

# Central Region Life

MARCH 2023

## SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS: THE GIFT TO GO!

Jesus said, "Go!" American Baptists know the message and command of the great commission:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20, NRSV).

Mission is part of the DNA of ABCUSA – we're called to be missional at home, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Thankfully, American Baptists take seriously God's call to "Go!"

But when, where, and how are we to "Go!?" Partnering with the Lord in God's global mission is more than spontaneously pulling up stakes and moving our families to a foreign country on a feeling or urge without an invitation. Mission is always initiated with an invitation from the Spirit of the Lord! We join God's mission in Christ to evangelize and serve the nations (Gen. 10-11). Great mission trips always start with an invitation of the Spirit to join God's mission to a place and people – because it is always God's mission, not ours or the churches' saving work in the world.

Our invitation to "Go!" arrived on Wednesday, October 26, 2022. The Spirit of God prompted the Rev. Charles Jones, Senior Area Director at International Ministries, to contact me about a teaching need at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in Monrovia, West Africa. The school needed someone to teach graduate students New Testament Theology during a two-week intensive in January 2023. My immediate response was, "Yes! Here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). I had prayerfully asked God to guide me to a short-term mission experience. Of course, I would need to ask my family and church's permission, which they joyfully and unanimously approved. We were ready to say "yes" because the Lord had prepared our hearts, minds, and bodies for a short mission trip, thanks to prayer.



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Next, I needed to find a traveling companion. Jesus sent his disciples two by two into the mission field (Luke 10). To be faithful to God's mission in the Bible, I felt compelled to find someone to travel with me. God invites us to partner in mission with family, friends, churches, agencies, international networks, etc. I do not believe God calls us to work in God's mission field alone! After asking a couple of people to consider joining me prayerfully, God revealed my missionary partner would be our adult daughter, Jessamine. She is a senior and ABWMCR scholar at Ottawa University. Jessa was finishing her final semester in Secondary Education: English. The trip fit perfectly into her schedule before she needed to start student teaching. She served in the seminary library and the English department while I taught theology.

There were hundreds of details to address before the trip, including passports, visas, flight plans, securing supplies, multiple vaccinations, and documents. The biggest challenge was raising \$7,000.00 for our travel and expenses in less than six weeks. We trusted the Lord! If God called us to "Go!" the Lord would provide the funding. God was faithful! God was "able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). The Lord provided us closer to \$11,000.00 for this trip. We realized the Lord had bigger plans than just teaching and working in the library. The Lord showed us several mission projects God planned to accomplish as we listened to the Spirit and our new friends in Liberia:

- Theological books and supplies for the seminary library,
- Poultry and project funds for the seminary farm community,
- Electrical, plumbing, and repair projects on the campus, and
- Fish and food for the seminary cafeteria and nutrition program.

IM also invited us to visit the project sites funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (World Relief Committee) at the Antioch Baptist School and Church, which happens to be the special project for the American Baptist Women's Ministry of the ABCCR. [We will write about each of these projects in future CR articles.]

Our primary goal for this short mission trip was to "Go!" be good guests. We were invited as honorary guests of Dr. Momolu A. Massaquoi, seminary president, and the LBTS community through our national partner, International Ministries (American Baptist Foreign Mission Society). We planned to be exceptional guests who were open, honest, humble, reliable, and obedient, just as Jesus instructed his disciples in Luke 10.

The Liberians did not invite us to be rigid, demanding, bossy persons from a privileged world; shortcomings of North Americans we heard about on our previous mission trips to Albania, Costa Rica, Oklahoma, and Mexico. They needed us to be guests who quickly joined the community, submitted to their leadership, and accepted our tasks freely by asking them what to do, how to do it, when, and why. Yes, we honestly shared our limitations and needs, which they joyfully accommodated, like reducing the spiciness of the food.



The trip was a success because we made countless new friends, and LBTS graciously gave us Liberian clothes and African names (yes, we have new names), and they often said, "You're not like other north Americans. You didn't hide out in the guest house but assimilated right away. You were flexible, humble, and didn't tell us what to do." The greatest joy was being asked to come again, "next time for a year or more."

