



*...you will  
be my  
witnesses  
in  
Jerusalem,  
in all  
Judea  
and  
Samaria,  
and  
to the  
ends  
of the  
earth.  
Acts 1:8*

## THE FABRIC OF FAITH

"I've always seen my work like that of a weaver," says Rothangliani Chhangte. "As a pastor and a teacher, I would bring people together from different walks of life and races. Each person I met and each ministry I witnessed added to the colors and textures of the weaving. Now that I'm working on an international level, the weaving has become even more elaborate and beautiful."

"In my role of representing the American Baptist General Board Committee on Christian Unity, I've traveled to Berlin, Prince Edward Island, Atlanta, New York City, Dallas, and Miami to meet with a variety of ecumenical groups. It has been enriching to meet people from all Christian persuasions and to be able to find commonality through a passion for Christian unity."

American Baptists participate in activities of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), the National Association of Evangelicals (NEA), the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC), and the World Council of Churches (WCC). Part of Rothang's job is to foster deeper understanding of cooperative Christianity and to promote Christian unity by informing and involving American Baptists in the work of these groups.

Rothang serves on the NCCC Interfaith Commission that works to build and maintain interfaith relationships. It provides resources for Christians and churches to explore the challenges and opportunities of living among people of other faiths and how



**YOUR PARTNER IN GENERAL MINISTRIES**  
**Rothangliani R. Chhangte**  
Coordinator of Ecumenical Ministries

they can relate to other religions in ways that will promote peace in their local settings.

The NCCC is focusing on mobilization to overcome poverty. "One in six children in the United States," shares Rothang, "live in poverty. NCCC is working in collaboration with Pentecostals, Evangelicals, Protestant, Orthodox, and Roman Catholics, and with other nonprofit groups, such as the Children's Defense Fund and Habitat for Humanity, to fight poverty. The goal is to significantly reduce U.S. poverty by 2010."

Another program of the NCCC is the Micah 6 project, "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6 integrates a three-fold approach to the life of faith that connects justice, kindness, and spiritual growth.

Becoming involved in American Baptist cooperative Christianity was a natural choice for Rothang. She was born and raised in Assam, India; went to boarding school in Darjeeling, West Bengal, where she learned to live with students from many different faiths; and then came to the United States to attend college. Rothang's father baptized her

at the age of 13 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Assam, India. Before becoming ecumenical coordinator, nine months ago, she served as pastor at the Woodland Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Rothang helped restart an older, inner-city church with an outreach ministry to Asian Americans. During her seven years there, the church grew from an Anglo congregation into a multi-cultural church made up of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, African Americans, and Liberians.

"My passion for unity is based on the prayer of Jesus in John 17:23, 'that all may be one so that the world may know,'" says Rothang. "Helping people work together in the body of Christ is my witness to a community of faith."

### ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Contact your local church ministerium/council to see how your church can be involved in local ecumenical activities.
- Join the "Mobilization to Overcome Poverty." For information visit [www.ncccusa.org](http://www.ncccusa.org).
- Become a Micah 6 church. For information visit the website at [www.micah6.org](http://www.micah6.org) or contact National Coordinator Nancy Theoharis, **877-642-2460**.
- Support our partner organizations such as BWA, NCCC, or the WCC, through gifts to American Baptist Mission Support. (Remit on line 9 of the Monthly Mission Giving report form.)
- For further information, or copies of the free brochure, "A Passion for Unity," contact Rev. Rothang Chhangte at **800-ABC-3USA x2279** or [rothang.chhangte@abc-usa.org](mailto:rothang.chhangte@abc-usa.org).



# 2001 WORLD MISSION OFFERING

**“Rejoice  
always,  
pray  
without  
ceasing,  
give  
thanks  
in all  
circum-  
stances;  
for this  
is the will  
of God  
in Christ  
Jesus for  
you”**

**1  
Thessalonians  
5:16-18**



## **PRAY FOR OUR WORLD**

Prayer is the gateway to a place where words, both spoken and unspoken, are always heard with understanding by our loving God.

