

Notes & News, Thoughts & Views



For ABCOPAD Churches from Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith
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Volume 34, Number 11

November, 2024

Before jumping into my November Notes and News article, THANK YOU for an inspiring Biennial Leadership Conference. It was a joy having so many members of our Regional Family together for the BLC. Our time of praise and worship was inspiring, and our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, challenged us to find new ways to share the Gospel in our communities. I was grateful for all the interaction during the teaching sessions and downtime while checking out exhibits. I am seldom at a loss for words. Still, during the Installation Service and the Laying on of Hands, my heart was full of appreciation and gratitude for Jesus' work in my life and our Regional Family, who has been a blessing to Susan and me for many years. Thank you to everyone who made the event possible and took time out of their busy schedules to attend.

Last month, I began looking at lessons learned from the opening chapters of the book of Nehemiah. You will recall that Nehemiah took on the massive project to rebuild the wall surrounding Jerusalem. Nehemiah begins by doing a comprehensive assessment of the work and then assembles a team of residents to accomplish the task. Much like Nehemiah, many of us face monumental tasks we cannot accomplish alone. God never intended for us to do ministry in isolation. God wants us to do ministry as the body of Christ, pulling together a team with diverse gifts and talents so we can succeed in His Kingdom's work.

In Chapters Four through Six, Nehemiah encounters opposition to his project. In Chapter Four, Nehemiah discovers outside forces do NOT want to see Jerusalem's wall restored. Kings from neighboring cities and tribes plan to knock down the sections of the wall that are being rebuilt. Nehemiah realizes he must defend the project from those who would attack his team and destroy the work being accomplished. Nehemiah would face enemies from outside Jerusalem and those who would sabotage the work from within. Jewish Nobles recognized they could exploit workers by withholding supplies and charging interest on loans as people

borrowed money to feed themselves and their families. These Nobles refused to work but were getting rich by exploiting laborers.

Like Nehemiah, as we seek to rebuild ministry in ABCOPAD and our local churches, we can expect to encounter opposition. This opposition can come from outside the ministry or from within. As we seek to share the Gospel in our communities, revitalize our churches, and serve those in need through Christ's love, we can expect ridicule, attacks, and sabotage. Sometimes, this comes from dark forces in our community who want to frustrate and prevent Jesus' ministry from moving forward. Sometimes, this comes from within the church, as church members with their agendas try to restrict ministry for selfish ambition. Prayer and determination are necessary if we are to succeed. Nehemiah arms his team with swords to protect the work and challenges the Nobles who are behaving selfishly. Paul reminds us (Eph. 6:12), "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." There are forces within and outside our Region who do not want to see ABCOPAD succeed. We must stand firm in our faith and Jesus' call for us to minister together.

Finally, in Chapter Eight, Nehemiah recognizes that people need to recommit themselves to God's Word. In Chapter Eight, Nehemiah gathers the people to hear Ezra the Scribe read the Book of the Law of Moses. Nehemiah calls the people to hear God's Word and rededicate themselves to obey it. Many people want us to disregard God's Word and embrace worldly "wisdom" to rebuild the church. They would have us compromise our values for "church growth" or "financial gain."

Nehemiah recognized this is a seductive trap that only leads to ruin. Jesus calls his church to remain faithful to his teachings despite the pressure to conform to societal pressure. We all need to spend time in the Bible, listening to God's voice and allowing scripture to guide and direct us. Hebrews 4:12 reminds us, "For the word

of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

I am grateful for our Regional family and the opportunity to work together to rebuild the ministry in ABCOPAD. If we

remain faithful to Jesus, we can see the ministry revitalize and grow. Thank you for your partnership.

God Bless, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. M



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I thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone who came to this year’s Biennial Leadership Conference (BLC). It is always good to spend time with our Regional family, as we live the Great Commission together. Though, next time, I think we need to equip more than just our youth RMAs with nerf archery sets. Think of the stealthy fun we can have! But I digress . . .

Our keynote speaker, Rev. Michael Beck, said something that intrigued me. Maybe you wrote it down, too. “While no church needs to close, every church needs to die.” Every church, no matter how healthy they may be, the metrics they are hitting, the Kingdom work they are doing, needs to die. Something needs to go, in order to free up energy, resources and vision for new Kingdom work.

Maybe it is because I have been talking lately with leaders of congregations wrestling with the question of closure, but the truth of that statement struck me. Resurrection comes on the other side of death; real life follows after dying to self. That is a fundamental truth of our faith; the conviction that undergirds all that we believe and live.