The three weeks went by quickly! There are innumerable lessons learned on this trip which we will write about in future CR articles. We were the objects and subjects of mission; God was working on and in us as much as through us. The biggest lesson I learned was the trip was altogether a gift! God invited us to "Go!" IM and LBTS invited us to "Go!" by partnering with IM's Office of Short-Term Missions. My wife and family said, "Go!" West Side Baptist Church in Topeka said, "Go!" by giving me paid time off without using vacation. Friends and family said, "Go!" with their prayers and financial partnerships. The ABCCR Mission & Evangelism Vision Team said, "Go!" with their financial support and encouragement. Central Seminar said, "Go!" with their donation of academic journals for the seminary library. We will truly be eternally thankful for the gift to go!

We want to go again. However, we first must ask: how can we say "Go!" to others around us? God is actively working in global mission. There are ABCCR churches and members who feel the Lord inviting them to "Go!" join God in international service – short-term and long-term. How can we call, train, and send servants to "Go!" be great guests and servants in God's mission field? How can we as individuals and churches prayerfully partner with God in global mission by supporting the Lord's servants each month and annually through the World Mission Offering? Hopefully, if God offers you the gift to "Go!" your family and ABCCR churches will say "Go!" for the glory of God in Jesus' name.

Blessings,  
The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter  
Senior Minister at West Side Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas  
Vice President of the Board of Directors, International Ministries



## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES MISSION DISCOVERY TOUR TO LIBERIA, AFRICA:

Join IM Area Director Charles Jones on a Discovery Trip to Liberia, May 24 - June 2, 2023. It is an opportunity for a team of twelve people to meet with the IM partners: Link Aid International, Liberia Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention, the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, Ricks Institute, Lott Carey Baptist Mission, Liberia Tribal Baptist Convention, and the Liberia Direct Baptist Missionary Conference. A unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the historic relationship between American Baptists and Liberian Baptists, and between Liberia and the United States of America.

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MARCH 24

[More Information Here](#)





# PRAYER IN LIGHT AND DARKNESS

REV JENNIFER SCHNEIDER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

This week I started reading Tish Harrison Warren's book, *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep*. In her book, Warren, an Anglican priest, meditates on one of the prayers towards the end of Compline. Compline, or the Night Prayer, is the final prayer liturgy in the Common Book of Prayer for the end of the day and just before night. Each chapter is a look at a section of the prayer.

Warren takes an honest look at what it means to be a person of faith who must live in both the light and the darkness. She recognizes each of us needs comfort and hope in times of struggle, fear, and loss. None of us are safe from pain and death. Warren believes "we need practices that don't simply palliate our fears or pain, but that teach us to walk with God in the crucible of our own fragility." (19). Truly we are fragile creatures, and it is in those times of darkness we can, and should, turn to God.

I was struck by a blurb on the inside cover of the book. James K. A. Smith said in his review of the book, "Prayer is how we press our hands into the invisible and find the hand of Christ reaching back." What a fearsomely beautiful image. When we reach out in our deepest need, we have the assurance Christ is there, reaching back.

Below is the Compline prayer from Warren's book. Sometimes, when we feel most helpless, we struggle to find the right words to pray. Here are some words to speak into the darkness.

"Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen."



## GOOD FRIDAY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TOPEKA  
3033 SW MacVicar Ave  
April 7th, 2023  
7:00 pm

Combined worship service with:  
First Baptist Church - Lawrence  
First Baptist Church - Topeka  
New Hope and Love Community Church  
New Life Baptist Church  
West Side Baptist



[Link to Good Friday Livestream](#)

# AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE CENTRAL REGION

## "OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP"

This "Opportunity Scholarship" is awarded by the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region to encourage lifelong learning. It was established by the ABCCR Board of Directors in 2005. Two \$1000 scholarships are awarded each spring. This is a general scholarship to encourage higher education (beyond high school). It is a one-year award and students who wish to be considered for an additional year must reapply.

