

Central Region Life

OCTOBER 2024

FISHING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOAT ANNUAL GATHERING RECAP

The ABCCR Annual Gathering was a time of spiritual renewal, learning, and community building. Attendees were led in worship sessions by the First Baptist Church of Lyon's worship team, which set a reflective and uplifting tone for the gathering. One of the key highlights was the keynote and workshop delivered by Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, Executive Minister of ABC of the Rocky Mountains. In his workshop, he addressed the unique challenges bi-vocational pastors face and the benefits of having a bi-vocational pastor. During his keynote message, he expanded on the theme, "Fishing on the Other Side of the Boat." He challenged attendees to consider fresh perspectives in ministry and mission and emphasized the importance of opening the doors to welcome all people to come to know Christ.

Our other keynote speaker and workshop leader was Global Servant, Rev. Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes. She serves as a regional consultant in theological education and leadership development in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, Mercy shared her experiences of teaching, mentoring, and walking alongside men and women in ministry. She spoke about her collaborative work with local leaders and Palmer Theological Seminary, making theological education accessible through online learning programs in Spanish, inspiring many with her dedication to nurturing leaders across the region.

Julia Stegeman led an engaging workshop on burnout, offering much-needed tools and strategies for managing stress and maintaining balance in ministry. Pastor Joel Grizzle, who serves as the senior pastor of FBC Lyons, KS opened the day on Saturday with a captivating devotion covering the story of Zacchaeus.

The event concluded with the installation of new officers, a meaningful time of communion, and special music that drew everyone together in worship and reflection. The gathering was an enriching experience for all, leaving participants spiritually refreshed and encouraged for the year ahead. Join us next year, September 26-27, 2025 at First Baptist Church of Salina, Kansas as we are "Together at the Table."

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American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

CAMPFIRE

College Age Retreat

Camp White Memorial
Council Grove, Kansas

November
15-17

Arrival- Friday, 7:00 PM

Departure- Sunday, 12:00 PM

\$20

Scholarships are
available for
all who apply.

To register, please scan
the QR code below.



*Join Us At
The Campfire*





VISION DAY Kansas City

November 22, 2024
9:30am - 3:30pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OVERLAND PARK

8200 W. 96th St.
Overland Park, KS 662122

In the midst of a rapidly changing ministry landscape, Fresh Expressions invites you to join us for a day of envisioning the unique ways the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to step deeper into mission.

In this interactive day of training you will:

- Catalyze a vision for a church that sends out the everyday people of God to be on mission in their networks and neighborhoods
- Brainstorm ways to connect with people your church may not be currently engaging
- Discover how fresh expressions of church can emerge alongside your traditional church
- Explore creative ways of being the church in the world today

Fresh Expressions is working together with ministry leaders to bring you the best of innovative practices that are transforming churches and mission across North America. Join us to discover actionable steps that any congregation can take to be a more effective witness in the world in which we find ourselves.

REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION:

FreshExpressions.com/event/KansasCityVisionDay

\$50/Person



PLANNED GIVING

HELPING YOU TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,
REV. TIM SCHWARTZ
KBCF DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING
913-424-9939 / 785-272-7622
TIMMANS39@GMAIL.COM
TIM.SCHWARTZ@ABCCR.ORG

How many of you have ever heard of the radio broadcaster, Paul Harvey? I'm sure there are many of you who know who he is and some others who do not. He usually broadcasted the news on the radio every day around 11:30 a.m. or so and he also iAs we continue to celebrate our 65th anniversary year of the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, I will take a look at another couple who invested with us and share their story here.

Pastor "Larry" & Mrs. Mabel Oyer were annuitants with the KBCF and their story is an interesting and captivating one as well. Lawrence Oyer was born on June 17, 1926, in the Concord community near Dodge City, Kansas. He attended schools in the area and graduated from Greensburg high school. From there he went on to study at Ottawa University, where he received his BA in 1954. He attended Central Baptist Seminary for 2 years and also studied at Emporia State University and earned his master of science degree from Fort Hays State University in 1965.

Larry was called to Christian Ministry and was licensed to preach at the North Ottawa Baptist Church in Ottawa, Kansas. He was ordained as an American Baptist minister in 1957, while serving at Stillwell Baptist Church in Stillwell, Kansas.

Mabel Marie Houser was born on November 3rd, 1926 in Dodge City, Kansas. She graduated from Dodge City High School in 1945. She was united in marriage to Lawrence "Larry" Oyer on August 21, 1949 in Dodge City, Kansas. Mabel & Larry raised three daughters: Marilyn Beth, Monta Jo and Marta Kay.