The World Mission Offering begins with a “Week of Prayer for Global Mission.” Every family in each congregation will receive a day-to-day prayer guide, and is encouraged to read through the seven days of stories written by our missionaries.

Throughout their years of service, American Baptist missionaries have given testimony to the power of prayer during times of difficulty and times of celebration. Our local churches across the United States have played a significant role in the spiritual support of American Baptist missionaries and international partner churches.

“The best-laid plans are doomed to fail if prayer has not first unified all parts,” say Jim and Sara Wiegner, missionaries in Costa Rica. “You are that vital part and we covet your prayers in our work.”

“Thank you for your faithful prayers that bring the light of the knowledge of God to those who yearn for it,” says Walt White, global specialist for cross-cultural witness.

Please set aside the first week of your promotion as a time of prayer so that God will bless our efforts as we

seek to Go Global with the majestic glory of God.

## **NEW MISSIONARY CHALLENGE FUND**

Thirteen new missionaries were commissioned on August 2, 2001 at the World Mission Conference in Green Lake, WI. That brings the number of new missionaries since March 1, 1997, to 92 persons called by God to Go Global.

Many of these appointments were made possible by the success of the “New Missionary Challenge Fund,” an over-and-above initiative to raise support for the missionaries. Started in 1996, this challenge seeks to raise \$350,000 annually for five years to support missionary appointments.

Over the last four years American Baptists have responded generously, giving more than \$750,000 above and beyond their regular giving to the World Mission Offering. In this final year of the challenge fund, please pray that our churches will once again respond faithfully to God’s call to Go Global by giving generously to this vital initiative.

Money given in 2001 will sustain support of new missionaries by covering costs of salaries, housing, benefits, and transportation. See the 2001 Directed Giving Catalog included with your World Mission Offering resources for more details.

## **FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING**

- Gifts to the World Mission Offering support the work of our Baptist church partners in more than 70 countries worldwide.
- The World Mission Offering provides the largest single source of income for the work of American Baptist International Ministries.
- Your gifts assist vital mission projects of our global partner churches.
- In 2000 our congregations contributed a total of \$4,046,177 to the World Mission Offering—the most ever—to support the church of Jesus Christ worldwide. This year, let’s stretch even further to Go Global with the glory of God!

## **ADVOCATE ACTIONS:**

- Make sure your church received a box of 2001 World Mission Offering resources, and that someone has agreed to coordinate the promotion. If you need additional quantities call **800-458-3766**.
- For more information about International Ministries, visit their website **www.internationalministries.org**.
- Please pray for these new missionaries commissioned as of August 2001:
  - Dwight & Kari Davidson, Japan
  - Cheryl Jones, South Africa
  - Marie McCulley, China
  - Therese & Thomas Myers, Nepal
  - David & Laura Parajón, Nicaragua
  - David & Elizabeth Perkins, India
  - Ingrid Roldán-Román, Panama
  - James & Karen Ross, Poland



# BEING DISCIPLES AND DISCIPLE-MAKERS

... in all  
Judea  
and  
Samaria...

Christian education. What images come to mind when you hear those words? Sunday school? Children? Bible knowledge?

What comes to mind when you consider the word “discipleship”? Many have responded with images like “following Jesus,” “growing in faith,” “lifelong,” or “a lifestyle.”

Discipleship seems to suggest something broader than Christian education. While Christian education often focuses on programmatic efforts, discipleship includes other elements of congregational life, such as worship, spiritual growth, and service.

Discipleship matters. Jesus commissioned his followers to “Go and make disciples” (Mt 28:19). Think about discipleship as having three elements: deepening, equipping, and ministering.

## DEEPENING

Being a Christian means being in relationship with Jesus Christ. Like any friendship, we want it to deepen and grow. Deepening our faith is a priority for you and me as individual Christians. How are you doing on your journey to become Christ-like? Just as important is your congregation’s growth as a community of disciples. How is your congregation doing on its journey to deepen its faith as the Body of Christ?

