

2019 Calendar

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

- May 31 - June 2: **GRR ABWM and AB Girls Conference**
Radison Hotel & Conference Center, Normal, IL

June:

- 21 - 23: **ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit**
Virginia Beach, VA

July:

- 20: **Area V Annual Meeting**
Bethel Baptist Church
Columbia, MO

GRR Website

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

Costa Rica Mission Trips

Costa Rica - Mission Discovery: October 28 - November 5, 2019
9 days, 8 nights including travel.
Group of 8 - 24. Cost: \$2,000 which includes \$250 as an offering for a yet to be determined project. The application and a \$750 deposit are due by July 31, 2019.

Costa Rica - Ministers Partnership Work Project: February 3 - 11, 2020
9 days, 8 nights including travel. Cost \$2,000 including airfare and a \$500 investment in the work project. The application and a \$750 deposit are due by November 15, 2019.
Group of 6 - 10

For more information contact John Grisham - john@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

Videos of Rivers Growth Conference Speakers Now Available

Videos are available in streaming (**from this site**) and dvd formats. (Contact the office of the GRR for dvd ordering information.)



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

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

April 2019 No. 1

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

Download **Color** or **B&W** for printing. Online edition interactive



May 9 - 11, 2019

Small Church Pastors' and Leaders' Conference - Equipping Pastors and Ministry Leaders

Keynote Speakers and Artists:

Dr. Jolene Erlacher founded Leading Tomorrow in 2013 to equip churches, businesses, schools, missions agencies and other organizations for effective inter-generational leadership in an evolving culture.



Rev. Dr. Dennis Edwards, Associate Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary.



Michele Pillar, three time Grammy and Dove Award nominated Recording Artist, Speaker, and Author

Dr. Lina AbuJamra, pediatric ER doctor and founder of Living with Power Ministries.



Andy Gullahorn, singer / songwriter.



The Chateau Bloomington Hotel & Conference Center

1621 Jumer Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704

To book your **Chateau Bloomington Hotel** reservation (\$99 / night), refer to group code ABCGRR at (309) 662 - 2020 or (309) 665 - 5671.

Register by May 1, 2019

There is a **link** to register on the ABCGRR website.

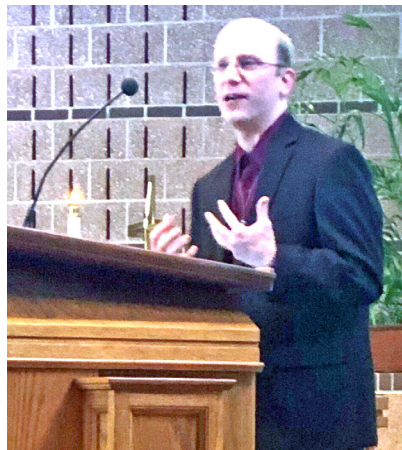
Registration fee of **\$35.00** covers event fee only.



**A Word From Paul Gibson
ABCGRR
Executive Minister**

RESOURCE CONFERENCE. It's almost here, but you still have time to sign up and participate in this exciting event. It takes place **May 9 - 11 in Bloomington, at the Chateau. You can sign up on our website, abc-grr.org.** The speakers are amazing, and the workshops are top-notch. I am looking forward to seeing you there. Special thanks to Northern Seminary and Judson University for partnering with us in this venture.

We had a special gathering at **First Baptist of Bloomington** last Sunday as they held the **installation service for Pastor Brian Hastings and his wife Gabrielle.** Congratulations to the church and to Pastor Brian.



We have some sad news to pass along. We lost two people connected to our region. **Rev. Clyde Masten** passed away last week. Clyde had

served in over eight churches in our region, with the most recent being at First Baptist of Mattoon. We also received news that **Taku Longkum-er's brother, Imkong,** passed away on March 24th. Please keep both of these families in your prayers.

Another sad note. We closed on the **sale of First Baptist Church of East Alton** last Thursday. The last service of the church was held on March 31. We give thanks for the great ministry that took place in this church for over 100 years, but we are always a bit sad when a church must close.

Two special events will be happening this summer that I ask you to consider attending. The first one is our **ABCUSA Biennial, June 21 - 23 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.** It's a great time of worship, learning, and connecting. The second event is the **75th anniversary of the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin, on August 6 - 9.** This place holds many precious memories for thousands of American Baptists over the years. Hope you can attend one of these wonderful gatherings.

Easter is just a little over a week away, and my wish for you and yours is still the same...**Be rightly related to God and find your joy there, then out of you will flow rivers of living water. Be a vessel that God can pour His love through.**



Clergy Spouse Retreat 2019

Ruth and Naomi

A Study About Surviving Loss

**6:00 p.m. Friday, April 26 -
3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 27**

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
5878 Iron Bridge Road
Springfield, IL 62629

Retreat Leader:
Rev. Sharon Olson, Assis-
tant Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist
Church, Rock-
ford, IL



Cost:
\$40.00 for the weekend (includes
lodging and food)
\$15.00 for First Timers.

Send Registration To;
Judi Mills
7812 Hunt Road
Springfield, IL 62712

All clergy spouses are invited.
This includes spouses of pastors and
other church ministry staff postions
both active and retired.

2019 Biennial Mission Summit

Register now to attend the **American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Mission Summit, June 21 - 23, 2019** at the **Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, VA.** The theme is **"Summit by the Sea".**

Mission Trip News

A group of 20 from **FBC Mahomet, IL** and **FBC Kansas City, MO.** including **Rev. Clark Irwin of FBC Carthage, IL** and **Dr. John Grisham, the GRR Costa Rica partnership Liaison,** returned from Costa Rica March 23, 2019.

There were many highlights during the nine day experience. A communion service at Iglesia Ciinco Esquinas in San Jose was celebrated with Rev. Pat Murphy of Mahomet, IL at the Table with the church's pastor, **Rev. Johnny Sabario.** The group visited with three San Jose churches: Cinco Esquinas, Leon Trece, and Oikos. We engaged in conversations with four American Baptist International Missionaries Global partners: **Sue Hagerty, Ruth Vindas and Sarah and Peter McCurdy.**

Five nights of the trip were spent at **Baptist Camp Ochomogo.** Visiting this camp brought back memories of the 1990's when 10 groups from the GRR shared in construction of the camp.

Partnership projects included complete interior and exterior redecoration of the Camp Ochomogo Lodge, exterior paint for the Bruns Cabin, and assisting contractors as they replaced the roof and some of the roof structure on the Kokomo Cabin. Group members provided **\$8,000** for paint and paint supplies and for the roof of the Kokomo Cabin.

The group also spent two very rewarding tourist days, at the Tarcoles River and Pax Park and waterfalls.

For information regarding future plans for the Costa Rica partnership please feel free to contact Dr. John Grisham. john@abcgrr.org