

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

October 29, Kearney First Baptist

A Christian Leadership Seminar will be offered by First Baptist Church of Kearney in conjunction with Central Baptist Theological Seminary. The Seminar will be held Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Sessions will include -

1. Improvisation Skills for Pastors, Counselors, Lay Counselors, Church Leaders and Friends

"To improvise is to say the right words at the right moment." Dr. Paul Welter has led improvisation workshops for 20 years.

2. Conflict in the Church and Family System

Every family and every church will face conflict. Pastor Victor Karg has worked at diffusing anger with thousands.

3. Helping Those With Addictions

Does someone you know need help with Alcohol or Drugs? Jill Cook has worked in this setting for the last 9 years.

4. Bringing Your Bible Alive

Awareness of Holy Land sites, archaeology, and history - Pastor Stan Murdoch and his wife, Pam have taken several tours of the Holy Land.

Registration can be made by calling First Baptist Church of Kearney at 308-234-2311. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch. For further questions go to: www.kearneyfirstbaptist.org

ABC of Nebraska Staff

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Associate Executive Minister.....	Dave Lundholm
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Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving



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American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



Oct-Nov 2011

ABC/NE Date Data

Adult Ministries Conference
Oct. 3-6
Moses Merrill

Fall Pastors Seminar

FBC Kearney Leadership Seminar
Oct. 29.

Holidays With the Merrills
Fall Festival
Nov. 12
Moses Merrill

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Missional Church

Energizing & Equipping Nebraska Churches

ABC/NE churches from across the state are embarking on an experience designed to help them become more involved with their communities in ways that demonstrate Christ's love.

The Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) will engage participating churches in a nine month process to design and put into practice a small community project that will serve as the church's learning tool. The MCLE is a cooperative project of local churches, ABC/NE, and the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

Executive Minister Robin Stoops said, "The Missional Church Learning Experience has the potential to revive our relationship with Christ and our communities. It is vital for us as the church to become less focused

on us and more focused on Him if we take seriously becoming His hands and feet."

Steve Wisthoff, pastor of Second Baptist in Lincoln, a participating congregation, said, "These early years of the 21st century have found us struggling to move in a positive direction. The adoption of the missional church philosophy and theology allows us to

become reignited by the Great Commission. We can once again focus on becoming a 'sending' church that recognizes the mission field is in our own backyard."

Everyone is encouraged to pray for the churches in both the eastern part of the state and the western part of the state that are engaged in this process.



Live the Word— Proclaim the Word— Be Transformed



The 2011 World Mission Offering theme, **Live the Word > Proclaim the Word > Be Transformed** celebrates global evangelism, exemplified by the inspiring efforts of committed global Christian partners. The movement toward Jesus

is strong throughout the world, especially in Asia, Latin America and Africa. American Baptist missionaries, volunteers and churches are a part of this movement. Thanks to each ABC church for supporting these efforts through gifts to the World Mission Offering.

Most ABC/NE churches receive the World Mission Offering in October. This offering supports ABC mission overseas. October is also the month churches participate in World Communion Sunday. Executive Director of ABC's International Ministries, Reid Truelson writes, "October 2 is World Communion Sunday. I urge you to make global evangelism your theme as your church joins with millions of other believers around the world in a spirit of unity and shared belief."

From the Executive Minister Robin Stoops

An Old Man with A New Song

The story of Zachariah is a story that I must admit I have passed by many times. I have always given myself the excuse that it is just some prep for the good stuff: the birth of Jesus. However, I have come to realize everything we have in the scripture is there for a purpose. The story of Zachariah is no different.

eyes and his heart were opened wide. When John the Baptist was born, Zachariah made a profession of faith we should never forget. He starts with praise for God's blessing, then bursts into song, remembering God's faithfulness throughout history and sharing his new opportunity. He now has the privilege to serve God without fear!

Zachariah was an old priest. If we looked for fame and fortune, we wouldn't be looking in his direction. There isn't much notable in his life. Finally, he has the opportunity to enter the temple in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. His trip.....life changing. When he enters, it is what he expects: awesome. But not in the way he expected. The Bible says: "an angel of the Lord appeared to him." At this significant happening, Zachariah was startled and overcome with fear. Have you ever noticed that when an angel appears the angel almost always begins with "Do not be afraid?" I am pretty sure the angels of our Lord don't look anything like the ones on our shelves.