Deadline for applications is  
March 15, 2023

[Apply Here](#)



# SEEKING AND FINDING

BILL POLAND, ABCCR PRESIDENT

A friend of mine is an avid coyote hunter. Whenever I was riding in a car with Doug, he would see a coyote, and once it was pointed out to me, the animal could be seen plain as day. After having spent a considerable amount of time with Doug, I began to see the coyotes, sometimes even before he would point them out. As time passed, I began to see more and more animals out in the wild, not just coyotes. I'm pretty sure there weren't more coyotes, I had just trained myself to see them.

We can train ourselves to see and find things. It's intentional, it takes time and effort, it takes a desire to discover. Knowing God's plan for your life is the same, you have to look for it. Knowing God's plan requires us to know God; to know God, we must seek him. The scriptures tell us if we seek God, we will find him.

God's plan for us is found in Matthew 28: 18-20 (18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.")

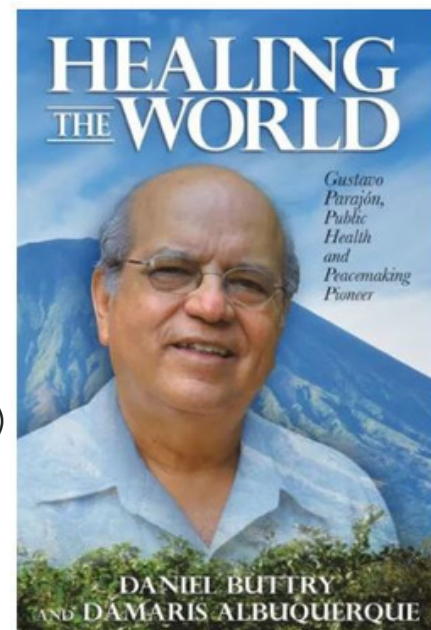
The Church as we know it is changing, the truth of God is not. We must seek to know God in our changing world if we hope to fulfill his call in our lives. Together we can reach the world for Christ, together we can make disciples of all nations. Let us not give up meeting together, let us encourage one another.

## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE...

Romans 12:13 – "Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home."

Gustavo Parajón (1935-2011) could have been a successful medical doctor in the United States. Instead, he moved his young family to Nicaragua and served the people of his home country.

During his lifetime, he was many things to many people. He was a medical doctor who launched a campaign to rid his country of many common diseases. Following the massive 1972 earthquake that crumbled Managua, Nicaragua, Gustavo gathered church leaders and together they developed a program that would have a deep and lasting impact on the poor of their country. When First Baptist Church of Managua found itself without a pastor, Gustavo filled the vacancy. During Nicaragua's civil unrest (1978-1989) he visited insurgents and Government leaders alike to promote peace; always traveling without bodyguards. During the armed conflict in Nicaragua, the Parajón family welcomed refugees into their home from either side of their nation's conflict.





# Security and Safety Awareness Month

## Prairie Homestead Senior Living

March 12th thru March 18th is Security and Safety Awareness Week. For many, and especially seniors, feeling safe and secure is a top priority. Prairie Homestead Senior Living would like to share 5 tips to help everyone stay safe.

**1. Be observant and aware.** Often, we are focused on our task at hand and don't look at what is happening around us. When you are out, being observant of suspicious activity can be a proactive step in staying out of harm's way. When you are home, don't open the door unless you know who is knocking.

**2. Install good lighting.** Keeping things light and bright can help reduce trips and falls. There is also a direct relationship between outdoor lighting and crime: better lighting will deter offenders who benefit from the cover of darkness. Improved lighting means that offenders are more likely to be seen by someone who might intervene, call the police, or recognize the offender. Don't forget to install timers if you are gone for an extended period of time.

**3. Get to know your neighbors.** Neighbors that watch out for one another are a terrific safety net. Knowing when something isn't right can help alert authorities for quicker assistance. Having a sense of community helps with our social and mental health as well.