Yet, we so rarely apply it to our life together as a body of believers. Something needs to die, for your church to truly live in light of the Gospel. What is it in your context?

Pastor, could it be that your need for control needs to die? God’s ready to breathe new life into your congregation, to release His vision to His people, when you die to the fear that something will go “wrong” if you are not always at the helm? Leader, what if that tradition that you hold so dearly, that once achieved Kingdom purposes but now is no longer effective in making disciples in this cultural context, needs to die, so the Spirit of God can give birth to a new means of telling the old, old Story? If VBS is only reaching church kids, maybe it needs to die, so that you can reach the unchurched families in your community. Or perhaps it’s time for a leadership structure that your numbers can no longer accommodate (and that was designed to slowly choke the life out of any new ideas by committee, anyhow!) to die, so a new model can be embraced that better utilizes the gifts of your leaders and permits greater flexibility for changing needs.

Every leader, every congregation needs to die. As you’re looking to the budget and calendar for 2025, what if you also paused to ask the Lord to reveal where and how your church needs to die, so Jesus can bring resurrection on the other side? Death is not easy; release of old ways of thought & life brings grief. But it’s worth it, when Jesus brings life.



Rev. Cristy Wise
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Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity.”

What do you do in your down time? A question I’ve been known to ask my pastors as I spend time with them as a GPS. For me, you might catch me playing Sudoku puzzles. They seem to have gotten popular and certainly can be challenging. I remember the first time I attempted the puzzle. Oh boy...

it wasn’t a success story by any means. Seriously, it is only 9 numbers in grids. 😊 However, I was determined to figure it out. How did that happen? I had to practice them repeatedly and eventually things began to “click”! (Love it when the light bulb goes off. 😊)

Thinking about the passage in Hebrews 6:1 and in other places through the scriptures, we are told many times to “Grow in maturity” or “time to move to solid food” (Hebrews 5:14) as Christians. That takes practice and work. God is calling us to dive deeper into His word so

Puzzle 101

8	3	6	9	1	
				5	
	5		3		8
		3			
5	9		7	8	6
6			2		4
		9			1
	1			4	
7	8		5	6	

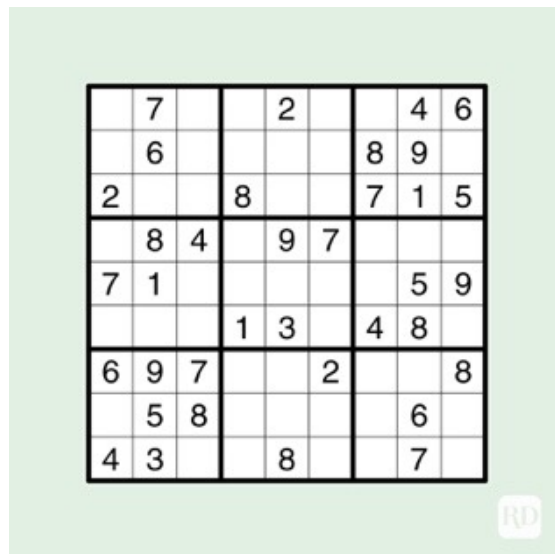
we can be able to imitate Him in our lives. That doesn’t happen overnight, but we need to spend more time with our Savior studying His word. Yes, reading it is important but if we want to become mature in our faith, we need to be practicing what we are learning and studying God’s word to unlock the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Sudoku is just a game or puzzle but when I start working one, I am reminded that if I want to know how to accomplish the puzzle, especially if I am trying a new format or level, I need to spend time working out the numbers and their placement. It is a joy of self-accomplishment when I place that last number in the box and the puzzle is complete correctly! No bells go off nor do I receive an award it just is an “I did it” accomplishment.

When we study God’s word and a “new mystery” is revealed and the “light bulb” goes off, that smile, that “I get it” is amazing and able now to grow in my faith. There is a part of me that believes my God smiles and says “Thanks for spending time with me and growing in your faith. I love you, my child.”

With Thanksgiving around the corner, may we be thankful that God desires time with us and may we do so as we can grow and mature as followers of Jesus and be more like Him.

Blessings my friends,
 Rev. Cristy Wise





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Growing Tomorrow's Leaders from Within: A Message of Hope

The landscape of pastoral ministry in America is experiencing a seismic shift. In recent conversations with our churches across Pennsylvania and Delaware, one theme emerges consistently: the challenge of pastoral succession. The statistics paint a stark picture of this reality.

