



THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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What, exactly, were you taught?

A word from Marie Onwubuariri
Regional Executive Minister

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7 (NRSV)

The four imperatives that fuel and frame the ministry efforts of the region staff are: *rootedness, collaboration, growth, and transformation*. We do not understand these imperatives to be independent from one another or necessarily interdependent for linear progression. Rather, we see it necessary that they are continually and cyclically present and engaged as we discern and pursue faithfulness in our collective call.

At our upcoming 173rd Annual Gathering of ABC Wisconsin, together we will give particular attention to "*rootedness*" while also exploring the other three imperatives. The program committee has chosen Colossians 2:6-7 as our theme scripture. These verses presented an exhortation to the Colossian believers to live out their faith according to their rootedness in and learning of Christ Jesus. If you continue to read the remainder of Chapter 2 you begin to see some of the things that tempted or oppressed them—both from without and within the religious institution—preventing them from "holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God" (2:19).

Those of us from and in the church may find it easy to agree with these two verses, believing that what we have been taught is indeed Christ Jesus, and how we live out our faith is indeed rooted in those teachings. Yet the question that glares out to me as I read these verses is, "What, exactly, were you taught?" I know I understand Jesus and try to model my life as a Jesus-follower quite differently than what I was taught in my early formative years, not that I was misled, but now, through expanding my classroom (*collaboration*), my faith and understanding have *grown* and been *transformed*. So, I am thankful for my deep roots in Christ, yet I know the building up in Him continues.

What exactly have you been taught in your faith, both implicitly and explicitly, how are you living these teachings out, and when was the last time you measured these things against the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ in our scriptures and living witness of Christ in the world today?

Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for registration details for the
173rd Annual Gathering of ABC Wisconsin, October 13-14, 2017

Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin

"Rootedness in Christ for..." Colossians 2:6-7

News About People, Churches, & Partners

Congratulations to:

- **CENTRAL Wisconsin 2017 graduates**, 4 among the 58-person Central Seminary Class of 2017: **Kendrick Allen** (Milw, Pilgrim Rest), MDiv.; **Bernadette Arellano** (Milw, Broken Walls) MDiv & recipient of the Peace and Justice Award; **Howard Brown** (Milw, Calvary), Diploma; and **Carolyn Parker** (Milw, Progressive), MAT & recipient of the Robert G. Torbet Award in History. **Margarita Schutten** (Oak Creek Assembly of God, Oak Creek), received a Certificate of Ministry Studies from the CBTS – Hispanic Lay Institute.
- **Rex Rogers** on being appointed as a new Area Minister for the ABC Great Rivers.
- **Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC)**, an ABHMS Neighborhood Action Program (NAP), for being honored with the People's Choice Award at the 2017 Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) gala.
- **Marie Onwubuariri** who graduated from the American Baptist Seminary of the West (Berkeley, CA) with her Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in Transformational Leadership and received an award for outstanding visionary work on a DMin project (May 20). She also co-edited a newly released book: *Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice (Nurturing Faith, April 2017)*. (Copies available at the region office.)

Announcements:

- **May May Latt** has completed her service as ABC/WI Burmese Community Liaison. We thank her for her invaluable work with our Burmese, Chin, and Karen congregations and in the broader community.
- The **Rev. Dr. Lee J. Spitzer** has been elected and will begin his service as the new General Secretary of ABCUSA, starting June 1, completing his service as Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of New Jersey.

It's not too late to sign up for
Summer Camps at Camp Tamarack
Sr. High 6/11-17
Primary 6/18-21
Middler 6/18-24
Jr. High 6/25-7/1
All Inclusive 7/2-8
Grandily 7/5-8
Junior Camp 7/9-15

One Great HOUR
OF SHARING

June Special Offering

I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matt 25:35
OGHS supports disaster relief, development projects, and refugee ministries of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. Details available with your church office.

August 18-20 @ Green Lake Conf. Center
A high-intensity **WEEKEND RETREAT** for adults who are exploring a personal call to join God in global mission.

Sponsored by International Ministries.

Go to: <http://www.cvent.com/d/y5q001>

for more information.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

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