**4. Consider installing a home security or camera system.** The presence of outdoor cameras and/or home security systems deters criminals and also gives you peace of mind that all is secure. Today, systems can be relatively inexpensive and easy to install.

**5. Consider a medical alert system and fall monitoring device.** Multiple companies offer pendants that can be pushed for immediate support. Systems can range from a small coverage area, such as inside the house, or expanded to wherever you are thru a GPS system. This safety device is especially helpful for those living alone.

At Prairie Homestead Senior Living, we are very focused on safety and security and offer each of these options for everyone living on our campus. From secure entry gates to a community of great neighbors, Prairie Homestead provides a safe and secure campus. By following these 5 tips, you too can feel safe and secure no matter where you call home.



# UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

life above the chaos

## ABCCR CAMPING 2023

### CAMP CHRISTY

- June 5-9: High School; \$229
- June 12-16: Middle School; \$229
- June 19-23: Junior Camp; \$229
- June 26-28: Primary Camp; \$124
- June 29-30: Day Camp; \$90

### CAMP WHITE MEMORIAL

- July 7-9: Primary Camp; \$260
- July 10-14: Junior Camp; \$355
- July 10-14: High School Camp \$355
- July 17-21: Middle School Camp; \$355



**"NOW FAITH IS CONFIDENCE IN WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND ASSURANCE ABOUT  
WHAT WE DO NOT SEE."  
HEBREWS 11:1**

Ages for camp are what the student will be in the fall

High School grades 9-12

Junior grades 4-6

Middle High grades 6-8

Primary grades 2-4



# PLANNED GIVING

THANK YOU

You may or may not know that, like everything else, we use computer software to process charitable gift annuities and other gifts for the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation. Our software provider is PG Calc, which is headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I was very excited because I had the opportunity to attend a free webinar with the company in January on the Legacy IRA Act. The leader of the webinar was Kara Morin, Director of Client Services.

The Legacy IRA Act was included in the large omnibus bill that was passed by Congress last year. The actual spending bill was 4000 pages long and this was a part of that legislation.

I learned so much and I will give an overview of what she shared with us:

The act allows a person who is 70 years old or older to take a QCD or qualified charitable deduction from a traditional IRA and convert it into a charitable gift annuity or charitable trust. Since my focus is on charitable gift annuities, I will speak to that, but if you have other questions, please let me know.

The reason they call it the Legacy IRA act is that you can only do it once in a lifetime.

Each donor is allowed to move \$50,000 from their IRA to a CGA, and if you are a couple, you can each move \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000 to a charitable gift annuity. As an individual, you also have the option of funding two \$25,000 gift annuities that would total \$50,000. If you use less than the \$50,000 limit, the rest of the amount is forfeited and, of course, you cannot go over the \$50,000 limit.

You can only do this with a qualified charitable deduction from an IRA. There are no other combinations available, and you can't add anything later. All QCD payments are taxed as ordinary income and there is no income tax deduction for them.

Still, there are benefits! It allows you a tax-free withdrawal from your IRA and it counts toward your RMD or required minimum distribution. If you are a donor, who does not itemize deductions, it offers you a deduction comparable to a charitable deduction. By turning this into a charitable gift annuity, you turn variable income into fixed income for yourself and/or your spouse.

If you are interested in this and have any other questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me or email me and I will do my very best to provide you with help and answers regarding this Legacy Act or other questions you may have. I will also be adding a page to our website with some of this important information and other details that you might need. Thanks so very much.

As always, please consult your financial advisor and legal counsel before making an important and significant investment decision!