According to Barna Research, the average age of Protestant pastors has risen from 44 to 57 years over the past three decades. Nearly 40% of pastors are now over 60, with many approaching retirement. Meanwhile, younger pastors – those under 40 – represent just 15% of church leaders today, down from 33% in 1992.

These demographic shifts coincide with a troubling trend in seminary enrollment. The Association of Theological Schools reports that Master of Divinity enrollment, the traditional degree for pastoral ministry, has declined by more than 14% in the past decade. Small and rural churches are feeling this shortage most acutely – nearly 43% of churches seeking a pastor report taking more than a year to find a suitable candidate.

But amidst these sobering statistics, I see hope sprouting in unexpected places.

Just last week, I had the privilege of participating in an Ordination Council in Bangor, where we witnessed something beautiful: a congregation that recognized, nurtured, and affirmed the calling of one of their own. This wasn't a pastor "imported" from elsewhere – this was someone who had grown up in the pews, served in various ministries, and been mentored by their church family. The depth of their connection to the congregation and their authentic calling to ministry was evident to everyone present.

The experience in Bangor isn't just a heartwarming story – it represents a viable path forward for many of our churches. Historical data shows that pastors who emerge from within their congregations often have longer tenures and deeper community connections. They bring a unique understanding of their church's culture, challenges, and opportunities that external candidates simply cannot match.

This, dear friends, is a model worth paying attention to.

Perhaps the answer to our pastoral shortage isn't primarily found in waiting for seminary graduates to appear on our doorsteps. Instead, what if we looked more intentionally at those already serving faithfully in our congregations? What if the next generation of pastoral leaders is already sitting in our pews, waiting to be recognized, encouraged, and equipped?

The financial realities make this approach even more compelling. With the average seminary graduate carrying over \$54,000 in educational debt, traditional paths to ministry are becoming increasingly challenging for many potential leaders. This is where innovative approaches to theological education and ministry preparation become crucial.

This is why the work of our Academy of Christian Training and Service (ACTS) over the past year has been so vital. ACTS has been diligently developing practical, accessible pathways for identifying and equipping emerging leaders within our churches. Through affordable training programs, mentorship opportunities, and flexible learning options, ACTS is helping to bridge the gap between calling and preparation.

We are particularly excited about ACTS' new partnership with Kairos University, which opens unprecedented opportunities for our emerging leaders. This collaboration represents a significant step forward in making ministry preparation more accessible and practical than ever before. Through Kairos, students can now pursue their education through a combination of online learning, mentored ministry experience, and hands-on training – all while remaining connected to their local church.

This innovative approach means that potential leaders can:

- Study at their own pace while maintaining their current work and family commitments
- Learn in the context of their local ministry setting
- Access high-quality theological education at a fraction of traditional seminary costs
- Benefit from both academic instruction and practical ministry experience
- Build on their ACTS coursework toward additional credentials

The beautiful truth is this: God has already placed gifts of leadership within our congregations. Our role isn't to wring our hands about the pastoral shortage – it's to be more intentional about identifying, affirming, and equipping those whom God has already placed in our midst.

Consider the biblical precedent: Moses was trained in Midian before leading Israel. David learned leadership while tending sheep. The disciples were common workers before Jesus called them. Paul trained Timothy before

moving to start the process over again. Time and again, God raises up leaders from within communities, equipping them through practical experience and mentorship.

As you look around your congregation this Sunday, remember – your next pastor might be sitting right beside you. The question is: will we have the wisdom to see them, the courage to call them forth, and the commitment to help prepare them for service?

The path forward requires action from all of us:

- For congregations: Create opportunities for potential leaders to exercise their gifts
- For current pastors: Intentionally mentor those showing leadership potential

- For church boards: Consider investing in the education and development of promising members
- For individuals sensing God's call: Step forward and begin conversations with your church leadership

Let's work together to cultivate the leaders God has already planted among us. The future of our churches may depend on it. Through programs like ACTS and its partnership with Kairos University, we can face the pastoral shortage not with fear, but with hope and purpose.

After all, God's provision for tomorrow's leadership may already be present in today's pews.



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While reading Tom Holland's *The Forge of Christendom: The End of Days and the Epic Rise of the West*, I was struck once more with the realization that most of modern humanity has no real notion as to what life was really like only a few short generations ago before the food surpluses we enjoy came to be following the Industrial/Agricultural Revolution. Our ancestors lived season to season. Every spring was a time of want, last year's harvest having been exhausted and this year's produce not yet available. A single bad harvest could throw a family, a village, even an entire region into famine and starvation. Is it any wonder that a people living such a precarious existence, while having faith in God, were still superstitious as they looked to the heavens and prayed that nothing would destroy their crop before the harvest?

