



THE MESSAGE BOARD
A Newsletter from
A. Roy Medley, General Secretary



Personal Reflections

Volume 3 – November 1, 2008

Are you ready to be challenged? Then come to the Pasadena Biennial!

If you are a new (or maybe even a seasoned) American Baptist, you may not have heard about the Biennial. Every two years, we gather to worship, learn, celebrate, grow and set direction for our lives as God's people. "Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ" beautifully captures our servant heart. That theme will guide us throughout our time in Pasadena, California, June 26 to 28, 2009. We are experimenting! This Biennial will offer new experiences:

- **Mission Summit Experience**—Take advantage of "People on the Edge," including workshops and Bible studies, and see how American Baptists are joining Jesus in ministry with people on the edge.
- **Mission Fair**—Spend time at our exhibit area that is designed to be interactive and downright fun! Dialogue with missionaries; grab a cappuccino with friends; enjoy live music; and, yes, find books and bargains.
- **Discernment Sessions**—Attend fast-paced plenaries that will move and inspire you. Gifted speakers/ teachers; world-class Christian music, heart-moving videos and informative presentations will send you forth strong in faith and ready to serve as Christ's hands and feet.
- **Mission Projects**—Experience hands-on mission projects to put your hands and feet to work for Christ.
- **Learning Opportunities**—Attend workshops that will grow, inform and challenge you.
- **Decisions**—As a Delegate, participate in significant decision-making around a 21st Century structure for ABCUSA.
- **Young Adult Ministers**—Come and enjoy a dinner planned especially for you!

And as always, enjoy seeing lifelong friends and making new friends; new ideas for ministry; inspiring preaching; and international and ecumenical guests.



**Come...explore God's challenge to you to be God's hands and feet.
Come...celebrate God at work through American Baptists.
Come...fall in love again with this great family.
Come...leave changed.**

Notable Events on Roy's Calendar

Prayer Matters

- **10/31/2008 – 11/1/2008**
Annual Meeting of American Baptist Churches of Oregon, Cottage Grove, OR
- **11/9/2008**
Preaching at Calvary Baptist Church, Denver, CO (Installation of New Pastor)
- **11/11/2008 – 11/14/2008**
General Assembly of National Council of Churches of Christ, Denver, CO
- **11/14/2008 – 11/16/2008**
General Board Executive Committee, General Board & General Executive Council Meetings, King of Prussia, PA
- **11/27/2008**
Thanksgiving Day

- For local pastors and congregations seeking a pastor
- For local churches and their stewardship programs in these financially challenging times
- For the church in India which is experiencing increased oppression from Hindu fundamentalists
- For the Baptist-Islamic dialogue event in January
- For the church in the Middle East
- For peace in the Congo
- For an end to the suffering of the Sudan
- For staff and lay persons planning our 2009 Biennial

American Baptists Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