to be: in the visible activities at church as well as in the less visible activities beyond your church.

ABC Chaplains Help With Soldiers Returning Home

Lt. Col. Ronald D. Cockroft gives tips for reunions between soldiers and their families. One of these tips is for the soldier to live as a guest in his or her own home until everyone is adjusted to the homecoming. "We have all made a year's worth of memories without each other and we need time to get to know one another again. As we adjust, we must each give

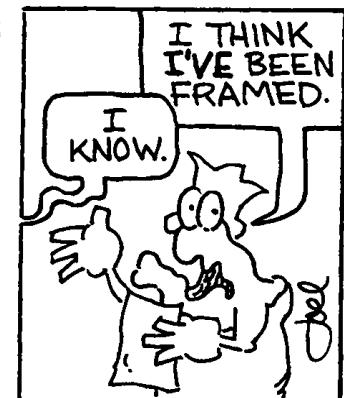
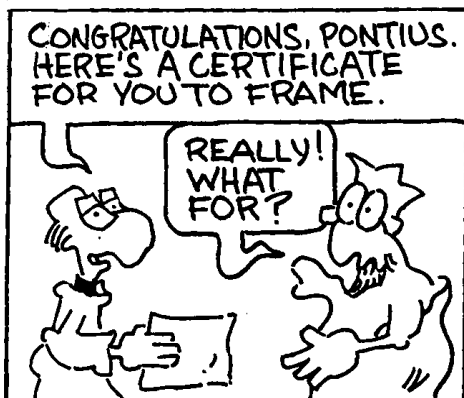


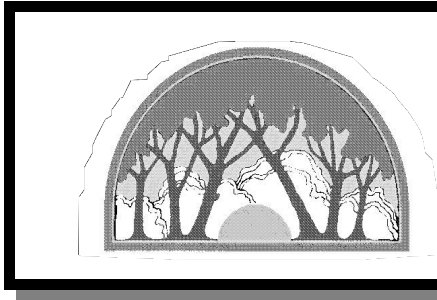
Chaplain Cockroft visits a school in Afghanistan.

the other [family members] time to invite us back into their lives. And the biggest thing that families need when soldiers return home? "Patience," Cockroft says.

Cockroft uses his personal experience as a springboard for what other soldiers likely go through as well. "In what ways have each of you changed in this past year? I keep looking at myself and attempting to define the ways that I have changed. There may be some ways that I may not be willing to admit to myself. There are always changes that I cannot see in myself that others will be able to see first."

Pontius' Puddle





Camp Moses Merrill News

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WARD CONFERENCE CENTER & CALVARY LODGE WINNING PRAISE

The Ward Conference Center and Calvary Lodge are being praised by a variety of groups that have used the facilities. Usage continues to grow as people spread the word about the advantages of having meetings, retreats, and family gatherings at Camp Merrill.

"Nebraska Baptists are really responding to the opportunities provided by the new buildings," said Program Director MaryBeth Robertson. "Outside groups, as well, are finding this a great place to use year round."

For information about your church, family or non-profit group using the conference center or other camp facilities, contact MaryBeth at 402-666-5639 or mrobertson@campmerrill.com

THANKS > > >

Continued thanks to all who have been a part of the Building Bridges Campaign. Your gifts are already making a difference in the lives of children, youth and adults who come to Camp Merrill. We are also appreciative of the gifts of needed items to keep camp going.

Adult Ministries Conference



Plans Underway for Advent Vesper Services

Camp Merrill is hosting Sunday afternoon Vesper Services during Advent. The services will be at 4 pm in Friendship Chapel on Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24.

The camp is specifically inviting neighbors in Saunders and Butler counties but will welcome everyone who would like to experience Christmas at Camp Merrill.



If you'd like to have a Christmas gathering at Camp Merrill, it's not too late. Call for information, 402-666-5639.

Picture on right is of Joe Huss and Beth Dietrich, camp staff, who were grilling hamburgers for Adult Ministries. Adult Ministries pictures clockwise from upper left, 1 Conferencees, 2 Roger Fredrikson, 3 Roger and Kathy Brown, 4 Roberta Williston with ABC-USA Volunteer Ministries Director Vickie Goff.



Camp Merrill Turkeys Not Worried About Approach of Thanksgiving

Camp Director Clarence Reiss has guaranteed the turkeys at Camp Merrill will not be on the table for Thanksgiving Dinner. "Our NO HUNTING policy will protect the turkeys for another year," he said. "Guests report enjoying hearing the gobbling noise coming from the forest."



From the Associate Executive Minister for Professional Ministry Dave Lundholm

Local Church Licensing and Local Church Ordinations:

I've had two questions from two separate churches in the last week about the procedures for local church licensing and ordinations so I thought it would make sense to explain the process to everyone.