Famine still exists in the modern world, much of it the result of human malfeasance, but weather-related disasters still occur that threaten once more to plunge

people into hunger. There is a profound difference, however, between modern hunger and its past manifestations. When hail, locusts, or a band of marauders ruined the harvest in 10th century Francia, 12th century Bavaria, or 14th century Ireland, there was no outside help to come to the rescue. The U.N. did not exist to send relief, nor did international charities, or friendly foreign governments. We still have humanitarian crisis in our world, and they still do spiral out of control at times, but a possible solution to them always exists. There is enough food in the world to feed everybody, our ancestors couldn't imagine such abundance.

If you know history, you learn perspective, if you have a reality-based perspective on the world, finding wisdom is far easier. Is life difficult now? Yes. Do people suffer in the Third World and in even rich nations? Of course. Understanding that things were worse, significantly worse, in the past doesn't minimize the suffering of the present, but it does remind us that gratitude ought to be near to our lips far more often than grumbling. There are a lot of people who don't know what they will eat tomorrow, but gone are the days when nobody could prevent starvation following a bad harvest. Shouldn't we therefore be a people who don't have to be reminded to offer up thanksgiving to God?



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It often seems like there is something new to be concerned about or maybe even confused about every day both in ministry and church life. You may have read or heard about the new Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that went into effect in July of this year. Perhaps you were wondering if this would affect your church's budget and/or what does it mean concerning the number of hours that you work each week, as a pastor or for any full-time lay employees of your church.

We have consulted with the Region's legal counsel regarding how pastors and churches might need to respond to these new rules, and we are sharing this information. You can also find information on the U.S. Department of Labor's website and there is an informational piece available on Brotherhood Mutual's website, a church insurer that many of our churches use for their coverage.

The changes put into effect, were meant to impact "white collar exceptions" meaning executive (management), administrative (such as human resources) and professional employees. Basically, the new rule raises the salary required to be paid to these "white collar employees" for them to remain exempt for the overtime and minimum wage requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"). Everything else remains the same.

Since the early 70's, the "ministerial exception" has been upheld by the Courts and labor standards, as a protection from government interference or intervention in church hiring or employment issues. What this means as it relates to the new overtime rules, is that pastors/ministers are exempt from the new overtime rules and the FLSA in general, if the pastor/minister qualifies for the "ministerial exception." To qualify for this exemption, the individual must "perform tasks central to the institution's mission/religious mission." Pastors/ministers certainly qualify for this exemption and would be exempt simply by being employed by a religious institution.

However, other employees of churches do not qualify for this exception simply for being employed by a religious institution. Those employees would need to demonstrate that they "perform tasks central to the institution's religious mission," such as "leading prayer" or "providing religious instruction" to also qualify for the ministerial exception, for example a church run nursery schoolteacher who is expected to perform those activities. All other full-time non-ministerial church employees would earn overtime pay for additional hours worked, in the same way they always have been covered.

The changes for the above noted "white collar exceptions", are as follows:

- July 2024 changes
- Salary threshold

The minimum salary for the exemption from overtime pay increased from \$684 per week to \$844 per week, or \$43,888 per year.

Part 2 is proposed to take effect on January 1, 2025, with a more significant increase to the weekly salary threshold from \$844 to \$1,128 per week or \$58,656 per year.






**AMERICAN BAPTIST
HISTORY & POLITY COURSE
January 2025**

PRE-COURSE WORK REQUIRED

LIVE CLASS DATES: January 11th & 25th

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!


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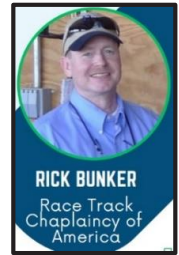
The graphic features a background of old, leather-bound books. On the left side, there is a vertical grey bar containing the ACTS logo and contact information. The main text is centered over the books in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

This course explores the origins, development and basic beliefs of Baptists, emphasizing an appreciation for the importance of knowing our rich Baptist heritage. There will be an examination of the association, regional and national structures of ABC-USA and of the typical organization styles and policies of the local church. As opportunity presents itself, concepts of congregational transformation and spiritual formation will be incorporated in the course.






