

SOUTHWEST AREA NEWS

American Baptist Churches of Ohio
Clinton, Dayton, Miami and Western Associations

March 2008

"GOING MISSIONAL"

Does God really know our hearts? The Bible says that God knows us better than we know ourselves. We may fool others and we may even fool ourselves, but we'll never fool God. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus promises spiritual power, so that we might be His witnesses – fishers of men (and women). God knows our hearts. He knows whether we are serious about His mission.

Jesus Christ expects His disciples to be on the mission field. To most of us that has meant going to another continent to people who speak a different language. However, God in His divine providence has already placed most of us in our intended mission field. We already know the language and culture. We are surrounded by family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, who are lost, hurting, and searching for hope. They live in our immediate circle of influence (our Jerusalem and Judea), but then there are other people God has called us to reach out to who don't share our values, traditions, or politics and they're our Samaria.

It is vital for every Christian, pastor, and congregation to realize that the mission field begins here in places like Dayton, Chillicothe, Middletown, and Sidney. We are called to start here proclaiming the good news and making disciples and move out into all the world.

This year's annual Region Board Retreat focused on the importance of making connections, building relationships, and strengthening the body of Christ, so that together we might experience the Holy Spirit's power and be Christ's witnesses to the world.

Kings Way Community Church of Mason has recently voted to sell their current facility and go missional. The congregation is seeking to follow God's leading out into the world, so that they might be faithful to the Christ's call and make a difference in their mission field. Please keep Pastor Metzger and Kings Way Community Church in your prayers as they make this critical transition.

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Upcoming Events:

Dayton Area Baptist Association -

Executive Committee Meeting at First Baptist Church,
Dayton on April 8, 2008 at 12 noon.
Board of Trustees Meeting at Shroyer Road Baptist Church
Dayton on April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Miami Association -

Moderator's Dinner on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Baptist Church,
Rev. Mark Click will be the guest speaker.

Montgomery Community Church sponsors Men's Conference:

"Man in the Mirror Ministries"

April 17-18

Contact the church office for registration information.

Western Association -

Discipleship Banquet on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in St. Paris.
Rev. Mark Click will be the guest speaker.
Upper Miami Valley Baptist Men's Fellowship
on April 7.

American Baptist Churches of Ohio -

Leadership Conference on March 28-29 with
Dave Ping, co-author of the book entitled Outflow about
Servant Evangelism. Pastor Tom Lipsey will also be presenting.

2008 Mission Conference in Ohio.

This event is being planned by ABC/USA International Ministries,
ABC/OHIO and Montgomery Community Church.
This conference will be from May 16-18 at MCC.

Please keep the following congregations & search committees in prayer:

Church of Matthew 25, Cincinnati - Pastor
First Baptist, Greenfield - Pastor
First Baptist, Jamestown - Pastor
Heritage Community, Cincinnati - part-time Director of Children/Youth Ministry
Mount Washington Baptist, Cincinnati - Pastor
Mt. Zion Baptist of Woodlawn, Cincinnati - Pastor
Sugar Creek Baptist, Washington C.H. - Pastor

Rev. Don Dewey has been called as the senior pastor of St. Clair Ave. Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ohio.

The ministry of your Minister of Congregational Development, as well as other mission endeavors are made possible by your faithful and generous mission support of America for Christ, United Mission, and ABC/Ohio Specifics offerings.