

2018 Calendar

September:

- 27: **GRR Ministers Conference**,
First Baptist Church
Bloomington, IL
- 28 - 29: **Rivers Growth Conference**
First Baptist Church
2502 East College Avenue
Bloomington, IL and'
The Chateau Hotel
1521 Jumer /Drive
Bloomington, IL - Break-
fast meetings, Saturday.

October:

- 20: **American Baptist Professional Boundaries Course**
GRR Resource Center

November:

- 14 - 16: **Space For Grace: Thy Will Be Done**
Philadelphia, PA

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks:
Email: revrick4@comcast.net



The Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI) is designed to help committed pastors and church leaders who are willing to do what it takes to revitalize their church. The Initiative is comprised of pastors and church leaders who have helped lead their churches to healthy revitalized congregations.

If you are feeling stagnant and/or undecided how to move forward, please email me (wallyholt63@gmail.com) and we can discuss your situation and determine if the team can be of service to you.

Rev. Wally Holt

Mainstream Contact Information

Send your stories of mission and ministry. Please also send the names of new members to:

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle
East Peoria, IL 61611
Ricks4LR@comcast.net

Rivers Growth Conference

September 28 - 29

Bloomington First Baptist Church



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

*Be a vessel that God can pour his love through.
Let It Flow*

September 2018 No. 1

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
Online edition interactive

web: www.abcgrr.org

Rivers Growth Conference and Ministers' Conference

September 27 - 29, 2018

Thursday, September 27: Ministers' Conference

Conference Leader: David Fitch is B. R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary.

First Baptist Church of Bloomington, 2502 East College Avenue, Bloomington IL.

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Conference
5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner



Friday September 28 - Saturday, September 29:

Rivers Growth Conference

(All meetings and meals except the breakfasts are to be at the church)

Speakers:



Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and bestselling author.

Tony Campolo is an alumnus and professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University.



Sharon Koh is an ordained American Baptist minister and the **Executive Director of International Ministries.**

Rivers Growth Conference (continued)

Schedule:

Friday, September 27:

Ministers and Spouses Luncheon:
11:45 a.m.

Regional Business Meeting: 2:00
p.m.

First Session: Panel Discussion:
2:30 p.m.

Mission Banquet: 5:00 pm

Missionaries:

Dr. Laura Parajon serving in
Nicaragua.

Philip and Corene Smith serving
in Brazil.

Second Session: 7:00 p.m.

Reception: 9:10 p.m.

Saturday, September 29:

Breakfasts (ABWomen/ABMen)
7:30 a.m. - Chateau Hotel

Informal Conversations: 9:15 a.m.

Third Session: 10:15 am

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.
(Provided by the Great Rivers Re-
gion)

**Please make plans to attend this
very important meeting of our
region.**

Registration Information:

Rivers Growth Conference: \$20.00
Ministers Conference: \$15.00

Download form or register online @
www.abcgrr.org/#growth

(Online registration closes on Sep-
tember 14. Walk-in registration at
the event is available)



**A Word From Paul
Gibson, ABCGRR
Executive
Minister**

The water that I shall give him will
become in him a fountain of water
springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

“The picture our Lord described
here is not that of a simple stream of
water, but an overflowing fountain.
Continue to “be filled” (Ephesians
5:18) and the sweetness of your
vital relationship to Jesus will flow as
generously out of you as it has been
given to you. If you find that His life
is not springing up as it should, you
are to blame—something is obstruct-
ing the flow. Was Jesus saying to
stay focused on the Source so that
you may be blessed personally? No,
you are to focus on the Source so
that out of you will flow rivers of living
water, irrepressible
life” (Oswald Chambers)

What’s flowing out of you? Ask the
people around you, you may be
surprised. Let His love, joy, peace,
goodness, kindness, gentleness,
faithfulness, patience and self-con-
trol, flow from Him, through you, to
others.

Here is what else is on my mind.

1. More than wonderful. That is how
Melissa and I felt about our wedding
experience with our daughter Em-
ily, her now husband, Adam Hen-
dren, and many more of our family
and friends. It was a fantastic and
blessed time.

2. I look forward to seeing you in a
few weeks in Bloomington. If you are
a pastor, I plan to see you at the

Ministers’ Conference. Dave Fitch will
be there and he has a great experi-
ence planned for us. If not a pastor, I
look forward to seeing you on Friday
and Saturday for our gathering called
“The Rivers Growth Conference”. It
will be wonderful. Plan to be there.

3. We just had a full day at the office.
The Shurtleff group met and handed
out about \$100,000 to some very wor-
thy ministries in our region. Much of it
was given to four campus ministries in
our region.

4. COMSAO met with four candidates
for ordination and had a blessed
time interviewing them and approv-
ing them. You will be hearing more
from these four wonderful ladies in the
future.

Final thoughts and prayer concerns:
We have some very fine people in our
region who are dealing with some very
serious health problems. Several of
them are battling cancer. Please be
praying.

Lee Spitzer, the General Secretary
of our denomination and close friend
to many of us, discovered a short
while ago that he had serious heart
problems. That led to serious surgery
just a few days ago. He will be recover-
ing for about two months. Please
keep him, his wife Lois, and their
extended family in your prayers.

What can you and I do during all of
this? **Be rightly related to God and
find your joy there, and out of you
will flow rivers of living water. Be a
vessel that God can pour His love
through. LET IT FLOW.**



GRR Mission Discovery Trip To Costa Rica

Plans are in place for **Great Riv-
ers Region Mission Discovery** to
Costa Rica October 29 - November
6, 2018. The group will be limited to
20 persons.

- Meet IM missionaries Ruth
Mooney, Sue Hagerty, Peter and
Sarah McCurdy and Ingrid
Roldan-Roman.
- Visit churches that have hosted
recent GRR partnership groups
as well as visit churches that
may host groups in the future.
- Meet with FABCR church pastor
and leaders.
- Visit places of historical and
cultural interest in Costa Rica

GRR groups have joined in Partner-
ship Projects in Costa Rica each
year since 1985.

For information contact **Dr. John
Grisham. john@abcgrr.org. Cell/
Text: 217 - 553 - 1560**

GRR Mission Trip to the Philippines and Thailand

**Paul and Melissa Gibson and
John and Laura Rollet** will be lead-
ing a mission trip to the Philippines
and Thailand **Feb 12-26, 2019**. For
more information contact [melissa@
abcgrr.org](mailto:melissa@abcgrr.org).

New Members of the Churches of the GRR

**First Baptist Church, Decatur, IL
Welcomes:** Arthur Michaels and
Ginger Wilson