Dear Friends,

I was reading the other day about The Energy Project. [http://www.theenergyproject.com/](http://www.theenergyproject.com/)

Each person in the group was asked to take a few minutes to say what they felt most proud of accomplishing over the past year. After the person shared, others were invited to add their own observations about what they appreciated in that person. This is something I would recommend for any group. The result is a burst of positive energy that lifts people up. There is nothing more precious than the feeling that we truly matter, that what we do is noticed and appreciated.

In a recent survey of workers in the United States less than 40% reported feeling appreciated for their work.

Why is it that if appreciation is so important that so many go through their lives feeling undervalued? I suspect that the reason lies in our inability to speak the language of positive emotions.

When I read about Jesus' encounters with people the majority of these conversations involve words of appreciation and affirmation. In fact the only group for which he was less than charitable was those religious leaders who used their power and privilege to tear people down.

Positive appreciation makes us feel safe; it frees us to be our best selves, to do our best work. When our value is at risk, energy is drained from us robbing us of creativity and enthusiasm for the task at hand.

So how do we practice appreciation? The first step, according to the Energy Project, is to begin with ourselves. The second part of the Great Commandment tells us that we must love others as we love ourselves. So take a few moments at the end of the day to write down what we are proud of for the day. Jesus knew how difficult it would be to love and appreciate others if we didn't first love ourselves.

The second step then is noticing what others are doing right and to find a way of letting them know it. Write a thank you note and help the US Postal Service avoid bankruptcy by mailing it. Sure email is easy but think about how much better people would feel about our words of appreciation if we put them to ink and paper and spent 45 cents to let them know.

I have noted that a friend of mine begins every email with words of appreciation. She speaks the language of appreciation in all that she does. She is fluent in the language and it truly makes a difference. It has made a difference in me. Positive energy is contagious.

Not only does appreciation make others feel better about themselves - it also makes us feel better about ourselves.

Allen H. Newton
2012 SHALOM AWARD

Members of Judson Memorial Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN, Joel Hoefle and Patricia “Trish” Magal are development workers serving in Thailand and Myanmar. Joel and Trish were honored in absentia at the 2012 Peace Breakfast as their home leave did not coincide with our Annual Gathering.

Trish is developing and documenting an approach to empower people to relate and dialogue in a more authentic way in a cultural context, including both national and ethnic considerations. Trish is teaching English, exercise, music, dance and drama to women at the New Life Center Foundation, Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Joel assists with developing tools and methodologies to build greater trust and understanding within civil society, utilizing his previous experience to enhance the effectiveness of initiatives to facilitate positive transformation within communities and between groups who are in conflict with each other. The couple is employed by Hope International (HI), a new IM partner, and jointly appointed by International Ministries. They are the first global servants serving in Myanmar since 1965.

During 2008 - 2010, the couple served as volunteers with the New Life Center Foundation and Family Learning Center both in Chiang Rai, Thailand, an IM partner.

2012 Recognition of Ordained Ministry and Service

**Five Year**
Virginia Lohman Bauman
Jill Bradway
Anthony Sampson

**Ten Year**
Melanie Duguid-May
Travis Norvell

**Fifteen Year**
David Chhangte
Nancy Lindberg Faery

**Twenty Year**
Diane Ehr
Luise Forseth
Karla McGray

**Twenty Five Year**
Joy Bergfalk
Peg Shelton French
Rickey Harvey

**Thirty Year**
Walter Steenson

**Thirty Five Year**
Marvin McMickle
Ken Watkins
W. Kenneth Williams
La Wu

**Forty Year**
Ed Carey

**Fifty Year**
Rheanolte Le Barbour
Hugh Tucker

**Sixty Year**
Rollin Tingley

**Sixty Five Year**
Ralph Elliot

Brenda Lee was also recognized for 14 Years of Service on the RGR Ordination Review Committee
News from Our Clergy and Churches and Related Organizations

Prayer Concerns

The Rev. Doug Donley’s dad, Reeve Donley, as he continues recovery from triple bypass surgery.