Our relationship with God is often tempered by our fear of His willingness to judge us. There is no question we should fear (revere) God for all He is and all He has done. But in Christ we can leave the fear behind. "Fear not!" the angels say, God has looked upon us with favor, freeing us to know Him in an intimate relationship through His Son, Jesus Christ. Our ministry and mission must be bold, holy, passionate and cutting-edge, not by the world's standards but by God's. We must step out in faith, living what we know to be true about our call to be His hands and feet without fear.

Celebrate! Sing! Shout! And proclaim the truth in all that we are for the sake of the Kingdom -

Fearlessly trusting.
Robin



The angel had a message. A fantastic, unorthodox, out-of-the-box message for Zachariah, after years of praying and pleading he and Elizabeth were going to be parents! It was too much for old Zach. He could not imagine God doing something so wild and crazy. His lack of faith caused his mouth to be shut, but his

Thanks to ABC/NE from Dave Lundholm

I thank God for all of you and the wonderful celebration at convention of my 20 years of ministry with you. Thanks for the cards, letters, gifts and expressions of appreciation. It was a convention I will warmly remember for years to come.

Some of you asked what has been most rewarding in this ministry. The answer is easy. I have loved the celebrations: installations, ordinations and anniversaries. Helping new ministerial relationships become established has been a blessing to me.

I encourage you to continue the good work that God has begun in you.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement. Philemon 1:4-7

Blessings!

Two Special Retreats Planned for ABC/NE Women October 7-9

ABC/NE Trivia

answers on P. 4

There will be two retreats for Nebraska Baptist women on the same weekend. One in the eastern part of the state and one in the western.

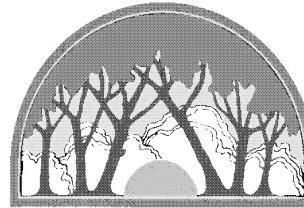
EASTERN: Moses Merrill Conference Center will host the eastern retreat Oct 7-9. Registration/room/meals \$95. The speaker will be Beryl Horberger.



WESTERN: This retreat will be a **one day event** on Oct. 8 at FBC, Chadron, 8:30am-7:30pm. Continental breakfast and dinner will be served at the church. Lunch on your own. No registration fee. There will be child care.

Both retreats will feature a unique opportunity for renewal and fellowship. Contact Moses Merrill or FBC, Chadron.

1. Before it was called, American Baptist Churches, USA, the denomination had what name?
A. Northern Baptist Convention, B. Assoc. of Baptists, C. American Baptist Convention, D. North American Baptists, E. Both A & C
2. The two major program boards of the ABC are referred to by which initials?
A. IM & ABHMS, B. EM & NM, C. MMCC, D. OGS & IM
3. Which of the following designations indicate the ABC's retirement board?
A. EM, B. ABCRB, C. ABCRET, D. MMBB
4. Approximately how many ABC churches are there in the USA?
A. 1800, B. 3800, C. 5500, D. 7500
5. Which of the following was not an early Baptist leader?
A. Adoniram Judson, B. Luther Rice, C. John Mason Peck, D. Roy Medley



Moses Merrill News

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Don't Miss This Opportunity . . .

HOLIDAYS WITH THE MERRILLS

November 12 10am-4pm

HOLIDAYS WITH THE MERRILLS is an annual combination fall festival, craft fair, open house and all around good time. Everyone is invited.



Wagon Rides

— fun for the whole family

Musicians

— relax and enjoy a variety of musicians

Arts & Crafts Fair

— wonderful opportunity to buy Christmas gifts!

Storytelling

AND Exhibits of Thanksgiving and Christmas decorating ideas

— two Lodge Rooms, two cabins and the chapel will be decorated

Chili, Turkey Noodle Soup, & Corn Bread Lunch with Homemade Pies —

only \$7.00 per person

If you'd like to stay overnight on Friday or Saturday (or all week!) there are cabins and some other available lodgings. Make reservations as soon as possible.

If you'd like to be a part of the volunteer team that makes this event possible, contact camp at the phone number or e-mail address above.

Put the Dates on Your Calendar . . .

CHRISTMAS AT FRIENDSHIP CHAPEL

Advent Services 4:00 pm

On Nov 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

On Dec. 24



From Camp Cat . . .

