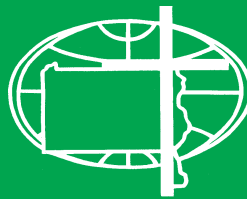


Notes & News, Thoughts & Views



For ABCOPAD Churches from Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith
Acting Regional Executive Pastor; Regional Pastor for Mission and
Communication — 570-435-2001 — msmsmail@abcopad.com

Volume 33, Number 6

June, 2023

Hebrews 10: 23-25 (NIV) Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Just a few weeks ago, I started my annual mid-May ritual of opening our swimming pool. The Spring of 2023 had been unusual. At the end of April and the beginning of May, we experienced unseasonably warm temperatures, but then the cold weather returned. Sadly, those warm days had started a bloom of algae growing in the swimming pool, so this year, when I removed the pool cover, I discovered the walls of the pool were green with algae. With just a couple of weeks before Memorial Day weekend, I knew it would be a battle removing the algae and creating crystal clear water my family and friends expect when swimming.

For a few minutes, I thought about just giving up this year. I would put the cover back on, walk away and forget about the pool. There would be far too much effort required to have the pool ready for Memorial Day and beyond. I said to myself, “You’ll be on the road much of the summer with little opportunity to go swimming. Who needs all the water treatments, applying costly chemicals, vacuuming, backwashing, and pool maintenance? Just put the cover back on and walk away.”

While I played with that thought in my head, I also began to remember the amazing family moments that have taken place around our family pool. Birthday and Graduation Parties have taken place at the pool. I’ve taught my grandkids to swim at the pool. I’ve invited pastors and church families to a barbecue and a time to rest at the pool. Church picnics filled with laughter, singing and games all at the pool. We’ve even had baptisms at the pool.

This would NOT be the year I passed on the pool, just because it would be challenging to get everything ready. Despite two busy workweeks, along with vacuuming, backwashing, and lots of scrubbing with a pool brush, the swimming pool was ready for Memorial Day. Of course, the water was cold, but that did not stop our family from jumping in.

For many, gathering together as associations have become as challenging as opening my swimming pool. Association life was already in decline before COVID-19, but the pandemic seems to have been a death nail in the coffin of association gatherings. As a result, lots of our Association Churches have fallen out of fellowship with one another, and there seems to be this sense that rebuilding associations is not worth the time, effort, or cost.

Amid this, our ABCOPAD Staff have made a commitment to bring together congregations both by association and by geography to restore the encouragement and support we once took for granted in our associations. We recognized we needed to do more than cling to old models of association gathering that included long business meetings, uninspiring worship, and stale speakers. Instead, we would need new and innovative approaches to bring people together. We started doing some of this work last year, and the plan will move forward this year.

Throughout the summer, ABCOPAD Geographic Pastoral Servants (GPS), Women in Ministry Leaders, The Regional Student Ministry Team, our AB Women’s Ministry Team, Men’s Ministry, and our newest Cohort group, 45ish and Under Pastoral Leaders all have plans to come together for events. These events offer an opportunity to connect with each other as well as reimagine what it means to be in partnership. The events will include Retreats, Baseball Games, Picnics, Mission Projects, Mission Trips, Camping, and much much more. I hope you will hear the words of scripture I shared at the start of this article.

Opening my swimming pool was a lot of work, but *IT WAS WORTH IT*. Attending an associational event near you is **ABSOLUTELY WORTH IT**. We find our strength in being together. Please watch the ABCOPAD website, check your email for Constant Contact messages, stop by our Facebook Page, or reach out to a Regional Staff member who can help you discover an opportunity to be together as an ABCOPAD family this summer. Know you are in my prayers.

God Bless, M



Ms. Caryl J. Casey
Treasurer
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You may have noticed on your latest receipt from mission giving, that your church's pin number has changed. That is just one of the different things, related to the new software that the national offices of ABC has moved to, for processing all mission giving and the record keeping of pastors' and lay leaders' work history and contact information.