## EQUIPPING

God has gifted each person with unique and special gifts. Sometimes



we need help identifying them. Disciples are intent on developing their gifts so they are used to their potential. As we develop our gifts, we experience an energy and passion to use them!

## MINISTERING

Ministering means putting our faith in action—using our gifts—bearing fruit. We share Christ’s ministry with him. We serve, as Christ served. Your ministry might happen in your workplace or in your neighborhood or in another country. God calls each of us to a ministry, whether it be for three months or three years. Responding to that call is part of what it means to follow Jesus as a disciple.

## EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES DEVELOPS DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCHES

The world today needs dynamic disciples who are grounded in faith and equipped to use their gifts in ministry in the world. Educational Ministries has a deep commitment to help churches be or become disciple-making congregations. We’re working with regions to develop a “tool kit” of resources to strengthen disciple-making churches. We’re training individuals to be Discipleship Partners—region consultants to churches—helping churches become vibrant, disciple-making congregations! Discipleship really matters!

## HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST?

Your church received a free copy of the 2001-2002 Christian Education Planning Guide, DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS. The 48-page resource book includes

monthly planning helps, a year-at-a-glance calendar, discipleship suggestions, and lots of great teaching tips. Leaders of church school, children, youth, adult, family, and missions groups will find ideas to

enhance their ministries.

Ask your pastor to share DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS with you, or call **800-458-3766** for a personal



copy. Visit Educational Ministries website for updates, [www.abc-em.org](http://www.abc-em.org).

## ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Be a disciple-making leader. How will you help others deepen their relationship with Christ? How might you help equip others to use their gifts? How will you encourage others to “bear fruit” through ministry?
  - Talk with your pastor about opportunities to use your gifts.
  - Enroll in the American Baptist **Volunteer Skills Network**. Enter your skills in this national database, so your skills can be matched with volunteer opportunities for mission at home, in this country, or overseas: [www.abcskills.org](http://www.abcskills.org).



# A CHAPLAIN OF CHAPLAINS

## SHE HAS MANY 'FIRSTS' TO HER CREDIT

Lorraine Potter is an American Baptist endorsed military chaplain and home missionary. On April 6, 2001, Potter was named U.S. Air Force Chief of Chaplain Service. And on May 24, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for promotion to Major General, the first woman to achieve the rank of general officer in any of the armed services.

“My call is to be a ‘fellow traveler’ with those challenged by the frailties and struggles of life—offering hope and the presence of God,” says Chaplain Potter. “I am proud to be part of this diverse, pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic ministry.”

As Chief of Chaplain Service, Potter advises the Air Force Chief of Staff on all matters pertaining to the religious and moral welfare of the



Lorraine Potter, U.S. Air Force Chief of Chaplain Service

men and women serving in the Air Force. She also leads the Air Force Chaplain Service, which includes 2,200 chaplains and enlisted support personnel from active and air reserve components.

While recognizing that she has broken new ground in military ministry, Potter says, “There was nothing pioneering about being a woman in ministry. My mother is a lay minister with American Baptist churches. And she’s been doing ministry since she was 18 years old.”

This most recent appointment is

only one in a series of “firsts” for the chaplain. In 1971, she was the first woman ordained by American Baptists in Rhode Island. She became the first woman chaplain in the Air Force. And in 1992 when she was promoted to colonel, Potter was the first woman chaplain in the Department of Defense to achieve that rank.

## SERVING AROUND THE WORLD

Potter is one of more than 600 American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors who serve as National Ministries’ missionaries in the U.S. and around the world. They bring the presence of Christ to people in crisis situations. They also acknowledge the role of faith, as they help people move toward long-term, behavior-changing solutions. In prison settings, where society has given up on men and women, chaplains may serve as the only bridge to people on the outside.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors are interested in sharing their ministry with congregations. For the name of an American Baptist chaplain or pastoral counselor in your state, visit [www.nationalministries.org/mission/ChaplainsView.cfm](http://www.nationalministries.org/mission/ChaplainsView.cfm) or order the new National Ministries Home Mission Directory for local churches at **800-ABC-3USA x2464**.

## ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Pray for American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors who serve throughout the U.S. and around the world.
- Invite a chaplain or pastoral counselor to share his or her ministry with your congregation. Explore ways of supporting the ministry.

*... in all Judea and Samaria...*



**YOUR PARTNER IN NATIONAL MINISTRIES**  
**Rev. Dr. George Langhorne**  
 Director, Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services

George Langhorne served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy for 25 years and earlier as a pastor who was called on for counseling. From personal experience, he knows the joys and challenges in both ministries that “offer wonderful opportunities to walk with people through difficult times.” Langhorne finds it rewarding now to be a pastor to the 600+ American Baptist men and women currently serving as chaplains or pastoral counselors plus the additional 300 who are retired.

## ABC PARTNERSHIP IN POLAND

**... and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8**

James and Karen Ross will be the first American Baptist missionaries to serve in Poland since the 1920s when American Baptist missionary K.O. Strelcz traveled to Poland to coordinate post World War I relief ministry. The Rosses were commissioned at Green Lake, WI, on August 2, 2001, during the World Mission Conference. One of the groups the Rosses will be partnering with during their term of service is the Polish Baptist Union. International Ministries has been asked to help strengthen the relationship between the Union and the state orphanage system in Poland.

During the Soviet regime in Poland, people who were unable to work were considered the least important citizens. Since children were too young to accomplish many tasks, they, too, were considered of lesser importance. Sadly, this concept has carried over today. Children who have a physical and/or learning disability struggle even more due to a lack of acceptance and love from immediate family members and relatives. It is estimated that there are over 400 state-supported orphanages in Poland. Part of the Rosses' ministry will be to supplement the work of the Polish Baptist Union by encouraging families who reside in the vicinity of an orphanage to become active surrogate parents for orphaned children.



### **YOUR PARTNER IN OVERSEAS MINISTRIES** Karen and James Ross

Convincing families to accept an additional child will not be an easy task. The transition from a planned economy to a market economy has been difficult for the people of Poland. Although dramatic improvements have occurred over the past decade, economic conditions remain extremely difficult for many.

"We anticipate that one of our tasks will be to promote entrepreneurial activity for both Baptist and non-Baptist Poles in their effort to become more financially independent," says James. "This would enable more families to keep all of their children at home and not rely on the state orphanage system to meet their children's needs."

*"We think every human being has his own value, no matter social or material status, denomination, and health."*

*(The philosophy of the Christian Education Center - Diamond, one of the main groups the Rosses will be working with in Poland.)*

### **ADVOCATE ACTIONS:**

- Pray for the orphans in Poland and for the partnership between the Polish Baptist Union and International Ministries, asking that their efforts will bring positive changes to the state orphanage system.
- Pray for International Ministries' missionaries who are in their first term of service. A term lasts four years. Since most of the missionaries will be learning a new language and culture, the first term is especially challenging.
- Write to these missionaries. Let them know you're praying for them and that you're interested in their work and their families.
- Ask to be added to the newsletter mailing list of these missionaries by calling **800-ABC-3USA x2196.**





## MISSION ADVOCATES IN PARTNERSHIP BIENNIAL BREAKFAST

Almost 300 mission advocates and friends had breakfast together on the final morning of the American Baptist Biennial in Providence, Rhode Island in June. Mission advocates from Kansas, West Virginia, Massachusetts, and New York City shared some of their experiences and what being a mission advocate has meant to them.

The violin and piano duo, "Heartstrings," graced the event with beautiful renditions of new and familiar tunes. Claire Dent and Duane Flesher use their instruments to minister to God's people, and their music truly touches hearts.

If you missed the breakfast, you missed a special feature—the 2001 Biennial Quiz. Winners received copies of a Heartstrings CD. The quiz is reproduced here. See how you do. Then reward yourself by ordering a copy of the Heartstrings CD, "Worship in Peace." (It will cost you \$15, however; [heartstrings2000@crosswalkmail.com](mailto:heartstrings2000@crosswalkmail.com).)

