

Great Rivers Regional Scholarship Programs

Scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people **who are members of Great Rivers Region American Baptist Churches** to secure a college and/or seminary education. Scholarships for any college student (regardless of major) or seminary student from the Gernenz-Shurtleff/Wilcoxon Scholarship are available. Ministerial students attending ABC-related schools and seminaries in preparation for ministry can also apply for the Harold O. Long Scholarship. **All applications must be received in the GRR office by April 1, 2019.**

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to:

Scholarship Committee
Attention Debbie Naugle
PO Box 13457
Springfield IL 62791

Phone 217-726-7366
Email: debbie@abcgrr.org

Mainstream Contact Information

Send your stories of mission and ministry. Please also send the names of new members to:

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle
East Peoria, IL 61611
Ricks4LR@comcast.net

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711 Phone: (217) 726-7366 Email: debbie@abcgrr.org Web: www.abcgrr.org To subscribe or unsubscribe to The Mainstream or to change contact information, please send an e-mail to Debbie Naugle with your request: debbie@abcgrr.org.

New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

First Baptist Church, East Moline, IL Welcomes: Libby Swanson, Annie Thirtyacre-Inmanm, and Debbie Maddux

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks:
Email: revrick4@comcast.net

Videos of Growth Conference Speakers Now Available

Rivers Growth Conference (2018 Annual Gathering) are now available in streaming (**from this site**) and dvd formats. (Contact the office of the GRR for dvd ordering information.)

Experience again - or for the first time - witness of God's work presented by David Fitch, Shane Claiborne, Tony Campolo, Sharon Koh, and Wally Holt (GRR church revitalization).



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

*Be a vessel that God can pour his love through.
Let It Flow*

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web: www.abcgrr.org

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Calendar

2019

January:

18 - 21: **SKWIM**
Green Lake Conference
Center, Green Lake, WI

March:

9: **Area V Annual Meeting**

29 - 30: **Face To Face**
First Baptist Church
Indianapolis, IN

April:

13: **Area III Annual Meeting**
FBC Champaign at
Savoy, IL

26 - 27: **GRR Clergy Spouse**
Retreat - LSBC

May:

4: **Area I Annual Meeting**
Blackhawk Baptist Camp
Oregon, IL

9 - 11: **RESOURCE Leadership**
Conference
The Chateau Hotel &
Conference Center
Bloomington, IL

GRR Intern Grant Program

Many churches have discovered that part-time internship programs provide an effective means for churches to enhance their existing ministries or to explore new ministries during the summer months. These internships not only expand the ministry of the church, they also provide a significant opportunity for people to explore ministry vocations and to receive meaningful coaching in ministry.

The GRR Intern Grant Program is designed to challenge GRR churches to use interns to enhance existing ministries or to explore new ministries. Funding of this program is made possible by the Des Peres Legacy. This is how it works:

The church designs a ministry that would benefit from a Summer Intern. The design includes the ministry to be done, the time frame for the ministry, and a plan for ongoing training, coaching and evaluation. The church will prepare a job description for the internship, and commit funds in its regular church budget. Based on the merit of the proposal and the availability of funds, GRR will award a matching grant (up to a maximum of \$3,000) to the church for enhancing the financial support of the Intern.

Any GRR church in good standing with the Region can apply. **Applications are due April 30, 2019.** Check the GRR website (www.abcgrr.org) for more information and an application.



A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister

It's here! You see it all around and you hear about it most everywhere....

CHRISTMAS. It includes decorations, cookies, lights, trees, carols, programs, family gatherings, presents, shopping, traveling, and so many other things. It's a great time of year and I hope you enjoy it all.

But remember, the true meaning of Christmas centers around the One whose birth we celebrate, Jesus.

If you want to give Him something for His birthday, **give Him yourself and your service to Him and others.**

He would enjoy your present of giving to others in His name.

Holiday times don't make us immune to other things happening, and one of those sad things happened to **Debbie Naugle** and her family on Thanksgiving morning. They received word that **her brother James had passed away sometime during the night.** In times like these we are even more thankful for the Christ child, who not only came to give us life, but to give us eternal life. So, we thank God for being with the Naugle family during this time and ask that you will keep them in your prayers.

I know some folk would say that Christmas has become so commercialized that it almost makes them sick. The best way to overcome/change that is to make sure you spread the love, joy and peace of Christ to everyone you are around. Let them know that Jesus is alive in

you, especially by the way you love them and respond to them. Don't let them steal your joy. "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know, fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go." What song are you singing this Christmas season? Not only is this time of year all about Jesus, but for followers of Jesus, it's about Him all year long.

What picture of Jesus are you showing people? Do they see love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, patience, and self-control? It's easy to let the busyness of the season get in the way of those things.

Merry Christmas to all of you from your regional staff. We pray that you have a safe and blessed Christmas season. **May others see Jesus in you.**

And remember, be rightly related to God and find your joy there and out of you will flow rivers of living water. Be a vessel that God can pour His love through.



The Church Revitalization Initiative CRI

The Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI) is designed to help committed pastors and church leaders who are willing to do what it takes to revitalize their church. The Initiative is comprised of pastors and church leaders who have helped lead their churches

to healthy revitalized congregations. If you are feeling stagnant and/or undecided how to move forward, please email me (wallyholt63@gmail.com) and we can discuss your situation and determine if the team can be of service to you.



News From Jon and Amanda Good - Global Servants From Hungary

We celebrated this Thanksgiving in an unusual way. Our family attended a conference for area missionaries. As we gathered to worship near this beautiful stream, God interrupted our plans. We had just finished our opening song and a man standing nearby began a conversation with us. He and a few others had come to baptize a family of refugees. They shared with us that there is unprecedented revival taking place and that many are accepting Jesus. They have witnessed over 100 baptisms this year.

Our group of missionaries became the choir for this special occasion. We sang songs of praise as each one came up from the chilly stream. The joy radiating from their faces was as warm as the sun. We praise the Lord for this Thanksgiving Day worship.

Please pray for the new Christians and for those who will continue to share the good news of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Amanda and Jon Good

Mission Giving Opportunity

NightLight International in Bangkok, Thailand, led by IM missionary Annie Dieselberg, has been ministering to Thai women who seek to leave commercial sexual exploitation and gain ethical employment. Song Sawang Church, whose lead pastor is Jeff Dieselberg is a safe place for women to worship and to bring their friends and families to introduce them to the love of Christ.

With over 14 years of successful ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, NightLight has been paying rent for its current location and is at risk of losing the space. Song Sawang Church ministry has been seeking a new location.

By securing the needed \$379,000, a significantly reduced price over market value, NightLight can purchase the building it currently rents. This building is adjacent to NightLight Design's permanent location, so jobs could remain without disruption. Furthermore, when remodeled, the two buildings together will have enough square footage on the first floor to accommodate Song Sawang Church. Annie and Jeff are excited to see how God is answering the prayers NightLight has prayed for many years! "What an amazing Christmas gift that will enable Nightlight to continue to minister to countless women who seek dignifying employment, and for the church to provide a way to introduce the families to God's grace," says Annie,

International Ministries is excited to announce that, thanks to a generous donor, all gifts to IM for this project up to \$100,000 will be DOUBLED between now and December 31, 2018.