It has not been an easy transition, but new things seldom are. I was reading about some of the reasons people don't like trying new things and they include fear of failure, we don't like to look incompetent, habits are powerful, we like our routines and the unfamiliar is often frightening. I would honestly say that every one of those feelings has been experienced by us in the last few months. We were used to accessing the ABCIS program, to do our work and share both current and historical statistics.

Reports that we have posted each month on our website, showing cumulative totals for all the churches by area and individual church reports that were shared with mission treasurers or mission committees are no longer available. It is a work in progress as new people sort through data, trying to frame the figures into reports that will help explain the churches' giving and support for missionaries and ministries.

While it may be months before you see some of the reports that you are familiar with, please know that we are always anxious for you to know and understand who and how you are supporting both regional ministries and the rest of the American Baptist family. The records are current and accurate, they might just be presented in different ways, when we share them, while new reports are created.

We live in a world that changes constantly and while we don't always enjoy those experiences, we have a God who never changes. Our God is faithful and never leaves us during times of transition.

Caryl





Rev. Dan McDowell
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Every once in a while, I find a book that captivates me and sharpens my focus. None of the books I'm referencing were written recently, but here are some that have fallen into that category for me: "The Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan, "In His Steps" by Charles Sheldon, "The Purpose Driven Life" and "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren, "The Hole in the Gospel" by Richard Stearns, "This Present Darkness" by Frank Peretti, "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger and "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby.

"The Pilgrim's Progress" is an allegory that helped me to see that my relationship with Christ was a journey that would have all kinds of highs and lows and that Christ would always be with me on that journey to get me through it. And to keep in mind that "The Celestial City" (Heaven) was my ultimate destination.

Having that vision of life as a long journey has served me well over the years. No matter what I am experiencing at any given time, this perspective gives me hope for the next part of my voyage.

"In His Steps" (the source for the WWJD or "What Would Jesus Do?" question) showed me the life-changing impact of truly following Jesus in very practical ways; that discipleship is not merely an academic exercise. It needs to be lived out and that doing so will impact the lives of others as well as my own integrity.

Warren's books reminded me that there are all kinds of things that can derail me from God's ultimate purpose for the life He gave me and that purpose is what He intends to drive me on that journey to the Celestial City.

"The Hole in the Gospel" was written by the (now former) President of World Vision. The Lord led him to give up a very lucrative career as a corporate CEO to devote his life to bringing the abundant life of Christ to the poorest of the poor throughout the world. He shares the profound impact that followers of Jesus can make when we sacrificially heed His calling on our lives.

"This Present Darkness" is a fictional Christian novel that vividly illustrates the concept of spiritual warfare and the power of prayer and worship to influence the world that we live in. It has helped me to see the impact of my spiritual life on others as well as in my own heart.

Many of you undoubtedly gained the same insights I did when ABCOPAD was promoting the study of "Canoeing the Mountains" a few years ago. Bolsinger's references to the journey of Lewis and Clark in the 19th century and his application of how that translates to the cultural shifts that are challenging today provides some helpful insights into the challenges we are navigating presently. Bolsinger has also influenced me to explore the "Fresh Expressions" movement of the church.

"Experiencing God" offers the insights of a former Southern Baptist Mission Board Director. He offers seven realities of Experiencing God:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

The central insight he offers is this:

"Look for what God is doing and join Him there."

For me, that cleared up an issue that long plagued me. Quite often I have determined a course of action and asked God to bless me as I did so. Blackaby taught me that I was putting the cart ahead of the horse!

I find this insight especially useful as we navigate these uncertain times in the church. Far too frequently we get caught up in our concerns for the future and we want to form a "game plan" to get us from where we are to where we want to go. And we do this without the necessary regard for where GOD wants to take us.