## MISSION ADVOCATES QUIZ

- How many Regions make up the American Baptist Churches USA?  
A 37  
B 29  
C 34
- MMBB stands for:  
A More Money = Bigger Barns  
B Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board  
C My Missions - Bigger & Better
- The America For Christ Offering in 2000 totaled:  
A \$2,431,903  
B \$2,291,000  
C \$1,825,394  
(An extra point if you know when the America for Christ Offering was first raised for mission at home: 19\_\_ )
- UM stands for:  
A Um, Um, Good  
B Undesignated Money  
C United Mission
- Dr. Daniel Weiss retired after how many years as General Secretary?  
A 16 years  
B 12 years  
C 9 years, 7 months
- Dr. Robert Roberts is well-known for Encouraging the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A Biennial attendance  
B Tithe  
C Everything American Baptist
- New Life 2010 invites American Baptists to do what on the 20th of each month?  
A Pray at 10 a.m. or 10 p.m.  
B Open a new place of worship before 10 p.m.  
C Distribute flyers at the local shopping mall at 10 a.m.
- American Baptist Mission Support in 2000 totaled:  
A \$40,955,613  
B \$41,991,732  
C \$42,675,985
- VIM and VSN both relate to:  
A Health programs and vitamin supplements  
B New educational programs for seniors  
C Volunteerism for all ages
- International missionaries are commissioned each summer at what event?  
A World Outreach Seminar  
B World Mission Conference  
C Overseas Training and Education Conference



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA



ABC  
WEBSITE:  
[WWW.ABC-USA.ORG](http://WWW.ABC-USA.ORG)



## DEAR MISSION ADVOCATE,

With the recent announcement of a tax refund of \$300 or \$600 to most taxpayers in the country, you and the members of your congregation are faced with a choice. How will you use this financial windfall?

While it is our government's hope that tax refunds will encourage people to "buy stuff," let me ask you to prayerfully consider using this refund to support American Baptist ministry locally, throughout the United States, and around the world through a gift to United Mission.

As believers in Christ, it is good to remember that resources—all resources—come from God.

American Baptist home and overseas missionaries are the hands and feet serving God through you and your gifts of prayer and finances. This year I have had the privilege of seeing our mission dollars at work in my travels to some of our mission fields:

- Churches growing and building new facilities in Ohio.
- Rainbow Acres in Arizona serving 78 ranchers (developmentally disabled adults).
- Children in India receiving education.
- Women in the slums of Thailand starting a business of selling handmade flowers to support themselves and their families.
- New church plants and pastoral leadership in Japan.
- Work groups in LaPaz, Mexico helping to build a new structure for a new congregation.

Will you lead your church in helping members choose to make a gift for the ministry and vision of Jesus Christ? If your church would make a one-time gift of \$300 or \$600 gift to United Mission—above your regular giving—you will make a symbolic statement as to how Christians respond when God blesses. United Mission is the one area of American Baptist giving that supports mission and ministry throughout the entire family. Over half of United Mission funds ministry in your own region.

American Baptists have historically been a people called to mission and serving God through our collective missions together. Thank you for your continuing prayers, generosity, and active participation in our local church, national, and global missions together. But now we need you to make a choice! Will you use your tax refund for personal use only? Or will you choose to use this opportunity to give additional support to God's vision of mission and ministry through us?

Blessings,

Robert J. Crandall, CFRE  
Associate General Secretary  
World Mission Support

P.S. If your church has a one-time offering and asks each person or family to give a tithe of the \$300 or \$600 tax refund they receive, it would lift our ability to do God's ministry through us to new and higher levels. Will you personally accept this challenge and talk to your pastor about issuing it to the members of your congregation?

Your local church treasurer should report this one-time gift on line #1, United Mission Basics of the Monthly Report of Mission Support sent to your region or the national mission center.



*...in  
Jerusalem,  
in all  
Judea...*