Just a quick note to invite you to come to camp this fall. You might get a chance to meet the two new "trainee" camp cats I've brought on site. I'm getting older and can't do it all alone. The new kids have practically rid the camp of mice! They give me more time to rest . . . My favorite thing!
Your friend, Camp Cat



ABC-NE Group Will Travel to Myanmar on Special Study Trip

Executive Minister Robin Stoops and four ABC-NE pastors will travel to Myanmar (Burma) in early November. The trip will include pastors from the ABC of the Rocky Mountains and be led by Reid Trulson, Executive Director of ABC's International Ministries.

Along with Stoops, Nebraskans participating are Brad Daniels, FBC, Chadron; Ron French, Sunset Hills; Gam Lahpai, First Kachin; and Harry Riggs, FBC, Lincoln.

The trip is designed as an intensive mission study and cultural immersion experience.

It's Not too Late. . .

Adult Ministries 30th Annual Gathering Moses Merrill — October 3-6



Seniors and others are encouraged to participate in this special event. **Call camp NOW to register 402-666-5639.**

The theme is "God Spirit? Seeing God in Everyday Life."

Robin Stoops will lead a study of II Timothy. Grace Wisthoff will talk about spiritual mentoring. There will be skill sessions and other special interest activities.

There will be time for music, relaxing, visiting, walking in the woods, visiting the North Bend Toy Museum, golfing, hands on activities and mission projects.. Do as much or as little as you wish!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Two Leaders Receive Honors

ABMen's Layman of the Year

Steve Bottum

At the annual conference of American Baptist Men in August, Layman Steve Bottum was named the organization's Layman of the Year. Steve is a member of Benson Baptist Church in Omaha. He has been active in participating and promoting the work of ABMen.

Steve has worked to draw men into increased participation in church life, outreach and fellowship.

ABMen's Pastor of the Year

Rev. Paul Marine

At the Men's Lunch at the ABC/NE Region Convention in Kearney in September, Rev. Paul Marine was named ABMen's Pastor of the Year. Paul is pastor of Benson Baptist Church in Omaha and a long time supporter of ABMen.

Paul is a passionate advocate for all God's people being actively engaged in ministry and mission.

Benson Baptist is a leader in support of ABC/NE and Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center both in volunteer service and financial support.

Encourage Your Pastor to Attend . . . Fall Pastors' Seminar October 17-19

All ABC/NE pastors are invited to participate in the annual Fall Pastors' Seminar at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center, October 17-19. Churches are urged to encourage their pastors to be a part of this continuing education experience.

The topic for this seminar is: Pastoral Counseling: A Refresher Course. The speaker Dr. J. C. Chambers.

The Seminar will include time for worship, study, recreation, and fellowship.

Pastors registration, lodging and meals will be paid by The Carpenter Fund for those who participate in the entire program.. Pastors should contact the region office if they would like to attend.

INTERIM MINISTRY TRAINING October 19-20

An Interim Ministry Training Event will follow the Fall Pastors' Seminar at Moses Merrill.. This training is for persons engaged in interim ministry or interested in doing interim ministry.

Leadership will be provided by Rev. Linda Bergeon, an ABC-USA Minister at Large, with extensive Interim Ministry experience..

The training will begin at 2pm on Wed and conclude at noon on Thursday. The Carpenter Fund will also support attendance at this event.

THANKS . . . To everyone who gave time, money or supplies to support the ABC ministry in August in the Black Hills during the motorcycle rally. This ministry makes a difference! May next year be your year to volunteer!

Fremont Pastor Speaks In Latvia

A number of ABC-NE pastors do notable mission work outside of Nebraska as well as within. One of these, Pastor Gundar Lamberts, FBC Fremont, recently went on a mission trip to Latvia (formerly of the Soviet Union). While in Latvia he preached in three different Latvian Baptist churches in Ogre, Riga, and Valmiera, preaching five times. Three times he spoke in Latvian since there was no one to interpret for him. From these services ten people came forward to commit or recommit their lives to Christ. He also led an adult Bible study at the Trinity Baptist Church family camp.

Trivia Answers

(questions on p. 2)

1. E. ABC-USA has also been known as the American Baptist Convention and the Northern Baptist Convention.
2. A. IM—International Ministries and ABHMS—The American Baptist Home Mission Societies.
3. D. MMBB—Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.
4. C. There are about 5500 ABC churches in the USA and Puerto Rico.
5. D. Roy Medley is the current General Secretary of ABC-USA.

Reflections on the 2011 ABC/NE Annual Convention

THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME...
WILL DO GREATER WORKS THAN THESE...
~JOHN 14:12



ABC NE
STATE CONVENTION
2011