**HELPING YOU TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,  
REV. TIM SCHWARTZ  
KBCF DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING  
913-424-9939/ 785-272-7622  
TIMMANS39@GMAIL.COM  
TIM.SCHWARTZ@ABCCR.ORG**





# *Legacy Of Faith*

CROSSROADS FAMILY GATHERING

April 15, 2023

LOCATED AT: PRAIRIE

HOMESTEAD SENIOR LIVING

1605 W May St, Wichita, KS 67213

## REGISTRATION

\$5.00 per person to attend the gathering

\$10.00 additional for the luncheon

Email Cindy Fritz at [cindyfritz26@gmail.com](mailto:cindyfritz26@gmail.com)

or phone her at 785-820-1640

Please register to attend by or before April 1

# Agenda

9:00-9:30- Registration Open

9:30-10:15-Worship- Chapel

Music- Meridian Ave. Baptist Church Praise Team, Wichita, KS

Devotion- Rev. Mike Justice

Milton First Baptist Church, Milton, KS

10:15-10:50-Business Session

Approve Minutes from last CRA Annual Gathering

Treasurer's Report

Vote to Approve 2024 Proposed Budget

Election of 2024 CRA Officers and Representatives

10:50-11:00 Short Break

11:00- 11:45- Prairie Homestead Presentation/Panel

Brenda Janda, Executive Director, will share about the facility while a panel of residents (including a few retired ABCCR ministers) will talk about their experiences there and in ministry

11:45- 1:00 Tours will be available for those who are interested which will end with a Luncheon featuring a buffet of lasagna, salad, and dessert

## Psalms 78:4

WE WILL NOT HIDE THESE TRUTHS FROM OUR CHILDREN;  
WE WILL TELL THE NEXT GENERATION  
ABOUT THE GLORIOUS DEEDS OF THE LORD,  
ABOUT HIS POWER AND HIS MIGHTY WONDERS.



# BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - MULTIPURPOSE CENTER PROJECT

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

We are very excited to share the status of the second phase of our expansion project with you and others in our churches. Construction of our activity and multipurpose center is in full swing! Last November, the ground preparation began and now the building foundation is being poured. So many of our children and families we serve tell us **how happy they are to see Bethel Center, the place where they feel love and support**, is now being expanded to provide a larger space for them to have fellowship, learn new things, exercise and promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles. We sincerely thank our community of faith for your continued support of the Bethel ministry. Your partnership with Bethel continues to allow us to provide programs and services that help to transform lives in our community.

We hired the Miller Stauch Construction Company to build our new multipurpose center. We hit an obstacle, unfortunately, and we are hopeful that your church will help us overcome it. We must raise an additional \$800,000 to finish the construction of the new center due to circumstances beyond our control. The original construction budget prepared by our architectural firm was too low as labor and construction costs have gone up very high within the last two years.

Unfortunately, we started the second phase of the expansion project in one of the highest-inflated construction markets experienced in decades. As a result, we were forced to increase the construction budget to reflect the following:

- Inflation
- Energy Cost Increases
- Labor Shortage
- Material Cost Increases
- Supply Chain Disruptions
- General Contractor Coverage



All of this had an impact and continues to have an impact on the costs to complete the construction of the multipurpose and activities center.

Your consideration and continued funding support for this project are requested and will be greatly appreciated. Dr. Mang Sonna, the Bethel Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and those in the communities we serve acknowledge the generosity of our churches and its members. Without your support, many of the services we provide could not have been achieved.

Your support is creating a brighter future for so many children, families and Seniors who find HOPE at Bethel. We can't say thank you enough!

With deepest gratitude,

Dr. Mang Sonna, Executive Director  
Sandra Olivas-Talavera, Board President  
Dr. Robert Southard, Campaign Co-chair  
Marylou Reiter, Construction Chair  
Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, Board Secretary  
Rev. Richard Copeland, Vice President  
Mary Etta Copeland, Campaign Member  
John Pauls, Board Member,  
Rev. Jan Smith, Board Member



# PRAYER EMPHASIS

REV. TIM SCHWARTZ



As I was praying and thinking about this month's prayer focus, this is how the Holy Spirit led me.

Whether you call it Lent, a 40-day spiritual adventure, or a journey to the cross, let us meditate, ponder and reflect on everything that Jesus did and went through on his way to Golgotha!

