May 2018

Reflections on Collaboration by Rev. Dr. John Jones IV, ARM - Education

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 39 But Jesus said, “Do not stop him ...”

Mark 9 (NRSV)

Responding to God’s call is a powerful, demanding endeavor. The sense of responsibility and blessing can weigh heavy. Yet, the challenge is always to share and to respond, with open hands. We are not in control. God’s spirit is active. We must be limber and responsive to collaborate and cooperate with that spirit.

This is the challenge and gift of partnership and collaboration. Our work in the world is not OUR work. It is God’s work. And we can only do it with integrity and faithfulness when we are humble enough to cooperate with and trust others - even and especially others who are not like us.

Our CENTRAL graduates, Amos Green, Reginald Ivy, and Lalpek Lian, shine as examples of the collaboration built into responding to God’s call on our lives. I know that each one acknowledges this milestone with a profound sense of gratitude for the support and help received from friends and family, particularly the faith family that is the church.

On May 13, CENTRAL Wisconsin will gather for our 9th Commissioning Service in the context of worship. Through our worship, we will recognize not only the hard work of these students and sacrifices of their families, but also the grace of God that has brought them this far through the cooperation and collaboration of so many others. You are invited to join in this celebration of your local seminary.

As you look toward the warmer months of summer, keep your eyes open for the ways that God is at work in the world. Overcome fear and take the risk of trust and cooperation. Under the bountiful grace of God, so clearly evident in this beautiful season, let’s learn to do the difficult work of collaboration, remembering that this work is God’s, not ours. We can participate in new and surprising ways.

Check out our updated website: camptamarack.org
...and while you are there, sign up now:
MAY 17th - 20th SPRING INTO CAMP
June 10th-16th Sr High-grades 9-12*
17th -23rd Primary-grades 1-2*
17th -23rd Middler-grades 3-4*
24th -30th Junior-grades 5-6*
July 1st-7th All Inclusive
1st-4th Grandly
8th-12th Jr. High-grades 7-8*
15th-18th Tamarack Tales-NEW!
*(grades just completed)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

ABC International Ministries
7/2-3 Hear the Call Conference
7/4-7 World Mission Conference
Green Lake Conference Center. Go to internationalministries.org

7/19-22 AB Women and Girls National Conference, Elgin, IL. Go to abwomensministries.org

AB Home Mission Societies— various work trips and equipping opportunities for young adult clergy, all ages, and more. Go to abhms.org/resources/events/

SAVE THE DATES

9/7-9 AB Men’s National Conference, Green Lake
10/12-13 ABC/WI 174th Annual Gathering, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, Milwaukee
6/21-23, 2019 ABCUSA Mission Summit (Biennial), Virginia Beach, VA

ABC Wisconsin is Hiring— Office Administrator
Serves as hospitality specialist and central administrative support at our Elm Grove office. Full job posting available at abcofwi.org

PEOPLE NEWS

Region Staff member Ericka Davis now has communications and technology support added to her portfolio, along with CENTRAL student recruitment. Dawn Armstrong continues as Special Assistant to the Regional Executive Minister with additional hours and will be the first contact for churches requesting samples of print resources from the regional office.

With sympathy: please keep in prayer Mark Brandel, pastor of Wyocena, Community, and his family in the passing of his mother on April 24.