Every local congregation can license and every local congregation can ordain.

A **license** recognizes a church member's ability in one or several areas of ministry and authorizes the person to engage in those ministries on behalf of the local church. A license also has a set time limit usually somewhere between three to five years. For example a license might read: "John Doe is hereby licensed to minister to prison inmates from this date until five years from this date." The licensing is done by a simple vote of the congregation at a regular or special business meeting and can be revoked by the same kind of action. There are two reasons that you might consider granting a license for ministry: You may desire to recognize that the individuals service to the church or their ability are well above average. Or they may be called to ministry in a setting outside the local church that may require licensing (all prisons and many nursing homes require ministry to be done by licensed ministers.)

A **local church ordination** recognizes a church member's ability in all areas of pastoral ministry and authorizes them to do all pastoral functions on behalf of the church. There is no end time on an ordination. Although a local church ordination could be accomplished by a simple congregational vote, a better process would be to have a time of questioning of the candidate and prayer and discernment followed by a vote of the congregation and a service of ordination. To revoke an ordination, the congregation would go through the same process that they used to confer ordination.

Local church licensing and local church ordination differ from a **standard denominationally recognized ordination** in the area of scope. A local church ordination authorizes ministry only in or around the local congregation and is not portable. For example a person ordained locally by the First Baptist Church of Omaha would have to go through the process again if they moved to First Baptist Church of Fremont.

Some ABC Associations have procedures for granting ordinations that are recognized by all of the churches in an Association (but not in the rest of the Region). Some ABC Regions have procedures for granting ordinations that are recognized by all of the churches in that Region (but not in other Regions). Nebraska has neither process.

In Nebraska, the next step up from local church ordination is a full nationally recognized ordination, and the process for that is through the ABC of Nebraska Department of Professional Ministry.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

November Deadlines

November 7, 2006 - Print Copy

November 10, 2006 - E-Mail

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Subject: Messenger

ALLIANCE FBC: Promotion Sunday was held Sept 10. All classes met together for refreshments and a brief program. The first ABY meeting for the season was held Sept 10. The sponsors served a sloppy joe supper followed by the showing of the Velocity video "No-ing God" Funeral services were held for Ray Mashburn and Walter Ball during the month. Pastor Rowe conducted the afternoon vespers at the Good Samaritan Health Care Center during September.

ANSLEY FBC: On Sunday, Oct 1, the church celebrated its 120th birthday. The annual birthdays of the congregation were also celebrated at this time. During morning worship service the church's history was presented by Marguerite Bristol. Everyone enjoyed a Fellowship dinner at noon. In the afternoon, Kelly Bell gave a video presentation of the Woolstrum families summer trip to Rome and the surrounding areas. All then enjoyed birthday cakes and ice cream.

ARNOLD FBC: Bernelda Lehmkuhler celebrated her 80th birthday at an open house on Oct 14. Soup suppers will be held on the third Sunday evening of the month in lieu of the Heart to Heart breakfasts through February. A Hallelujah Party was held on Oct 31, with attendees dressing as characters from the Bible. High school students are doing children's church.

BEATRICE FBC: The Campus Crusade for Christ group from Peru State College was in charge of the worship service on Oct 8.

BELLEVUE NEW LIFE: The Installation Service for new pastor Rev. Michael Friday was held on Oct 22. Executive Minister Susan Gillies presided and Dr. Haddon Robinson from Gordon-Conwell Seminary was the preacher.

BROKEN BOW FBC: The White Cross dedication was Oct 1. They met their quota in record time and opened it up for the whole

church to be involved. The Church won 2nd place in the churches category for their Fair Parade float. David McAlvey, Lou, Vickie and Maria Valdez rode on the float and threw candies to the kids, along with Dorthy Pracht and Pastor Betty. The float represented this year's theme of "Where Town Meets Country" with Ron Johnson driving the tractor pulling the mock-up church-front float. First Baptist Church Broken Bow held their 125th Anniversary celebration the weekend of August 12 and 13. There was an almost full house for the kick-off concert Saturday night with Blackwood Legacy. Executive Minister Susan Gillies offered an encouraging and challenging message on hope, at the Sunday morning worship celebration that was following by a potluck fellowship. These are exciting days for Broken Bow FBC. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

CHADRON FBC: Members took part in the CROP Walk on Oct 8.

CHAPMAN FBC: The ABWM Fall Rally was held at Chapman on Oct 30.

COLUMBUS FBC: The Deacons hosted a barbeque for the church family on Oct 1. The York Association ABW Fall Rally was held at FBC on Oct. 21.