Whenever I have neglected or gotten ahead of God's will in my endeavors, I have always lived to regret it. It is my relationship with the Lord that matters most.

In my travels as a GPS, I often have deep conversations with anxious leaders who see dwindling numbers and wonder what the future holds. Our main priority is to invest in our relationship with the One who holds the future! The Celestial City awaits! But we must not allow ourselves to neglect the journey we are on today – and the assurance that God is on this journey with us and has promised to see us through.

Realities #5 and #6 are critical junctures to getting to reality #7. I pray that the Lord will give us the faith and wisdom to obey Him wherever He leads us.



Rev. Randy Powell
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Thoughts from our trip to Israel #1: The Global Church

There were many things that Nicole and I experienced during our seven days in Israel this May, all manner of insights and wisdom were available to us as we toured site after site connected to the stories of the Bible, and the life of Jesus in particular. I won't try to list them all here, they're better one at a time with context, so let me just share one observation that jumped out at me again and again during our trip: The Church is global.



I know, I already knew that, and I hope you did too, but it is the kind of truth that sometimes slips from our minds and hearts as we naturally focus in upon the needs and issues facing our own slice of that global entity and begin to think that most Christians look, think, and act as we do.

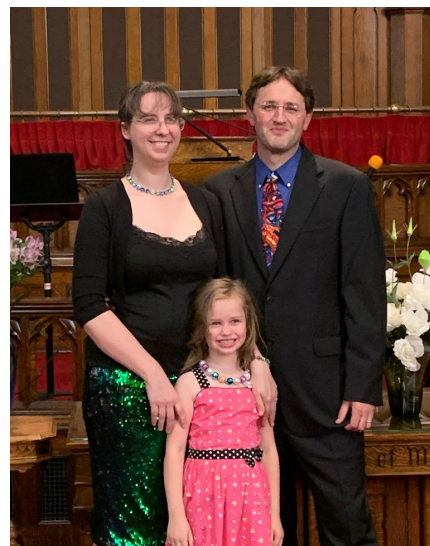
At many of the sites we visited, such as the one pictured here at the Church of the Primacy on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, there were these pavilions set aside that tour groups could reserve for a time of instruction, prayer, or worship. In other words, there are so many groups coming to these places to visit them that those who are the custodians of these sacred spaces have invested resources into setting aside spaces for them. We often saw them being utilized, and took advantage of a number of them ourselves (such as at the Garden Tomb, pictured in the next column).



What these pavilions don't immediately reveal is the great diversity of people making use of them. English was the minority language in use, people who look like most of our group were not the norm, and frankly the Western Church was less often represented than the South American, African, and Asian. While waiting to visit various places we had fascinating interactions with brothers and sisters in Christ from Brazil, Nigeria, India, and South Korea.

In fact, just after the picture above was taken, our group celebrated communion at the Garden Tomb site, and while we did so we could hear a nearby group lifting up, "In Christ Alone" in song through deeply accented English. Thanks to the layout of the area, we couldn't quite see them, but a number of us began to quietly sing along; it was beautiful.

Statistics about the Global Church are useful, they paint a two-dimensional picture, but actually standing in the midst of men and women from all over the world to whom Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, all as eager to learn about the places he visited as we were, really drives home in a powerful way the wondrous breadth of the universal Church.



The Powell Family



David Hardin
Reading Association
Geographic Pastoral Servant
dhardin@abcopad.com

In early May I enjoyed the opportunity to meet in person with other members of the ABCOPAD board. It is such a blessing the few times it is able to happen. The most rewarding part of the meeting was the lively discussion about several important issues ABCOPAD like other regions and denominations are facing. You could tell by the quality of discussion the people in the room were passionate, and there were no shortage of ideas. Time after time though the discussion came back to something along the lines of, “ya know it’s really an Association issue.” Not in an attempt to pass the buck or avoid making a decision, but in an honest acknowledgment of how Baptist have always done life together. The challenge with that answer, and it is the right answer, is that Associational life has fallen on hard times in recent years. For many of our Associations, life is at a minimum these days. This left me wondering, what do we do with some of these important, even essential topics?