The Rev. Steve Gretz (Greece Baptist Church) as he recovers from hand surgery to repair a severed tendon.

The Rev. Mary Hammond (Peace Community Church in Oberlin) who faces health concerns and recovery from surgery for a lump in her cheek (recurrence of lymphoma).

Terryn Maybeck, daughter-in-law of the Rev. Susan and Ed Maybeck, who continues with chemotherapy treatments.

The Rev. Bill Taber (York Baptist Church) who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

Clergy Changes

Parma Baptist Church bid farewell to their pastor, the Rev. David Chhangte on September 30th as he moves on to future ministry in Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Jim Hegley is now serving as Interim Minister at the East Penfield Baptist Church.

The Rev. Chuck Leport is serving as Interim Minister at The Baptist Temple.

Lake Avenue Baptist Church was the scene on October 10th for the ordination of the Rev. Joy Perkett.

Did You Know?

Electric Organ—Technics SX-E18 (L) Up for adoption (no cost); if you are interested contact John Clapp (Webster Baptist Church) at 585-671-4158

New Contact Information: Vick & Pathfinder Camp & Conference Ministries Phone 315-314-7460 Fax 315-492-2369 Web Site www.VPCCMinistries.org Email Rev. Dr. John R. Buskey, Executive Director John@vpccministries.org or Kathy Shevchuk Kathie@vpccministries.org

Yoga is coming to the Baptist Temple…Come to Temple Yoga, held on Sunday mornings, 8:00-9:00am. Led by Kevin Nitsch, music minister at the Baptist Temple and 200 hour Yoga Alliance certified.

your Temple is a building
your Temple is a holy place
your Temple is a residence
your Temple is your body

Yoga, the union of Self and Body, is a way to build and clean your Temple for the sacred residence of your spirit and God. Your Self lives in your Body in communion with God. Everyone is welcome. Bring a blanket and a mat and let’s get under construction…

The Baptist Temple is located at 1101 Clover Street, Rochester, NY, corner of Clover and Highland. An American Baptist congregation meets at the Baptist Temple for worship, mission and community.
Events & Happenings Around Our Region

November 2nd Deadline - Vote for Fairport Baptist Home in Pink Glove Competition for Breast Cancer Awareness  www.pinkglovedance.com

Friday, November 2, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm – Church Women United’s World Community Day “Abiding in Community” – West Henrietta Baptist Church, 5660 W Henrietta Rd; brown-bag lunch, beverages provided.

♫ Friday, November 2, 7:30pm First Baptist Church of Rochester, 175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester, NY 14618 - Community Concert Series - THE STRIKING STRINGS HAMMERED DULCIMER ENSEMBLE, Mitzie Collins, director, “Celebrating the Hammered Dulcimer Around the World;” Join us for this concert which will spotlight 15 performers on the many-stringed, trapezoid shaped dulcimers! Directed by noted hammered dulcimer player Mitzie Collins, The Striking Strings will also incorporate accordion, flute, recorder, bass and hurdy gurdy into this exciting program which will feature lively dance tunes and poignant airs. Donations gratefully accepted.

Wednesday, November 7, from 8:00 – 11:30 am. This year the topic is “Talking with Kids about the Real Stuff: Illness, Sexuality, God, Dying . . .” William B. Reynolds, M.Div., Associate Director, Chaplaincy Services, University of Rochester Medical Center, 585.275-2004 (office) Bill_Reynolds@urmc.rochester.edu

November 9-11 - Set Apart  [1 Peter 2:9-10] ABCNYS 2012 Youth Convention at the Holiday Inn, Syracuse (Youth grades 7-12 and young adults 18-22); For more information and to register go to  http://aby.abc-nys.org/Convention.html

Wednesday, November 14 - CRCDS Fall Preview  http://www.crcds.edu/applying-to-crcds/visit-us/fall-preview-2012/ If you know of individuals that are considering theological education, please consider inviting them to this event or referring them directly to me for personal follow up. Thank you for your assistance in our recruiting efforts! Melissa M. Morral, Vice President for Enrollment Service, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14620, 585-340-9633

Friday, November 16, 5:30 pm and at 7 pm FRIDAY JAZZ AT IMMANUEL FEATURING Gabe Condon and Friends, Immanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave, Rochester 14607

Saturday, November 17, 1:00-3:00pm Annual Meeting for Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries at the Syracuse First Baptist Church in Jamesville.