FAIRBURY FBC: The Wednesday Night Dollar suppers have resumed. The BYG teens held a "Death's Door" on Halloween and the day following for the community. Joel and Doris Cardwell of Habitat For Humanity in Mission, SD, shared with the church on Oct. 9. Some of the church family gathered together to watch NASCAR races on a big screen on Oct. 8.

FREMONT FBC: "Just Walk Across the Room", an evangelism thrust, began on Oct 15 and will continue through Nov 5. The Omahaland ABW Mission meeting was held at FBC on Oct 8, with Rebecca Adams and Grand Island Pastor Charlie Gregory speaking on "Missionary Kids' Perspective on Missions." The FBC Day Care has 132 children enrolled. The Young at Heart enjoyed a trip to Norfolk to visit the Johnny Carson Museum, and to Madison to the museum. Eric Purcell, Bryant Frazee, and Lee Holzerland shared about their Thailand Mission Trip on Oct. 1.

GIBBON FBC: A carry-in dinner was enjoyed on Oct. 5, followed by a report by Lucy Witt on her mission trip to Russia. AWANA held food pantry night on Oct. 18. ABWM held the birthday party at GSC on Oct. 16. Carl and Sandra Borden donated a mobility cart to the church. A combined youth group of Faith United and FBC spent a Sunday evening at Chramosta's Pumpkin Patch.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: Kay Chipps of FBC was chosen to receive the Valiant Woman Award by the Church Women United Fellowship, and received the award at a banquet on Oct 6. The ABW entertained at a noon luncheon on Oct 18 for area ABC churchwomen, where they heard Michael Mann, Missionary to Thailand.

HOLDREGE FBC: The church staff was honored at a pot-luck fellowship dinner. Children's clubs held an open house on Oct 18, with the theme "Discovering God's Treasures", using a pirate theme. Registrations were taken for the All-Stars for Jesus program, which had begun on Oct. 4. The FBC Foundation Board purchased two new computers for the church office. Thelma Gibb celebrated her 80th birthday on Oct. 7.

JUNIATA CC: The annual Beef 'n Noodle Supper, sponsored by the Women's Society, was held on Oct 18.

KEARNEY FBC: We rejoice in the safe return of Pastor Stan Murdoch and his wife Pam from a trip to the Holy Land.

LA VISTA, JUDSON: The ground breaking for our expansion was held! We ask for your continued prayers that this project will run smoothly. It is our hope to be using the new addition at Easter time. The J.O.Y. Club (Just Older Youth) took a mystery trip to the U. S. Weather Bureau Facility. The 26 in attendance learned about tornadoes and all types of

weather conditions and saw the launching of a weather balloon. Several members attended the Omahaland American Baptist Women and Men's meeting in Fremont to hear Rebecca Adams and Pastor Charlie Gregory speak on missions. The youth are selling Christian Calendars with the proceeds going to new church development, and they are selling like hot cakes. Nine members attended the ABC Adult Ministries Conference. We have 32 kids signed up for AWANA. Judson had its annual all-church Hayrack Ride and Weiner Roast, complete with horses, wagon, games, food and a roaring bonfire. A clothing drive for the needy was held this month. Pastor Appreciation was observed each Sunday in October with special presentations, music, gifts, cards and encouragement. We need to spread this out throughout the entire year and not just one month. The members of Judson would like to send our congratulations to Rev. Stan Murdoch on being named Nebraska-Clergy person of the Year by the American Baptist Men.

LINCOLN FBC: A Holy Convocation was held on Oct 7 to conclude a time of study for spiritual discernment. A "Trunk or Treat", which is part of FBC's *Outreach to Community*, was held on Oct 8. Students decorated car trunks, and had candy in the trunks for the children to "trick or treat" out of. Servanthood Day on Oct 28 was observed by doing a day of service at the People's City Mission.

MASON CITY FBC: The 125th Anniversary of the church was celebrated in August. Susan Gilles spoke during the afternoon service. Former pastors present for the occasion include Pat Moore and Bill Ragan. Dorothy Mason, 92, was the oldest member present.

MCCOOK FBC: Interim pastor, Rev. Stanley Upchurch, resigned from the duties at FBC, which were effective Sept. 30, and he and his wife have returned to their home in Burden, KS.

NORFOLK FBC: FBC is cooperating with other local churches in "Better Together" program. There will be small group meetings, beginning with a HOST Huddle at Christ the Servant Church on Oct 22, a Mission Fair on Oct 29 at First Presbyterian church, and two more events in November. The Women's Fall Banquet, with the theme "Heaven Is a Wonderful Place", on Oct 12.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: The North Platte ABW Association fall luncheon was held at FBC on Oct 12. Fall activities are in full swing with the choirs back to work (including Living Christmas Tree rehearsals) Noah's Park (Kids Klub) and Wednesday suppers. The Quarterly Business Meeting was held on Sunday, Oct 8 following the worship service and potluck dinner. Rick Warren's study "40 Days of Community" is going strong with 9 small groups participating. One group took part in the CROP walk as a community project.