I got to thinking about a very familiar story in Scripture. It is found in Matthew 14:15-21 “As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” 16 Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” 17 “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. 18 “Bring them here to me,” he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five

loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.”

What I was reminded of in this story is the disciples’ initial reaction to seeing the need in the crowd. “Jesus send them away.” Too often in life when I see a need, challenge, or obstacle, my initial reaction is Jesus make it go away! His response to the disciples is his response to me, “they don’t need to go away, you feed them.” Jesus, like always, has a better idea. “You deal with it.” Of course, the miracle happens after they bring him what they have.

In so many ways, I feel like this story captures where we are with Association life. There are important ministries that need to happen. Essential 21st century challenges we need to adapt to. The board is right when it says, “that’s really an Association decision.” I hear the challenge of Jesus saying, “No you feed them.” I feel the anxiety of the Disciples looking around saying, “all we have are five loaves of bread and two fish.” I also look to the hope of Christ saying “Bring it to me.”

That’s my encouragement to each of you and whatever ABCOPAD Association your church is a part of. There are people in need of Christ’s gospel all over ABCOPAD. We need each other to reach them. Christ is calling us to do it. Let’s bring what we have as Associations to Christ and watch and be amazed at what he will do with it.

Blessings, David





**AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES OF ABCOPAD
ANNOUNCES NEW POSITION**

At the Spring 2022 meeting of the ABWMOPAD Executive Team a motion was made to consider appointing an ABWMOPAD Director. The Team recognizes the need for one woman to be available to encourage and walk alongside the volunteer officers as they fulfill their ministry roles. The motion was passed unanimously with details to be worked out and voted on at a later date.

A job description for the appointed ABWMOPAD Director was presented at the Spring 2023 meeting at which time the Team voted unanimously to accept the job description. This position will be an appointment by the President and re-evaluated every 2 years. A small monthly stipend for her 20-30 hours will be provided by the ABWMOPAD treasury.

President, Becky Crissman, appointed Jodie Vasbinder to be the ABWMOPAD Director 2023-2025. It was acknowledged that Jodie has been the glue for several years keeping the Region Women's work THRIVING. Jodie has agreed to give this a 2-year trial period.

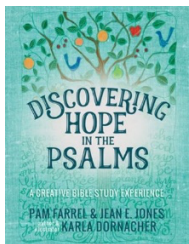


We are grateful that Jodie has accepted the call to use her gifts with the women of ABCOPAD.

Becky Crissman, ABWMOPAD President

Mark Mahserjian-Smith, Acting Regional Executive Pastor and our ABWMOPAD Staff Liaison

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Earlier this year, an online group of women used this resource to soak a bit in the book of Psalms. It was a welcome pace after reading through the entire Bible during the year of 2022! As created beings, created by the Creator of all things, it comes to reason that we should each have at least a molecule or two of creativity within our DNA. The creators of this devotional study, with their individual areas of expertise – author, teacher, artist – have provided such a rich resource to help us discover more about ourselves and our Creative Father. Summer has arrived and we are finding ourselves being creative about one thing or

another - what to do with kiddos home from school, meal prep for grilling or at the fire ring, family picnics and reunions, vacation planning, festivals, and so the list goes and grows. As you are being creative in caring for family and friends, leave room to be caring towards yourself. Spend time with Father God each day. Invite the Holy Spirit to play an active part in your plans, not just a tag a long who sits in the corner. Use every opportunity to be worthy of the calling Jesus has placed on our lives. Remember these words spoken by my dear Gramma Ruth – 'Summer plans are good – Summer not.'