Saturday, November 17, 10:30a-1:30p—RGR Regional ABWM Luncheon Meeting; St Luke Tabernacle, 1261 Dewey Ave, Rochester 14613; Installation of Officers, Featured Program: “In the Potter’s Hands” Local Mission Project: Cameron Community Ministries (bring undies, socks, toiletries or personal hygiene items)

Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm—Seniors Living Smart, a time of fellowship, sharing, education, and physical activity at Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover St, Rochester 14610. (Gathering and fellowship is ½ hour before and after the program.) A $5.00 donation would be appreciated for each person attending. If interested, please call 473-3200 and let them know that you plan to attend.
Young Adult Women Find Spiritual Encouragement at C2R4

American Baptist Women’s Ministries hosted more than 30 young adult women at “C2R4—Confidence through Christ: Retreat, Reflect, Renew, Relate,” held at the Canonicus Camp and Conference Center in Exeter, Rhode Island on September 28-30. Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray led a very interactive Bible study based on the theme Scripture, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6. Ms. Hornrette Washington led music and engaged many of the participants in solos and small ensembles, allowing any who felt led to help provide leadership in praise and worship. Sharon Johnson provided a dramatic presentation of the theme and helped participants learn to express faith through drama. “R-Experiences” offered participants the opportunity to do hands-on mission at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, meet with MOPS International leader Tina Whitby, do scrapbooking, take a tour of Rhode Island, and have a time of personal prayer by walking a labyrinth. Participants also brought piles of donated items to give to the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County.

Participants expressed deep appreciation for the Bible study and worship experiences, and left with contact information for new relationships they had developed through the weekend. Many are already making plans to attend region/state and national events in the future and begin new ministries in their home churches.

"The C2R4 retreat was very important to my ministry as the national Young Adult Women's Ministries Coordinator for American Baptist Women’s Ministries, because it was focused on young women having the opportunity to strengthen their Confidence through Christ. The retreat setting allowed the women to have a time of reflection while renewing themselves and relating to their peers. I am truly excited that AB Women’s Ministries took this step of faith which allowed God to show up and bless each young lady that was in attendance,” says LaKeeyna Cooper, who served as co-leader of the planning team.

“"The young adult women’s event is a wonderful opportunity for young women to come together to build lifelong relationships; to retreat, relax, and renew their passion for Christ. I encourage any young adult woman to attend future events—they will be so glad that they did,” says Nancy Adkins, co-leader of the planning team and Coordinator of Church & Community Ministries on the national board of American Baptist Women’s Ministries.

ABWM’s executive director Virginia Holmstrom said, “This was our first national event for young adult women, and participants arrived from Alaska, Washington, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, and many of the eastern states and reflected the wonderful multicultural diversity of American Baptists. Retreat participants expressed a real passion for helping AB Women’s Ministries engage with generations of younger women—one of our primary adaptive challenges. I’m delighted to announce that we’re forming two “Transformed by the Spirit” Action Learning Teams comprised primarily of retreat participants!”

Plans are being made for a 3-day young adult women’s event concurrent with the National Women’s Conference and National Gathering for Girls at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort in Phoenix, Arizona on July 27-August 1, 2013.
ABHMS Calls For 2013 Biennial Awards Nominations
The Board of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) seeks nominations for ministry awards to be announced at the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) 2013 Mission Summit/Biennial to be held June 21-23, in Overland Park/Kansas City, Kan.

Nominations are needed for nine national recognition awards that honor American Baptist individuals, churches and organizations for exceptional faithfulness in ministry, in addition to three merit awards that honor chaplains and pastoral counselors. Nominations will also be accepted for the Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award, to be presented by ABCUSA.