OMAHA BENSON BC: "100 Years of Ministry" was celebrated on Oct 13-15. On Friday evening a talent program was enjoyed. Saturday events include brunch, greetings from former pastors Rev. Darrell Heidner and Dr. Nelson Griffins, who were present, and a letter

from Rev. John Akers, a BBQ, more singing and sharing of memories, and on Sunday a continental breakfast, and "O Worship the King" during the worship services.

OMAHA FBC: The fall schedule is in full swing at FBC. Electric Wednesday Activities are up and running with great attendance and plenty of enthusiasm. A Quarterly Business Meeting/ Congregational Update was held on Oct 15. First Baptist will be hosting two events for Omahaland Baptist Churches. Rev. Paul Marine of Benson Baptist will share his experiences from his trip to the Sudan this past summer at a Brown Bag Lunch starting at noon Nov 1. All Omahaland churches are invited to hear this presentation. We will all also host an **Omahaland Thanksgiving Service** on Nov 22 at 7:00 p.m. There was such a positive response to the Music Extravaganza held there in July that they decided to invite all the Omahaland Churches to worship together and give thanks for the blessings of the year. Canned food items will be collected and given to the Benson Baptist Food Pantry.

OMAHA GREATER ST. JOHN: The congregation continues to struggle to make utility payments but the members have responded positively to the challenge to give to those even more needy than themselves. The church began a "Mission Jar" this summer. It is at the front of the sanctuary and members put in whatever coins they have, remembering the Bible story of the widow with two coins. The contents of the jar are given to ABC's United Mission.

OMAHA KING SOLOMON: Pastor Al Wagstaff hosted a lunch meeting of African-American pastors at Camp Moses Merrill on Oct 25.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: The church is helping support Susan Linderman, an ABC missionary to Bulgaria.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: The Installation Services and reception for new pastor, Rev. Ron French, were held on Oct 22. Susan Gillies delivered the message. The annual Baked Steak Dinner was Oct 21. When Rev. Bob and Fayetta Molby were given the right hand of fellowship, it was revealed that Fayetta was the 1,000th member in Sunset Hills' 47-year history. Berneda Woodle, the last remaining charter member, participated in the observance. Sue Horgan has resigned after more than 14 years as church office secretary. Stewardship 2007 will begin with a celebration lunch after worship Oct. 29.

SCOTTSLUFF FBC: The Women's Ministry held a "Ladies Night Out" on Oct 17, meeting at the church for a salad supper. A "Fall Hoe-Down Harvest Festival" was held on Oct 8, which included a "harvest stew" cooked over an open fire in the parking lot, and Pairs and Squares Square Dance Club entertaining. A silent auction (kids who would two hours of whatever the buyer wanted) was held to raise funds for World Mission Offering. Miriam Bown celebrated her 80th birthday in September.

TECUMSEH FBC: The AWANA students are

collecting money for the Project Angel Tree, here the children of prisoners will receive Christmas gifts. The CE Board hosted a breakfast to honor and thank all who volunteer in the areas of Christian Education, on Oct 29.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS of ABC/NE Churches:

WILSONVILLE: We had a fun filled day with much laughter and good food at the Fall Rally here on Sept 24. Sometimes we wonder if it's worth the effort to go and Wow I think so. We lost one of our local "saints" this month and have been missing Velma Holtze a lot. Such a busy worker in the church. We have a "small group" an offshoot of our Bible study last winter and have been doing many outreach programs locally. On Oct 15 we host a soup and pie supper and the whole community is invited for food, fun and fellowship.

FREMONT FBC: Hershel and Janice Nuzum, Larry and Marcia Hill, Nicole Schlueter, Kim Wisnieski
HOLDREGE FBC: Jaimee Silver, Nathan DeJonge, Brock Rademaker
LINCOLN FBC: Pal Chol Rantie
SUNSET HILLS: Jesse and Kathy Brown.
NORTH PLATTE FBC: Rebecca Wickham and the Dr. Doug States family.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

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



Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow!

Have a Wonderful THANKSGIVING

Trivia answers

1. B St. Louis
2. A Nicaragua
3. B Koinonia House of Worship in Bellevue
4. Merrill was a foreign missionary since he served in a territory rather than a state.
5. ABC is non-majority. No group has over 50%.



God's blessings never cease.



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