We don't often share the schedule this far in advance, but some have asked how this retreat will look as compared to previous years conference schedules. Since we do have this tentative schedule, we will share so you can be informed! Still room to join in this refreshing, relaxing, restorative retreat experience at Camp Hebron, Halifax PA.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

- 2:00-5:00pm Registration/Mission Craft
- 5:00-6:00pm Evening Meal
- 6:30pm Group w/ worship/devotion/Offering
- 7:45pm Free time – enjoy the grounds/games
- 9:00pm Sing around the campfire/Smores
- 11:00pm Quiet & Lights out



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

- 8:00-9:00am Breakfast
- 9:30-10:45am Group w/worship & devotion
- 11:00-Noon Free time (pool open 11am-5pm)
- Noon-1:00pm Noon Meal
- 1:00pm Activities of your choice
- 2:45pm Teatime Scriptures
- 4:00-5:00pm Discussion w/ABWMOPAD Leadership
- 5:00-6:00pm Evening Meal
- 6:30pm Group w/ worship & devotion
- 7:30-8:30pm Discussion w/ ABWMOPAD Leadership
- 7:30-11:00pm Free time (pool open 7-9pm)
- 9:00pm Cookie Social
- 11:00pm Quiet & Lights out

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

- 8:00-9:00am Breakfast
- 9:00-9:45am Checkout of rooms
- 10:00am Group w/ message & communion

<https://www.abcopad.org/Ministries/ABWM/ABWMOPAD-Thrive-Retreat-2023.aspx>

Beaver

FBC, Beaver Falls celebrated their 140th Anniversary on May 21, with a special offering to help maintain their parking lot.

Central Union

The congregation at **New Britain** bade farewell to their beloved pastor, Rev. James Sutton, who recently took the pulpit for the last time. The church celebrated his long ministry afterwards and now prepare to forge ahead to prepare for the future.

FBC, Lansdale hosted a golf outing which raised close to \$8,000 for the ministry of the church. Following the 18 holes of golf, there was a buffet lunch for all of the golfers where awards were handed out.

Rev. Evan Duncan was recently installed as Senior Pastor of the **Baptist Church of West Chester**. Pastor Evan and his family came to us from Texas almost a year ago and has already made a strong impact on his congregation and in the life of our region and association.

FBC, Conshohocken and the Philadelphia Bible Society hosted a luncheon featuring Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, former General Secretary of ABC-USA. Dr. Spitzer (who comes from Jewish stock) is the author of a timely recent book, "Sympathy, Solidarity & Silence: Three European Responses to the Holocaust". During his lecture, Lee recounted the history of Baptist efforts to stand against antisemitism throughout the generations.

GraceCrossing Community, Phoenixville celebrated Mother's Day with special music, floral gifts for all the women in attendance and a fun strawberry shortcake reception after worship that offered a photo booth.

Centre

First Regular, Huntingdon is connecting with their neighborhood by partnering with a ministry engaging in backyard Bible clubs. Huntingdon is a recipient of one of ABCOPAD's spring grant disbursements and will use the money to better serve the kids who take part in the clubs in both showing & telling them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Centre Association had their annual meeting led by moderator, Kathy Staje. Five churches sent representation and they had a great time of sharing, planning and catching up. Pastor Sue Radel gave a wonderful devotion about the significance of prayer in our lives and ministries. Don Claypool shared about the 17 people from the association who traveled to Parchment Valley this spring for a mission trip and we heard updates from all of the churches about the ways God is using them in their contexts.

Delaware

The congregation at **FBC, Dover** extended a warm welcome to Chaplain William Guy who is serving as the Interim Pastor. Please remember the church in this transitional period as they seek a new pastor.

Monongahela

Rev. Mark Schollaert is now among the ranks of the retired, having completed his ministry at **FBC, Monongahela**. In recent years, Pastor Mark served our Region as the RMA LLC Coordinator. Please keep Pastor Mark (and Paula) in your prayers as they enter this next chapter in their lives and FBC, Monongahela begins a pastoral search.