Some people give up things as a sacrifice during this time to show their love for Jesus. So, this is what I suggest as a challenge for all of us: let us give up complaining and grumbling during these 40 days and every time we want to complain or grumble, let us pray. Let us pray for those who need healing, whether it's spiritual, emotional, physical, or mental. Let us pray for the suffering, the hungry, the houseless, the addicted, and those going through trials and calamities. Let us pray for our communities, our nation, and our world; that God would be at work through us to bring peace, hope, and love; not only through our words, but through our actions as well! We can pray for any other intention, request, need, or concern in our hearts.

You could pray a prayer of praise, joy, or exaltation also. You might even keep track of it in a journal or a notebook, but you don't need to. Let us focus on the unconditional, never-ending, all-encompassing love of Jesus, who went to the cross and gave his life as the eternal sacrifice and love gift for our sins.

As the scriptures say: "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before He endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12: 2-3 (NASB)

# Upcoming Events

## "No Turning Back"

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-15 MSG

APRIL 26-27, 2023

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH  
304 S SENECA  
WICHITA, KS



DR. JERRY CAIN, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Registrations are due by April 10, 2023 in order to prevent the assessed late fee. Housing is not provided but there are many reasonably priced hotels/motels in the Wichita area.

Many fun activities have been planned by the Sr. Adult Retreat Committee.

These will include:

Bible Study led by Dr. John Clark

Bells led by Jan Smith

Virtual Tours of 7 churches led by James Callaway

Chair Exercises led by Morgan Bandy

Region Moving Forward led by Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen

Getting on Down the Tracks Interest Group led by Janet Crowl

"All Aboard" craft led by Lois Chiles

Choir led by Bob Artz

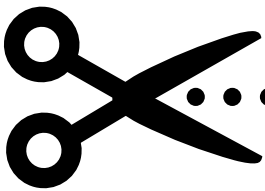
Fun coloring contest, puzzles, more fun, and fellowship.

Hope to see you there!



REGISTRATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.ABCCR.ORG OR THROUGH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH OFFICE.

JOIN THE FUN!



### ABCCR SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

April 26-27, 2023

West Side Baptist Church

304 S. Seneca

Wichita, KS 67213

"No Turning Back"

Philippians 3:13-15 (week)

Guest Speaker, Dr. Jerry Cain

Registration Deadline - April 10, 2023

\*\*\* \$10 Late Fee Assessed if Postmarked After April 10, 2023

Cancellation Policy: A full refund will be given if cancelled by April 19, 2023

\$25 non-refundable cancellation fee per individual after April 19, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(If registering as a couple, please write spouse's name below)

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

& City: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

• Full Retreat (includes program and meals) per person \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85.00 per person

• One Day only (Wednesday or Thursday) per person \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60.00 per person

Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Senior Adult Retreat** and mail payment and completed registration form to:

Senior Adult Retreat

% ABCCR

5889 SW 29<sup>th</sup> St.

Topeka, KS 66614

If you are interested in finding a roommate to share motel expenses, please indicate by checking the appropriate boxes:  
 Please help me find a roommate  Male  Female

**Housing is NOT provided.** Those attending the Senior Adult Retreat will need to make their own housing arrangements. Your internet search will reveal many reasonably priced motels in the Wichita area.

Dietary Requirements: Sugar Free  Gluten Free

First Time to Attend the ABCCR Senior Adult Retreat? Yes  No

Registration Begins Wednesday at 11:00 am Retreat Begins with Lunch at 12:00 noon

(Cut here and retain this stub for your records and information.)

ABCCR Senior Adult Retreat – West Side Baptist Church, 304 S. Seneca St., Wichita, KS – April 26-27, 2023  
 Registration begins at 11:00 am on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> Retreat begins with lunch at 12:00 noon.

The Sr. Adult Retreat will end mid-afternoon on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup>

Amount paid to Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ Check number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_





## PRAIRIE PASTORS

CONFERENCE

When: March 27-29, 2023

Where: Sunset Hills Baptist Church  
9416 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68114



To register you can scan the  
QR Code or [CLICK HERE](#)

There is no cost to attend, however, lodging and some meals will not be provided.