Mabel supported her husband, Larry, in Christian pastoral ministry and led in women's & children's ministry. That ministry included pastoring in many churches including: LaHarpe Baptist, Bethel Baptist, Hillsdale Presbyterian, Belpre Baptist, Berean Baptist, Woodlawn Baptist in Wichita and Bethany Baptist in Bentley, Kansas.

Larry also served in a variety of roles at American Baptist camps throughout the years. He devoted hours of his time and lots of hard work to many construction projects for camps as well as for the American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief program.

Larry served the Lord in other ways, including the education field. He was an elementary school teacher and a school administrator. He began teaching at the Concord school near Dodge City, where his mother had attended and also taught school when Larry was a small boy. During his teaching career, he was involved in sports programs, building projects and community events.

Besides working in the home as a mother and wife, Mabel worked for the Woolworth Co. in Dodge City, Montgomery Ward in Newton, and later the JCPenney Co. in Wichita until her retirement in 1988. She loved flower gardening and collecting dolls, windmills and piggy banks. She enjoyed traveling and more importantly, spending time with family and friends!



Larry loved antique cars and owned and restored a 1931 Model A, 1926 Model T and a 1953 Crestline Victoria. He enjoyed participating in car clubs and antique car tours.

For nearly half a century, Larry and Mabel served the Lord in every way they knew how. Most often it meant building something like a family, congregations, ministries, churches and homes.

As I reflect on this personally, this makes completely good sense as Larry and Mabel were part of "the builders" generation or as my late mom's favorite, former news anchor, Tom Brokaw, would say, they are part of "the greatest generation!" Of course, Larry & Mabel, like all of you, have built on a firm foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, our lord and savior!!

They both also built on a solid financial foundation by funding a charitable gift annuity through the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, which provided them both a stream of income for the rest of their lives and monetary donations to the mission partners of their choice, after they went home to be with the Lord. If you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity, please contact me by email, phone, text or voicemail and I will be happy to visit with you about that and help you through that process.

As I conclude this story of the Oyers, I hope that each of us are grateful for all those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith!

Save the Date: January 17-18, 2025

Mid Winter Missions Conference

Location: Prairie Homestead,
Wichita



Guest Speakers:
Jeanine and Walt White
Global Consultants
International Ministries



PRAYER EMPHASIS

As we begin the month of October, let us pray for the world mission offering that supports all of our IM missionaries around the globe and the important, life-changing and magnificent work that they do throughout our world.

Let us offer prayers of thanksgiving as we think about all the missionaries that we know personally or that our churches and region are connected to. Might we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give them new insight, direction and wisdom as they provide tangible human needs and share the good news of Jesus Christ as well.

Let us continue to pray that God would raise up new people, whether young or old, who feel called to do mission work, and ask God to provide the resources they need as they prepare to go out on the mission field and love others in Jesus name!

Might we all pray and work together to accomplish God's mission here on earth. This reminds me of I M's theme scripture for the work that they are doing now, "on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6: 10b (NIV)

Global Servants 2024

IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Barbara & Dwight Bolick (Regional Consultants)
- Carla Bonilla & Mayra Goveaux (Regional Consultants)
- Calvin & Misae Carrion Joseph (Mexico)
- Waleka Fabres Hernandez (Cuba)
- Mery Gonzalez Barrios (Regional Consultants)
- Sam Rogoff (Costa Rica)
- Elisberto & Mily Juarez (El Salvador)
- Christine Lafferty (Nicaragua)
- Paul & Tim Long (Mexico)
- Luis & Sarah Marco (Mexico)
- Rosario Magal-Rivera (Regional Consultants)
- Sarah McCarty (Regional Coordinator)
- Dobbie & Keith Myers (Mexico)
- Khouri Ngeant & Nourga Mahouge (Dominican Republic)
- David Pargitt (Nicaragua)
- Katy & Matt Parris (Dominican Republic)
- J.D. Reed (Regional Consultant)
- Shay & Tim Stone (Dominican Republic)
- Brian & Lynette Smith (Dominican Republic)
- Corinne & Phil Smith (Brazil)
- Joe Stockton (Mexico)
- Ruth Widen (Costa Rica)
- Dita Zalya (Honduras)

AFRICA

- Ann & Bill Clement (Regional Consultants)
- Justin & Rick Guzman (South Africa)
- Boaz Kabirak (Kenya)
- Christine & Lancia Mulyo (Zimbabwe)
- Katherine & Wayne Niles (Zimbabwe)
- Kathy & Tim Rice (Zimbabwe)
- Eva Vanrooy (South Africa)
- Betty & Lory Stanton (Hungary)

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND LIBERIA

- Melanie Rogoff (Lithuania)
- Don & Sarah Chitt (Lithuania)
- Hermelinda & Jorge Demarceno (United Kingdom)
- Laura & Rich Freeman (Turkey)
- Amelia & Jon Good (Spain)
- Carmela Jones (Regional Consultant)
- Nora & Ruaru Kullman (Regional Consultants)
- Betty & Lory Stanton (Hungary)