Northumberland

Hepburn has welcomed their new Interim Minister, Rev. Tim Kinney.

Oil Creek

Greenfield sent off their first ABCOPAD Disaster Relief Mission Teams to Western Kentucky. Pastor Dan Cass reports: "Our group together serving God. Cool side story, I'm not there b/c we ran out of men spots and in order to get new people on the trip, we have a first-time leader in charge. God provides and I needed to be home." PS: An ABCOPAD Grant helped to fund this trip and others taking place this year.

Pittsburgh

A warm ABCOPAD welcome to Rev. Dr. Roy Kindelberger, the new pastor at **North Hills Community**. The congregation reports: "God's hands led us to Roy – a faithful servant, a knowledgeable teacher, a loving leader, and a welcoming shepherd of God's word."

Pastor Howard F. Irwin and **Woodlawn, Aliquippa** (a Caucasian congregation); hosted Pastor Richard C. Jackson and **Mt. Olive Missionary, Aliquippa** (an African-American congregation) for a joint worship service. These two leaders brought together people from differing races and backgrounds to worship the One True and Living God. Witnessing such unity should be an encouragement to us all.

Reading

FBC, Bethlehem, was awarded an ABCOPAD grant check for ministry at Camp Ichthus. Associate Pastor John Spatig and Moderator Karl Parker were happy to receive the funds in anticipation of a busy summer filled with campers and camp staff.

Ten Mile

The congregation at **FBC, Waynesburg**, bade farewell to their pastor, Rev Dr. Ed Peirce, who recently retired from his long ministry. Over the years, Pastor Ed has provided vital and valued leadership in both the local church and ABCOPAD region.

Other Items of Interest

Thanks to an ABCOPAD grant, a group of youth workers from across PA attended the **Youth Leader Summit** hosted by Youth Leader Oasis!

Welcome home! Twenty-five ABCOPAD pilgrims recently returned from a **10-day trip to Israel**. It was an inspiring journey through the Holy Land. Among the travelers were nine (9!) regional pastors. *[A 2024 trip is planned Check the region's website for details.]*



Have a safe and happy summer!

Notes & News will return in
September!

September, 2023 Deadline:

Items to be included in the June issue of Notes & News need to arrive by 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 7.

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

GROWTH POINTS

With Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.

Changing Careers: Part 2

Once a pastor determines a career change is in order (see last month's issue), it's then time to consider a new calling, i.e., career. Put the following ideas into practice to help chart the future.

Charting a New Direction

First, explore a no-fail dream.

If you're going to change careers, you might as well try to find the most exciting option. So, if you knew you couldn't fail in your next career, what would you do?

Put your dream career on paper. For the best value, take a yellow pad and write out your ideas by hand (print if you wish), but putting words on paper will help you process your thoughts better than typing on a computer or tablet.

Write out thoughts, including the kind of work you would do, where you would live, how much you would earn, your typical day, your surroundings, what you would wear, and other ideas that occur to you. Think about your personality and what makes you thrive, feel alive, and challenged.

Would you work alone or on a team? In a large company or small one? Live in a big city or smaller one? Be in a high-pressured environment or a relaxed one? Have a flexible schedule or standard hours? Travel or be at home?

This exercise helps you to identify what's important, items that you should try to incorporate into your next career.

Here's an example of how this might work. Myron, a pastor who had found general pastoral ministry unsatisfying, wrote, "I'd like to start my own small non-profit business to help the less fortunate. I would travel locally identifying people and businesses who would partner together to care for others in our community, and help them improve their lives. I'd have a team of volunteers to follow-up my contacts, organize the work, but I'd be the front person making the initial contacts and the final decisions."

Take a look at what Myron wrote. He likes to network, work with a team, meet new people, care for the unfortunate, travel locally, but be in charge. These are the key elements he needs in his next career. He may not find them all in his next position, but at least he knows what's important.

