



Penn-Del Tips

The official newsletter of the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware

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A Message From The President

Greetings my Brothers' In Christ,

This past August was the 57th Annual ABMOPAD Retreat. God blessed our souls with eloquent messages delivered by our keynote speaker, Rev. McCown. His messages were powerful and to the point for Christian growth and praises to God. Thank you Rev. McCown. The workshops received praises on their delivery and content. I want to thank all of the workshop leaders for their terrific job. Thanks go to the registration staff, the sound crew, and the praise and worship band and also to Snyder Chalk Ministries. The biggest thanks go to the men and young men that attended and my prayers go out for those that could not due to specific circumstances.

As we go into a new year, I want to encourage you with the following: I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. We need to dedicate ourselves to service in God's name. This year the Booster Club has committed American Baptist Men to go to Haiti and assist with building rubble houses. This is the direction for ABMOPAD, to serve one another in any way possible.

If you have a need contact the ABMOPAD Board of Managers. We are here to serve you. As your president, I am making myself available directly, just call or email me. My goal is to respond within a 72-hour period.

You can email me at ldbattlecomputer@yahoo.com or call me at (302) 533-7935.

In His Service,
Lawrence 'Larry' Battle Sr.
ABMOPAD President

Booster Call 54 Update

Great news from Joanne and Eliezer Mellis, Missionaries in the Philippines.

Our Booster Call #54, Mission Wheels for the Philippines, was a great success. As reported in the past, the men of the region raised \$4,000 to help purchase a vehicle for use in the Mission Field.

Rev. Eliezer has advised the men of ABMOPAD that the mission station has purchased a second hand wagon type truck that will hold 10-15 passengers. See the photo of Pastor Eliezer showing us the keys for the truck. This unique vehicle will enable them to transport their mission of spreading the Gospel of Christ to remote mission stations that minister to the poor who do not have transportation to travel over the rugged country roads in towns or villages of Naguey. This is a remote village in the mountains of Benquet, the people are called Lbaloi which in one of the tribes of Benquet. Pastor Eliezer and Joanne thank the booster supporters for their generous love and support.

Booster Call Number 55 is now under way in support of building Rubble Houses in Haiti. An envelope is included with this mailing. Please prayerfully consider sending in your donation right away so we can make this Booster Call a success!

Bob Swan



Rev. Eliezer Mellis with the truck purchased with the assistance of funds raised from Booster Call 54.



Congratulations Boosters! You have raised nearly \$245,000 over the years. Great job!

Mission Trip Opportunity!

The Lord is calling the American Baptist men of Pennsylvania and Delaware to raise money through the Booster Call to build Rubble Houses in Haiti. Now you and I have an opportunity for an awesome experience by traveling in February 2012 to the Mission Field.

Please prayerfully consider going or helping to support someone or a family from your church or association. The dates are February 25—March 5, 2012, this is a nine day trip. We have final approval from the Haitian Housing Network.

The cost will be \$1,650.00 per person. If you are unable to go but still want to help, you can make a donation in support of another to go. Simply send your gift, made out to ABMOPAD and mark it "Haiti Mission Trip". Send it to

ABMOPAD C/O Robert H. Swan
21201 Anne's Choice Way
Warminster, PA 18974

A group which included men from ABMOPAD has recently returned from Haiti and not only were they able to complete 3 houses, but they started on a fourth before it was time for them to leave. Great work team!

For more information feel free to contact Bob Swan at Swantown@aol.com or Denise Veselicky at pgbaptist@aol.com. For information and the story about Rubble Houses go to the ABMOPAD web site for details and a mission tour application. If you would like a presentation about the trip or the project, we will be happy to have someone come to your church, men's fellowship or association meeting. Call Bob Swan at 215-674-1936 or e-mail Swantown@aol.com

From The Pastor Counselor

The last two months have been very difficult for many in ABCOPAD:

- An earthquake rattled the entire East Coast on August 23rd;
- Severe storms knocked down trees and electric lines and left many without power for days and even weeks;
- Unprecedented rains from the remnants of hurricane Irene caused massive flooding in our entire region - leaving many with water damaged homes and churches;
- And the ongoing economic downturn has left many without jobs and in severe financial straits.

Cleanup and repair efforts have gradually restored power, roads, homes and churches, but the economy will take years to recover - no matter who wins the next presidential election.

The randomness of life is surely a mystery. I don't believe God causes natural disasters - although God certainly could - and apparently did in the Old Testament (flood). However, I believe the Divine intent is for safety, peace, health and prosperity for all creation.

Out of the calamity of recent months have emerged wonderful stories of people coming alongside their neighbors and friends and being the presence of Christ.

- Neighbors opening their homes to neighbors to provide shelter, food & security;
- Families bonding together to clean up flood damage and repair churches;
- Churches opening their doors as temporary shelters;
- People contributing food, clothes and money to those in need.

In the New Testament - the Greek word that's used most often to describe the Holy Spirit is *parakletos*. "Paraclete" is translated "one who comes alongside."

That's a good job description for the Holy Spirit = One who comes alongside all those who follow Jesus and empowers, comforts, strengthens and guides.

That's also - a pretty good job description for all of us - isn't it? To come alongside and support, encourage, empower and love our neighbors. I've been blessed with people who have come alongside me - when I've been hurting, struggling or clueless and helped me find my way. I'm sure you've had those experiences as well.

With God's help (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) each one of us can be mentors, friends and encouragers to our neighbors - when we come alongside and reflect the love of Christ.

Bruce Martin
ABMOPAD Pastor Counselor
