



**Register Today!** The American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit will meet in Portland, Oregon, June 30 - July 2, 2017

**Keynote Speakers:**



Rev. Sharon T. Koh, who will speak on the theme "Connected to Christ" on Friday evening, June 30, is executive director/CEO of **American Baptist International Ministries**



Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, who will speak on the theme "Connected to Each Other" on Saturday evening, July 1, serves as executive director of **American Baptist Home Mission Societies**.

The Sunday morning worship service will feature an invitation to the incoming General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA to address American Baptists. The General Secretary is expected to be named prior to the Biennial Mission Summit.

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711 Telephone: (217) 726-7366  
Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org) Web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://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](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org).

**New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region**

**First Baptist Church, Greenville, IL Welcomes:** Bobbi Smith, Troy Moore, and Sharon Moore

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**GRR Website & Mainstream**

For more news of mission and ministry, **go online** and click on the links (brown lettering) in these columns.

Overwhelmed by social media, looking at web sites, reading the valuable e-mails after deleting all that spam - including traps set to lure you into malware?

Take a break! Do something seemingly unheard of these days: invite someone you have met over to lunch, take note of a new person in the church and arrange a time for an outing...BUT, leave your smartphone in your pocket or purse during that time.

E-mail GRR Webmaster, **Richard Ricks: [revrick4@comcast.net](mailto:revrick4@comcast.net)**

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**Mainstream Contact Information**

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

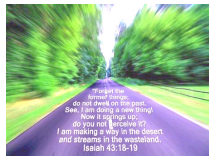
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**The Mainstream**

**News of Ministry and Mission**  
American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region



**God's New Thing**

April 2017 No. 2

Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org)  
Online edition now interactive

web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

**2017 Calendar**

**April:**

30: **Area IV Annual Meeting  
FBC Mattoon, IL**

**June:**

2 - 4: **GRR ABWM Conference  
Effingham, IL**

23 - 24: **American Baptist Men's  
Annual Gathering  
DeKalb, IL**

**June 28**

- July 2: **ABCUSA Biennial  
Portland, Oregon**

**August:**

18 - 19: **Baptist History and  
Polity Course  
ABC-GRR Resource  
Center, Springfield, IL**

**September:**

28: **Minister's Conference  
Chesterfield, MO**

29 - 30: **GRR Annual Assembly  
Chesterfield, MO**

**October:**

14: **Professional Boundaries  
Course  
ABC-GRR Resource  
Center, Springfield, IL**

**Spotlight on Church Planting**

Last fall our **regional board decided** to give half of our church planting funds (\$350,000) to church planting projects around the world. Seven church planting projects have received money. Each one is being highlighted in an issue of Mainstream as well as on the GRR web site.

**Spotlight 3: Song Sawang Church Expansion, Bangkok, Thailand**

Song Sawang church needs to find a new location that would belong to the church and would be close to where many of the present members live. They also need to make sure that they are located close to the heart of Bangkok where the Nightlight ministry is located. They actually want to plant three churches, with one of them being in the Nightlight area. This project is under the direction of **Jeff Dieselberg** and his vision is to continue reaching out to the people of the city, while other groups seem to be moving out. The total needed over two years is around \$200,000, and we are giving **\$50,000** to the ministry. Be praying for them as they continue to follow God and do His work in the fast growing area. We are blessed to be a part of this crucial ministry to seek and save the lost in the Bangkok area.

## A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister



**BE IN PRAYER:** We got word about a week ago that **Paul Rollet** had taken a nasty fall while hiking in a rugged area of the Philippines. He fell about 10 feet and then rolled another 20 feet. He suffered a fractured spine and a badly fractured foot. He has also developed an infection. People who were with him said that it was a miracle that he did not suffer any head injuries. Since then he has been transported back to Manila and has undergone some surgeries to deal with the most important items. Those surgeries have gone well and plans are being made for the next steps. During this whole time he has also been dealing with a lot of pain. His mother Laura left for the Philippines and was by his side a couple of days after the fall. Please keep Paul, his family, and his ministry family in your prayers. **To help with his medical expenses there is a Go Fund Me Page through Central Baptist Church, Springfield, IL, <https://www.gofundme.com/paulrollet> or give to Central Baptist, Springfield IL in his name.**

**Northern Seminary News.** A couple of weeks ago Northern Seminary announced plans to relocate and to develop a new plan for training people for ministry. The relocation is not drastic, but it means some changes in the traditional way of doing Seminary. Go to **their website** to get more info on the move. Last week

Northern rolled out its new church planting initiative, led by President Bill Shiell and their church planting person, David Fitch. That is also worth checking out on their website. Pray for them as they seek to meet the needs of churches and church planters in the years ahead

There are **two groups that I would like you to pray for** during the coming weeks and months. One of those groups is our **campus ministries**. They do a tremendous job reaching out to students during a very important time in their lives. We have four of them in our region, and they continue to need your prayers and financial support. The other group is **camping ministries LSBC & BH**. The next few months are their busiest times. All year long they have been preparing for the summer months, getting the camps ready, and finding directors and leaders for each of the camps. During this last week Melissa and I were blessed to visit both of our camps and meet many people involved in that ministry. Our region is blessed to have such devoted leaders working in this vital ministry.

Please keep the dates for our annual gathering this fall in Chesterfield in your plans, and also consider our Biennial gathering in Portland this summer. Also continue to pray for our staff as we transition in the coming months and as we welcome our two new area ministers, Patty Bilyeu and Rex Rogers. This is an exciting time, with a few challenges tossed in.

Finally, remember to be rightly related to God through Jesus Christ, 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.

## International Ministries Announces Spring Matching Gift Challenge

**The Spring Matching Gift Challenge** is a unique opportunity to see your generous support for International Ministries and the global servants you care about **DOUBLED** in impact! Out of a desire to inspire new and increased support for global servants, several generous partners have come together to create a \$47,000 Spring Matching Gift Fund. From now **until June 15 or when the matching funds run out**, whichever comes first, your crucial financial support for an International Ministries global servant can be doubled!

Your gift can be matched when:

- You increase your recurring gift amount if you're already giving monthly, quarterly or annually. (For example: If you increase your recurring gift from \$100 to \$150, \$50 will be doubled.)
- You pledge a new recurring gift to support the work of International Ministries and our global servants. (For example: If you make a new pledge to give \$100 every month, \$100 will be doubled.)
- You make your first one-time gift to International Ministries. (For example: If you have never given to International Ministries before and you make a one-time gift of \$75, all \$75 will be matched.)

You can give online, <https://internationalministries.org/drives/52>

By Phone with credit card: Call Carol at 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2323, or Mail check to: International Ministries, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

## Area IV Annual Meeting

*Doing God's New Thing Together*

Date: **Sunday, April 30, 2017**

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Registration begins at 2:00

Place: **First Baptist Church of Mattoon**  
1804 South 9th Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

Keynote Address: **Dr. Molly Marshall** President, and Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation, at **Central Baptist Theological Seminary** in Shawnee, Kansas



Evening Worship Message by **Rev. Muriel Johnson**, Regional Associate Minister Serving Area IV

Cost: **\$15.00 for Adults**  
**\$ 5.00 for children (8 - 18)\***  
**Children under 8 free**

Send check payable to **GRR - Area IV** to FBC Mattoon or **register online at [abcgrr.org](http://abcgrr.org)**

\*Children 8 to 18 will go **Isaak's Family Fun Center** where they will play laser tag, miniature golf and climber play from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Pizza will be provided. If you have more than 3 from your church please have an adult to help supervise.