Academy Of Christian Training And Service.
ACTS Administrator — Debra Savage
debra.savage@actsministryschool.com



ABCOPAD
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
2024-2025
REGION PROJECT



Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. -Proverbs 22:6

-  WHO: Chaplain Rick Bunker
-  WHAT: 10 DAY - YOUTH DAY CAMP (*back side of the track*)
-  WHERE: PARX Race Track, Philadelphia, PA
-  WHEN: Summer 2025
-  HOW: Our generous ladies & churches across ABCOPAD!



During the days of Youth Camp, kids will play team sports and games, eat meals together, share in times of prayer, hear Bible stories and sing songs. Inspirational Christian crafts will be made. Each child (ages 6-13 with older youth as helpers) will receive an age-appropriate Bible and a basic electronic tablet preloaded with Bible Apps. These Apps will include quality, edifying videos, games and places they can read and hear enriching stories and the Bible.

The expected impact of this program is for young people to hear the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a wider, fuller family engagement through what the children are able to take home. Parents and relatives of the children will be encouraged to participate in the entire 10-day program as well.

Chaplain Rick envisions them learning about the joy, power and goodness of God through this experience. His desire is to make disciples, then continue nurturing and arming those new disciples for the many challenges (media, school, schoolmates, etc.) that will beset them in their lives.

The proposed budget is \$14,000.00 to reach an expected number of 100 children. Would you or your church be willing to ensure that 1 child has this opportunity to meet Jesus as their Savior? \$140.00 will meet that need! Let's do our very best to invest in their eternal futures!

PROJECT BEGINS September 1, 2024 and ENDS August 31, 2025

Questions? Sally Perry, Mission & Service Coordinator rasperryjelly@gmail.com

Donations can be made to REGIONAL MISSION PROJECT online

<https://give.ministrylink.com/app/giving/abwmopad>

Donations by check written to 'ABWMOPAD'
with '2025 REGIONAL PROJECT' in the memo line.

Mail checks to ABWMOPAD Treasurer:
Sally Breski, 1381 Butler Road, Worthington, PA 16262



News From our Associations (www.abcopad.org)

Northumberland Baptist Association

FBC, Berwick held Trunk or Treat at the church. It was a beautiful day and more than 150 guests from the community attended. The kids get treats, there was a craft to make, games to play, face painting and hot dogs, and walk away tacos for everyone. It was so nice to see families

come and spend some time while their kids get to enjoy what we have for them. We received several "thank yous" for providing this safe alternative. We have tables set up where they can sit and enjoy their food. I know for several of our families that was their meal for the day. It was a great way to connect to our community.

	2024	2023
United Mission Basics	\$20,864	\$17,023
Love Gift	\$235	\$2,588
Partners in Ministry	\$18,247	\$25,750
Over & Above	\$1,547	\$0
Annual Offerings		
AFC	\$1,152	\$2,824
WMO	\$8,124	\$6,523
RMMO	\$0	\$2,391
OGHS	\$8,500	\$7,830

The cumulative comparison figures

United Mission Basics is behind thru Sept. 2024 by (\$18,377.)

The decrease in United Missions (includes UMB and Love Gift) amounts to (\$15,953.) less in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received thru Sept.

Partners in Ministry is behind by (\$10,619.) thru Sept.

This amount includes a \$30,063. from a charitable gift annuity

Over & Above is the ABCOPAD Womens Ministry offering.

ABCOPAD Womens Ministry supports ABCOPAD monthly.

AFC is behind by (\$13,221.) thru Sept. This decrease amounts to (\$3,878.)

less in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received thru Sept.

In actual dollars, from UM, AFC and PIM, ABCOPAD has received (\$30,450.) less thru Sept.



*Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.
We are so blessed!*

December, 2024 Deadline:

Items to be included in the Dec. issue of Notes & News need to arrive by 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5.

Please send all material to Denise Veselicky via one of the following:

Mail: ABCOPAD • 159 N. Bellefield Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2609 • **Email:** dveselicky@abcopad.com

Phone: 888-687-0883 • **Fax:** 412-687-3941

Thank you! Donna L. Schneff, designer • deeschneff@gmail.com



Rev. Tim Schwartz
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I have been looking into some possibilities for Hurricane Helene recovery work and a few other thoughts:

Here are some locations for us to consider in sending teams:

- **Samaritan's Purse** - They are actively running teams through their website - they have numerous sites in the western NC - in Mitchell and Yancey counties. On their webpage, click on the "US Disaster Recovery" tab under the "What we Do" drop box.
- **Ascent** is working in SW VA - Damascus, VA. At this point, they are building their infrastructure to run work teams. They can host up to 20 people at a time - but did say that most of the volunteer slots are being filled by people in NC that were not affected by the storm. They will probably be a good group to partner with in the spring. The contact person is Glen Maddox - 804-915-5000 x7269
- **Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders** - they are just getting started in creating infrastructure for recovery. They are taking volunteers - up to 20 people per week - but need solid construction leadership in the group. You would have to prepare your own meals.
- **NC Baptists** - They seem to be the most organized in running recovery teams. They have been on the ground helping people since 2 days after the storm. They have 16 sites in affected areas to host teams. They host teams at churches at no cost, and the churches are responsible to feed the volunteers (at no cost). They were asking for teams with skilled volunteers (like chain saw workers). They are not at the place where they are ready to have people who are painters or can hang drywall, but they have the infrastructure to host volunteers and have worksites. The website is ncbaptists.org, scroll down and click on volunteers, and on that page there is a basic volunteer form to fill out.

ABCOPAD has a **Disaster Relief Budget** that Mark Mahserjian-Smith, ABCOPAD Regional Executive Pastor, would probably be happy to use to help move trips forward.

If you don't have a chain saw but would still like to help support the recovery efforts, ABCOPAD also has a **Disaster Relief Fund** to help teams from our region. 100% of every dollar given goes to support Disaster Relief Efforts in our Region or help teams from our Region serve. https://www.abcopad.org/Mission_Resources/ABCOPAD-Disaster-Relief-Information/

I am hoping to get a team of 20-25 people who enjoy using chain saws (and own one) to be a lead team to NC in the month of November. I am talking with some guys from my church to see if they want to go, but at this point in recovery, a chain saw team is incredibly helpful. My guess is that the affected areas are deep in the cleaning up/mudding out phase of recovery, and chain saws can help clear lots and open access ways.

I will continue to keep working on this and hope to partner with y'all in sending teams down. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to touch base.

-Tim



Partners in Ministry...wow just the name of this offering/ministry with ABCOPAD is one that brings comfort, strength, and restoration. We are not alone. That is one of the things that God has blessed me in being a GPS is that God calls me to let Pastors, churches, colleagues, and friends know they are not alone in the journey. We desire to **Partner** with you in the celebrations and the heartaches of ministry.

At times search committees feel overwhelmed and it is a privilege to **partner** with them to realize God is in control and desires the best for His church whatever that may look like for them. Seeking God's plan...working as **partners!**

Pastors at times can feel overwhelmed and alone. So blessed to **partner** with them to encourage self-care just as Jesus did when He went to His mountain to spend time with the Father.

When churches/pastors celebrate special events, baptisms, anniversaries, new pastor installations, and so much more, it's a joy to worship/**partner** with them and praise God for what He is doing in their midst. **Partnering** within the celebration!

If you are in the SW area...one thing I always ask is: Where is your mountain? What is your mountain? How often to you get there? Jesus went often to the mountains...to pray, spend time with His Father...recharge. **Partner** with His Father! Mountains are a visual of power and strength. We all need our mountain! We ALL need to **partner** with our Heavenly Father.

Can't find your mountain? Not sure what to do? Contact the GPS in your area...they certainly would love to **Partner** with you to help you find it. Maybe...start with the Pastors' retreat just around the corner! **Partner** with other pastors!

Thank you, to each of you, for financially supporting **Partner's in Ministry**. Without your financial support we could not **partner** with you...but so glad we are **partners** through your love and generous giving!

“After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone...”

Matthew 14:23



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You can give to Partners in Ministry...

1. Through your local congregation's weekly offering by designating your gift to ABCOPAD - **Partners in Ministry**.
2. Through ABCOPAD's Online Giving option, available on the Regional website (www.abcopad.org). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.
3. By giving through your mobile device.
4. By sending your check (made payable to ABCOPAD WMS) to: ABCOPAD; P.O. Box 421; Hatboro, PA 19040



Thank you for your giving to **Partners in Ministry** and for your partnership as we minister together in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

**American Baptist Churches of
Pennsylvania and Delaware**

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Everyday Churches Unleashing Hope Among Everyday People

Sandusky, OH

April 25-26, 2025



Learn how congregations are reimagining and reorganizing to bring hope into the cafés, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods and common places we spend our days.

ABCOPAD will purchase the tickets and cover the cost of the hotel (2 per room) for ABCOPAD pastors. Carpooling is encouraged as transportation is not covered.

If you are interested in attending, visit www.abcopad.org to register.

