



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO SOUTHEAST AREA

Cambridge, Lawrence, Marietta, Rio Grande,
Zanesville, and Zoar Associations

FEBRUARY 2008

A Congregational Development Insight -

The ABC/Ohio ministry theme for 2008 is *Overflowing with Hope*. Paul in his letter to the Romans said,

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15.13

Paul was giving instructions to both the individuals and to the church as he encouraged them to trust in God. He knew that joy and peace would be theirs as they put their trust in Him and that they would be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit.

Trusting in God, the God of hope, as decisions are made in your life and even in the life of your church will make the difference, will provide strength, will be the needed encouragement so that God's Spirit will fill to overflowing. In your life and in your church it is that hope that overflows in such a way that it has to be shared. That hope has to be shared with your family, those around you and those you don't even know, yet. May your life overflow with hope.

TRANSITIONS -

- **Rev. Phillip Newhart**, interim pastor at the Torch Baptist Church, has retired (again) and has moved to Florida. Rev. Newhart served many churches in both Ohio and West Virginia as an interim and was an Area Minister on the Ohio Baptist Convention staff many years ago. Our prayers and good wishes go with him in this transition and as he looks forward to marriage this month
- We welcome **Pastor Richard Runion** who has been called as the pastor of the Torch Baptist Church in Marietta Association. Runion and his wife live in Parkersburg, WV. A service of installation will be held on Sunday morning, March 2.

- Welcome to **Mr. Eric Cochran**, who has been called as the pastor of the Oakfield Baptist Church, Zanesville Association. Mr. Cochran, his wife and daughter, live on the east side of Columbus.

COMING EVENTS for ABC/OHIO CONGREGATIONS.

- ☑ February 22-24 - **ABC/OHIO American Baptist Youth Convention** at Heartland Conference Retreat Center - Rev. **David Easter** - Guest Speaker. Cost of 'the Convention' will be \$130.00 per person, which includes all meals Saturday morning through Sunday morning. Registration forms have been mailed to all ABC/OHIO Churches. Info may also be found at www.abc-ohio.org
- ☑ March 14-15 - **ABC/OHIO Leadership Academy** - Intensive III at FBC Sunbury.
- ☑ March 28-29 - **Church Leadership Conference "Experience the Outflow: Everyday Outreach for Everyday People"** The conference will feature Dave Ping, co-author of the book *Outflow*, and Executive Director of Equipping Ministries International. More than 130,000 pastors, missionaries, and volunteer church leaders have been equipped to reach out more effectively from Dave's training. Put this on your calendar - you'll want to be in Columbus at the Karl Road Baptist Church for this event.
- ☑ April 22-25 - **Fanning the Flame** - a national pastors' renewal conference at the Green Lake Conference Center. Included will be inspiring worship, workshops taught by cutting-edge practitioners, and fellowship with national ABC leaders and pastors. Scholarships are available from ABC-USA National Ministries. ABC-Ohio is one of 12 sponsoring Regions. Information can be found at www.abc-ohio.org
- ☑ May 16-18 - ABCUSA International Ministries - **World Mission Conference** at the Montgomery Community Church in Cincinnati. International guests, missionaries, IM staff and music leaders will be there for the weekend to share, and to encourage us all. Make this event, in our own Region, a "must attend event" for this year.

❖ Remember Pastoral Search Committees in your prayers:

- Newport Baptist Church - Marietta Assoc.
- First Baptist Church of Zanesville
- First Baptist Church of Martins Ferry - Zoar Assoc

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Your individual financial gift and gifts from your church help to support the ministries we share within ABC/Ohio. Thank you!