Now, look at what you wrote in your own scenario. Show it to a family member, some friends, and to your life coach. What are the patterns that you and others see?

Ask yourself the following two questions. First, what elements of my dream career are not found in my current ministry role? Second, which two elements must I have in my next career to be happy and fulfilled? What you note to these two questions are the core elements.

Second, interpret your findings.

Look at your core elements and think about them broadly. How do you understand them. For example, Myron wrote that he cared for the unfortunate. He now has to interpret what he means by *unfortunate*. Does he want to focus on the hungry or people without shelter or those without jobs, or? If he means those without jobs, he may want to join an existing non-profit that works to help people find employment, rather than try to start his own company.

The better you can interpret your own core elements the closer you'll be to finding a new career.

Third, create a list of your skills.

On a piece of paper, list the skills you

use well in your current position. Example: recruit volunteers, organize events, public speaking, etc. Add other skills you are good with, but perhaps don't have opportunity to use in your current position. When finished, put a star next to the skills that bring you the most satisfaction.

Fourth, determine possible positions.

Look over your no-fail dream, its core elements, and list of skills you do well. Talk to others, describe your skills and core elements, and inquire about what positions might fit them. Key question: "Who earns a living doing something like I've described?" Search the Internet for information about careers that use your core elements and skills. Determine 3-5 possible positions, companies, or fields that appear to fit you.

Fifth, network, network, network.

Changing careers today is more about networking than writing a resume. Now, you will need a resume, but speak with people in the fields you are interested in. Ask questions, find out what each opportunity involves, narrow down to one or two and test the waters. Doing so will lead you to a fresh opportunity, an opportunity that may be a better career (*General Call*) for you.



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Partners in Ministry

Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the World



ABCOPAD is filled with people who have generous hearts and a desire to serve. One of the areas where that is most evident is in our Region's Mission Trips and Disaster Relief Work. Year after year, ABCOPAD sends out teams to serve. Sometimes the work is in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Sometimes the work is in another state in the US. And sometimes the work is in another country. ABCOPAD lives out Jesus' call in Acts 1:8 **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

In 2022, seven ABCOPAD Tornado Disaster Relief Teams came along side families in Kentucky seeking to rebuild their houses and their lives. These seven teams, made up of 11 different ABCOPAD Congregations, worked in partnership with Samaritan's Purse and the Fuller Center to be the hands and feet of Jesus for those in need.

Along with National Mission Trips, ABCOPAD also had local congregations serving in the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uganda, sharing God's Word and working on both construction and medical mission projects.

As congregations experience God's call to serve, ABCOPAD seeks to help make mission trips possible through logistical planning, funding and providing other necessary resources. Your contributions make it possible for teams to answering Jesus' call. When you give to PIM, you make a difference in people's lives. Thank you for being a partner in ministry, helping local church serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Partners in Ministry

Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the World



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 (www.abcopad.mobile).
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.



**THE AMERICAN BAPTIST
CHURCHES OF
PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE**

**American Baptist Churches of
Pennsylvania and Delaware**

Pittsburgh Baptist Association
159 N Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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AUGUST 4-5, 2023, 6 p.m.

WHO:

Pastors and Any Men Passionate about
Doing Ministry Together

WHERE:

Camp Ichthus
2880 Stagecoach Rd. W; Palmerton, PA
Relaxing 100 Acres in the Heart of the
Pocono Mountains

WHY:

To reconnect with Friends and Dream about the
Future of American Baptist Men's Ministry



COST: \$20 Per Person -
Deadline for Registration
7/31/2023

Scan the QR Code to Register.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR AB MEN



Relax

Kickback in 100 acres of God's
beauty. Enjoy time around the
campfire with old friends and new.



Refresh

Restore your soul with meaningful
times of worship, prayer and
reflection.



Refocus

Dream together about a new
season of ministry for AB Men, and
how God is calling us to live into it.