Deadline for nominations is Nov. 30, 2012. Submission of nominations by the deadline is important because final selection of award recipients will be completed in December. Nominations for these 2013 awards can be submitted online or by fax, postal mail and email. Nominations submitted by postal mail must be postmarked by Nov. 30; those submitted online or by fax or e-mail must be received at ABHMS by Nov. 30. For awards to individuals, churches or organizations, request an English or Spanish version of the hard-copy nomination form by contacting Susan Bogle at susan.bogle@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3872, x2028. For chaplaincy and pastoral counseling awards, contact Yolanda Schweikert at yolanda.schweikert@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3872, x2447, to request a hard-copy nomination form in English or to receive help in interpreting the form in Spanish. For awards criteria, to print nominations forms or to submit nominations online, please visit www.abhms.org > Biennial/Mission Summit Awards.

Judson Press - ABC Reads 2012-2013
Bless God and Take Courage

As we celebrate the bicentennial of Ann and Adoniram Judson's historic voyage as America's first overseas missionaries, Judson Press has named Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy as our 2012-2013 ABC Reads selection.

We encourage you to join us in reading this story of unwavering faith and courage. A free discussion guide and interview with the author is available on our website at http://www.judsonpress.com/abcreads.cfm

Did you know that the New York State Council of Churches has a newly redesigned website?..... And a Facebook page?...... Be sure to "like" our Facebook page for news and resources from our member denominations.

Visit our website at https://sites.google.com/site/nyscouncilofchurches.
Or connect with our usual web address - www.nyscoc.org
Like us on Facebook - http://www.facebook.com/NewYorkStateCouncilofChurches
Jennifer (Jeni) Pedzinski has been named as American Baptist International Ministries (IM) first Mission Apprentice. She will serve from September 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Jeni, a candidate for future long-term service as an IM missionary, is currently enrolled in a dual Masters of Divinity/Masters in International Development program at Palmer Theological Seminary and Eastern University.

Pedzinski's initial consideration of God’s call to international mission service came at age 11 through IM missionaries she met at her hometown church, First Baptist Church of Niles, Michigan. She again met IM missionaries when she and her family attended annual World Mission Conferences at Green Lake and stayed in dialog with them over the course of her teenage years. Her sense of call was nurtured as she sought out educational opportunities and short-term mission experiences with the specific intent of preparing herself to serve God cross-culturally. A graduate of Bethany College of Missions, Pedzinski has served short-term in the Philippines, Guatemala, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Jeni will be IM’s first “Mission Apprentice.” This new mission apprentice initiative is intended to engage IM proactively in the preparation of young adults for cross-cultural service. Jim Bell, IM’s director of Recruitment, explains: “One of our guiding principles is that we send qualified personnel to serve alongside our international partners. The apprenticeship experience offers the opportunity to develop those qualifications in the context of IM missiology and in relationship with IM missionary and staff mentors.”

“Jeni brings great enthusiasm for mission service and has demonstrated a delightful eagerness to learn in her work at Palmer Theological Seminary,” commented Dr. Ben Hartley, associate professor of Christian Mission, Palmer Seminary. “That eagerness to learn will serve her well as an IM apprentice. It is wonderful to see the decades-long tradition of the seminary’s connection to IM be strengthened in this new apprenticeship program. May it re-ignite other ways of working together for the sake of God’s mission in the years to come!”

As a Mission Apprentice, Pedzinski will work in relationship with IM’s Volunteers in Global Mission (VIGM) Coordinator Angela Sudermann and Global Consultant Dan Buttry with the preparation and ministry of IM’s IGNITE Team, which will serve in the Republic of Georgia in June of 2013. IGNITE is a short-term mission opportunity for young adults ages 19-29 sponsored by IM. (For more information, go to www.internationalministries.org) Individuals and churches interested in supporting Jeni may visit her profile on the IM website http://www.internationalministries.org/give/284, or contact her at jenapickle@gmail.com. On the Mission Apprentice program contact Jim Bell: jim.bell@abc-usa.org.

