

## **American Baptist Men**

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To: The American Baptist Men Of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Thank you for the opportunity to share some insight into what the men are doing nationally and how we can help men in the regions and in their local churches. 2004 is going to be a transition year for American Baptist Men as we continue our move from a program board of National Ministries to corporate status again. I believe that by doing this we are going to be able to better serve the men of our denomination.

Our budget for 2004 is \$60,000. This is considerably less than is previous years. We must stay within that budget if additional funds are not secured. With that said, there are major parts of our ministry that we will work to sustain and prayerfully to improve.

The overall ministry must focus upon evangelism. We will continue to enlist the help of Dr. Jeff Johnson, Director of Evangelism, to prepare district directors and other leaders for training in their regions and to do evangelism among lost men and those that are on the fringe looking in. We cannot expect our men to do great things without training, materials and supplies. Our goal is to make all three available to men's ministries throughout the denomination. Our ABYoung Men and Boys ministry continues to rely upon our developed materials and upon men who are comfortable mentoring to this age group. Training will be provided for local church coordinators and materials introduced through the National Youth Advisor. I believe that as we watch this year unfold we are going to see this mentoring ministry grow.

Disaster Relief Program has been one of the strongest incentives for men's ministry. Since FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) asked ABMen to coordinate all of the nationally declared disasters, many have occurred and we have responded positively in cleaning up those areas. The regions recruited disaster relief volunteers, maintained trailers and provided insurance. FEMA made available the coordinating sites and administrative networking essentials. Under this year's budget the ABMen's Ministries USA was able to cover expenses that could not be met locally or financed by FEMA. However, the 2004-5 budget is more limited. We will need additional funds to both sustain our level of involvement and to improve.

The Men In Action Newsletter is an extremely important communications tool for men's work. Stories and services that are taking place in American Baptist congregations need to be printed and shared with other men across the country. Only you can make this happen. This paper identifies who we are, our goals and how we get things done. We have enjoyed it in the past and will make sure that new readers get to enjoy in our future..

The Lord has really blessed this ministry in many ways and the blessings just continue to come. In the last 12 to 15 months doors have been opening in Men's Ministry that I do not believe would have been available to us as a program board. I know that God will provide what we need if we are obedient to His call. American Baptist Men have the ability and the spirit to make a difference just as we have in the past, but we know that it takes dollars to make our many ministries work.

Thank you for considering a booster call for ABMen.

Cody L Pollington

President, American Baptist Men

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### **American Baptist Men's Council**

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