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

- Lakshman Janta & Anita An (India)
- Kate & Taku (East & South Asia)
- David Sagar (India)

GLOBAL CONSULTANTS

- Myrle Egan (Restorative Arts)
- Laura Bethell (Abolishing Global Slavery)
- Kristy Engel (Health & Wellness)
- Mike Hare (Economic Development)
- Rodney Reagan (Theological Education)
- Ray Schallinger (Hempcrete & Polymers)
- James & Matt White (Health & Wellness, Capacity Building)

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

- Ashwan & Scott Coats (Myanmar & Thailand)
- Anna & Jeff Deasberg (Thailand)
- Paul & Dick Hoover Magel (Thailand)
- Carson & Lee Ann Hwang (Vietnam)
- Alisa & Mark James (Thailand)
- Eric & Yvonne Lemke (Thailand)
- Jacky Mann (Thailand)
- Lois & Matt Mann (Thailand)
- Joseph Michiro (Japan)
- Jonathan & Thaina Nambo (Philippines)
- Jason & Valerie Oelstroff (Thailand)
- Paul Rulter (Philippines)
- Shigemi Tsumita (Japan)
- Jason & Amy/Leila Trust (Southeast Asia)
- Annika & Kyle Williams (Southeast Asia)

GLOBAL COORDINATORS

- David & Joyce Reed (Berkshire Care)
- Rhonda Reed (Health & Wellness)
- Debby Wilmar (Maternity Care & Family Care)

Our Ministry Priorities: EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION, MISSIONS AND RESPONSES, PEACE AND JUSTICE, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND WELLNESS, EVERYWHERE TO EVERYONE, START WITH US, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, SANCTITY BELONGS

Mark Your Calendar

ROOTED

in the

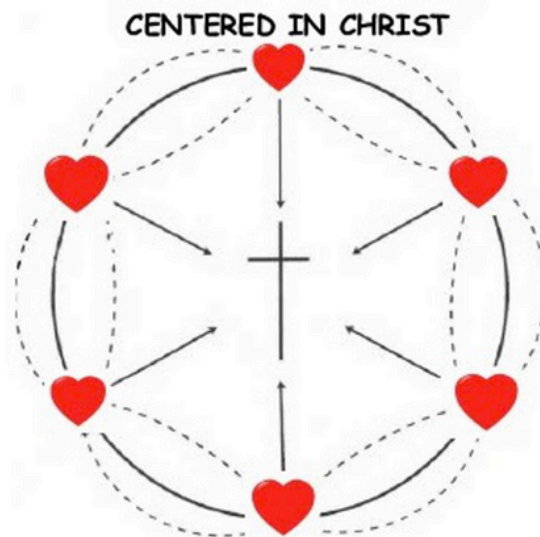
LION *of Judah* & the LAMB

**American Baptist
Women's Ministries**

**Summer Conference
FBC Herington, KS
June 6-7, 2025**



SAVE THE DATE



Ephesians 3:16-19
NRSVUE

The 2025 Sr. Adult Retreat will be held April 23-24, 2025 at Central Baptist Church in Great Bend, KS. Mark your calendars now for this event with keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops. Dr. Stoops has been engaging in a special assignment working in Mission Resource Development for the American Baptist Churches USA and is now currently serving as the interim Pastor at First Baptist Church Topeka. Previously he served as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska.

Registration information will be available soon. Watch for more details throughout the Central Region's many avenues.

BAPTIST POLITY COURSE

Dr. Richard E. Menninger will be offering a Baptist Polity course in the Central Region for those who need the course for meeting ordination standards or having their ordination recognized. Depending on the group size and availability, this course will be either online, in person, or a combination of the two. The text for this course is, [A Baptist Manual of Polity and Practice](#). The cost is \$100 per person and will be approximately 6-7 hours of class time. If you are interested in taking the course, please email [Gregg Hemmen](#) or [Jan Smith](#) for more information.

A Baptist Manual
of Polity and Practice
SECOND REVISED EDITION



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

SAVE THE DATE!

American Baptist Churches USA

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE

COME SEEK

LIVING WATER

COME SEEK:

- ◆ New Life in Christ through dynamic worship services and learning opportunities.
- ◆ New Connections with other American Baptists. Build your network!
- ◆ What God has to share with you!

Come Seek Living Water

CAMPING 2025



CAMP CHRISTY

JUNE 2025

2-6 HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

9-13 MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

16-20 JUNIOR CAMP

23-25 PRIMARY CAMP

26-27 DAY CAMP

WHITE MEMORIAL

JULY 2025

14-18 HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

14-18 MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

21-25 JUNIOR CAMP