Where in the World Are IM’s Global Servants Serving?

If you would like to learn more about a particular missionary, go to www.internationalministries.org and click on PEOPLE. You can read about their ministry and see where they stand in their personalized support. You can also contact a missionary through the website.

The World Mission Offering is a vital source of support for IM’s current missionaries as well as for new missionary recruitment efforts, mission service projects and global Christian partners, including hospitals and clinics, seminaries, churches, schools and orphanages. Congregations may give to the totality of IM’s mission, or they may direct a portion of their gift toward the support of individual IM missionaries.

For more information, contact Catherine Nold: Catherine.nold@abc-usa.org.
New Life Center Foundation Receives Major Award

Karen Smith, leader of the New Life Center Foundation (NLCF) in Chiang Mai, Thailand and American Baptist International Ministries (IM) missionary, announced that the NLCF has been recognized in Thailand with a major award. The Kenan Institute Asia in collaboration with Resource Alliance and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, organized the 2012 Thailand NGO (non-governmental organization) awards, the second consecutive year to recognize the achievements of Thai NGOs. NLCF received the award in the medium-sized NGO category.

“We are absolutely thrilled to receive such a prestigious award, and receive this recognition throughout the region,” Smith commented. “This recognition affirms the NLCF’s exemplary clinical care for victims of trafficking, and our deep commitment to organizational standards of excellence and good governance.”

Mr. Richard Bernhard, executive director, Kenan Institute Asia, provided this overview, “The NGO Awards aim to encourage NGOs to pursue operational excellence, good governance, transparency, and self-dependency in order to achieve result-oriented sustainable development.”

According to the Resource Alliance, “there are 65,457 NGOs in Thailand working to promote education, public health, social welfare and associations’ promotion.” The Alliance, a UK registered charity, “aims to be the global network for fundraising, resource mobilization and philanthropy. The Alliance builds skills, knowledge and promotes excellence within civil society.”

The Thailand NGO Awards advance the country's non-profit sector by promoting financial sustainability and strengthening community support of civil society. They also seek to:

- promote good standards and practices in resource mobilization, accountability and transparency
- recognize and celebrate excellence in the non-profit sector
- identify and strengthen successful resource mobilization practices
- create examples and inspiration for other non-profit organizations and promote cross-regional learning
- promote the overall credibility of the non-profit sector for long term sustainability

"NLCF is deserving of this award," commented Stan Murray, IM area director for Southeast Asia and Japan. "As a tribute to the staff of NLCF, neither Karen Smith nor IM missionary Kit Ripley attended the award ceremony. They chose, instead, for the local tribal staff to travel to Bangkok to receive the award. This resonated well with IM missiology that focuses on training and mentoring local people so that any good work that is done will be sustainable."

About NLCF

The NLCF works exclusively with young ethnic minority women throughout the Mekong sub-region who are at risk for, or victims of, human trafficking, forced labor, and sexual abuse. Since its inception in 1987, the NLCF has partnered with the Royal Thai Government and international NGOs to provide legal, psychological, and repatriation assistance.

New Life Center Foundation provides:

- Education (promoting literacy and life-skills from elementary to university levels)
- Vocational training (providing specialized training which results in viable employment and work skills)
- Therapeutic activities (art therapy, music, dance, cooking, martial arts, individual counseling)
- Handicrafts & income generation (cultivating traditional tribal embroidery and creative thinking skills through the production of handicrafts, home décor, and jewelry)
- Shelter (safe shelter and medical care for victims of trafficking)

Anti-Trafficking Campaigns

NLCF conducts community based anti-trafficking campaigns (in partnership since 1994 with the United Nations agencies UNESCO, UNICEF, and the UN-IAP). NLCF ethnic minority staff and residents create educational campaigns that are implemented in tribal communities throughout Thailand, China, Laos, and Myanmar. Through drama, songs, skits and pictures, these ground-breaking campaigns have disseminated information about trafficking, safe migration, and HIV/AIDS to over 50,000 minority persons.