# Speakers



Barbara and Dwight Bolick: They are on a special assignment, based currently in College Station, Texas. Barb is completing a PhD in Youth Development, in order to make the Talita Cumi Girls' Clubs Project both evidence based and effective. She is introducing the Girls' Clubs in Bolivia, and continues supporting the program in Chile, as she provides mentor training and contextualized written materials. Dwight is training partners in Central America in rainwater harvesting, installing model systems, and encouraging the use of this water-collection method in addressing the severe water crises throughout the region.



Toya Richards: She is endorsed to serve in Cape Town, South Africa as a teacher and professor at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary - a ministry of IM partner the Baptist Union of Southern Africa. Drawing upon her extensive career and experience in print journalism and communications, Toya will teach intermediate to advanced English language skills and research methodology, preparing students to meet the demands and requirements needed for advanced seminary studies. She will also be involved in emerging community initiatives through the CTBS Center for Biblical Justice. Toya is currently building her Mission Partnership Team and raising the funds needed to begin her ministry in South Africa.



Debbie and Keith Myers: They serve in Central Mexico. They partner with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico, AR, to provide pastoral accompaniment to the indigenous churches. This consists of training pastors, church leaders, youth leaders, and teachers for the children. Debbie and Keith serve in four states in Mexico and work with 34 churches within these states to empower the people.

# Schedule

## **Monday March 28**

1:30 pm Pre-Conference Orientation to ABC Life

## **Monday March 28, 2023**

3:30 pm Registration

5:15 pm Welcome

5:30 pm Dinner – Provided by MMBB

6:45 pm Worship

7:00 pm Presentation by Dwight and Barbara Bolick

Fellowship time

## **Tuesday March 28, 2023**

8:15 am Breakfast hosted by MinistrElife

9:30 am Worship

10:00 am Session #1 Missionary Panel/MMBB

10:50 am Break

11:00 am Session #2 Missional Panel/MMBB

11:50 am Lunch – hosted by individual regions

1:30 pm Free Time – MMBB and speakers available for discussions

American Baptist Foundation presentation at 1:30

Dinner on your own

(AB Women in ministry will be meeting at Hector's at 5pm if you are interested in having your meal with them)

6:45 pm Worship

7:00 pm Presentation by Keith and Debbie Myers

8:30 pm Group Photo and Fellowship Time

## **Wednesday March 29, 2023**

9:15 am Worship

9:30 am Presentation by Toya Richards

10:30 am Break

10:45 am Closing Worship and Communion



## Application Period



All grant proposals must be received in the Region Office no later than April, 15, 2023. Successful grant applicants will be notified after the ABCCR Board of Directors meet in May. Remember, all grants shall be determined on a competitive basis according to the guidelines enclosed.

Grant money will be awarded once a year.

For more information,  
contact the Region Office

785-272-7622

jennifer.schneider@abccr.org  
or  
gregg.hemmen@abccr.org



### American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

5889 SW 29th Street  
Topeka KS 66614-5505  
Phone: 785-272-7622

Jennifer.schneider@abccr.org  
or  
gregg.hemmen@abccr.org

### Special Ministry Grants

Do You Have an  
Idea to Reach  
Your Community,  
But Lack the  
Money??



Let Us Help.....

**On February 15, 2023, the Special Ministry Grant application period opened and will continue until April 15, 2023. Special Ministry Grants are designed for those ministry opportunities you come across but lack the funding to implement. Grants will not exceed \$5,000.00 and will be approved by the ABCCR Board of Directors at their May 2023 meeting.**

**Click below to access the brochure and application.**

**Special Ministry Grant**



# ROOTED

Women's Ministry

Invites you to...



**Tuesdays @ 6:30pm**

**Feb. 28th - Apr. 4th**

**Online via Zoom, hosted by Jessica Henks & Jan Sipe**

*Join us for conversation as we read Heather Holleman's study in Ephesians that helps us fight the urge to compare ourselves to others, and instead see ourselves seated with Christ.*

**REGISTER**

**[rootedwmn.org/studies](https://rootedwmn.org/studies)**