



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO

Region News

From the Executive Minister

October 2007



**ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering
October 18-20
A Special Invitation**

Once again it is time for the ABC/Ohio family to gather for the Annual Meeting. This year the gathering is being hosted by the Miami Baptist Association at the Cincinnati Marriott Northeast in Mason. Registration packets have been sent to every church. Registration forms may be downloaded from the ABC/Ohio website at www.abc-ohio.org.

The theme for this year's gathering is *"Servant Leaders: Called, Anointed & Sent"* taken from John 13:13&14. This theme reminds us that God calls every believer to be a servant leader who is willing to follow Jesus' example and wash one another's feet.

We are especially honored to welcome **Dr. Milfred Minatrea** as our guest speaker. Dr. Minatrea is the founding director of the Missional Church Center and author of *"Shaped By God's Heart: the Passion and Practices of Missional Churches."* Churches participating in ABC/Ohio's church transformation initiative **Rise Up & Build** have read Dr. Minatrea's book and are working to implement the call to be missional. Dr. Minatrea will speak at the Thursday and Friday evening worship services, and will teach at two seminars on Friday and Saturday. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and personal signing by Dr. Minatrea

In addition to Dr. Minatrea we are honored to welcome ABC Missionary **Kimberly Jo Brown**, who is serving in Thailand. Kim

is well known by ABC/Ohio for her work with tribal people who are coping with the problems caused by AIDS. The House of Love is a home for women and children affected by aids, and are a pivotal part of Kim's ministry in Thailand. A number of ABC/Ohio churches are giving to support Kim and her ministry.

This year's Annual Gathering promises to be one of the best. I look forward to seeing you in Mason as we gather for this annual reunion.

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Give to the World Mission Offering 2007

Jesus, God's living Word, makes all things new... including his followers' understanding of the written Word of God that we already know—or think we know! What happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus on resurrection Sunday has been repeated over and over. Like those first disciples, when we **receive** God's grace, and **give** ourselves to those God puts in our path, we are continually **surprised by the Word**, and **transformed**. This pattern is typical of what we experience when we join what God is doing in mission, and it is the thematic framework for the 2007 World Mission Offering.

ABC/Ohio churches give generously to this annual offering that supports one of the most effective global mission programs in the world. Most recently, at the 2007 ABC/Ohio Missions Conference, Duane and Marcia Binkley introduced us to Karen refugees who live in Akron and worship at the Springfield Baptist Church. This new and growing ministry is a result of ABC's historical mission presence in Burma.

I encourage your church to receive this offering and set a worthy goal for this offering.

In Christ,

Dr. Lawrence Swain, Executive Minister