Partnership with Upland Holistic Development Program (Fang, Thailand)

NLCF staff provide business development services in conjunction with the UHDP’s community- based micro-enterprise development program. Services include workshops in accounting, math, basic business principles, and marketing. The NLCF funds a literacy program for adults involved in a range of UNDP programs.

NLCF believes in grass-roots activism, empowering people at a community level, and engaging local churches and other organizations to create a world without exploitation.
On World Food Day, Haitian Co-ops Face Struggles But Persevere
Pot-au-Prince, Haiti, and New York – World Food Day had special poignancy for a humanitarian agency committed to improving life in rural Haiti. Though commemorated every October 16 to honor the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization after World War II, the day has become a more expansive event about the need to alleviate hunger and ensure food security throughout the world.

This year's theme, "Agricultural Cooperatives – Key to Feeding the World," lifts up a particular area of concern and support by Church World Service.

Even before the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, CWS had supported food cooperatives in the Northwest and Artibonite regions of Haiti. Since then, CWS has expanded its support for the 13 cooperatives, particularly at time when Haiti's rural areas have been in flux. A half million people fled the capital of Port-au-Prince after the earthquake, but many have since left the rural areas. These fluctuations have put a strain on rural areas, and dreams of improving life in rural areas remain remote overall.

The idea of decentralizing so centralized country as Haiti "was just another great idea that has not taken root in the country," said Aaron Tate, CWS's Haiti earthquake response coordinator. "The people living in these areas are just as isolated as ever." And indeed, life has proven difficult this past year, since the last World Food Day was commemorated in 2011. A drought has put additional strain on the co-operatives. "Sometimes I think our work there is really like disaster work, helping people survive and get by in the daily disasters of living in such a hard place," Tate said.

Yet the co-operatives remain strong by being well managed and governed, Tate added. The success of any cooperative, as the UN notes, is being "able to overcome difficulties by offering their members a variety of services. These services range from access to natural resources, information, communication, input and output markets, technologies and training."

"We certainly agree with that," Tate said. "And so we have invested a lot of time, patience, and resources in helping make the co-ops stronger."

CWS's program – run in cooperation with the Haiti-based Christian Center for Integrated Development and funded by Food Resources Bank with support from CWS member denominations and others – has had a notable record of success in the last year, even in the face of real challenges. Among the milestones have been providing 40 percent more micro-credit in agricultural cooperatives, with 928 women receiving micro-credit to start small businesses. Also, 641 members received agricultural micro-credit and 1,099 people joined the co-ops as new members.

And in addition, two co-ops reached the milestone of having roughly $25,000, in capital to lend to its members. At the "Hand in Hand" cooperative, life continues despite recent challenges, with members continuing to develop plots, pooling their resources to buy seeds and land, and growing crops for coop members and for sale. And there are other things integral to the co-ops themselves. At "Hand in Hand," for example, some 50 women have received loans for micro-credit projects with the resulting profits used to help families with medical care and medicine – no small matter in a mountainous area where doctors and medical clinics are not easily accessed.

Senicia Sidoine, a co-op member who fled Port-au-Prince after the quake and the death of her husband, said the co-op has provided not only needed medical care and medicines but schooling for her children. "The co-op," she said, “is the only family we have.”

The holidays are coming

Shop the new CWS Best Gift Catalog and choose a gift that makes a lasting impact
https://secure2.convio.net/cws/site/Ecommerce?store_id=1241&JServSessionIdr004=9w74j9f513.app243b
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 4

Be sure to FALL BACK your clocks
1 hour before you go to bed on
Saturday night

Calendar

October
30 RGR Executive Board 5:30 pm

November
8 RGR Ordination Review Ctte 3:30 pm
17 RGR ABWM at St Luke’s

Looking Ahead to 2013

January 15 RGR Executive Board 5:30 pm

February 10 RGR Delegates’ Meeting
   Location TBA

September 27-28 RGR Annual Gathering

For more information, go to www.americanbaptists2013.org