General Association of Regular Baptist Churches

John Greening, National Representative

As I remember Paul’s words to the much-loved Thessalonian church, “For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 3:8), I feel alive and energized because of our Association. Nothing would kill my spirit more quickly than if churches in the Association were not standing fast on the Word of God. Praise the Lord that He has enabled our Fellowship to maintain our doctrinal integrity and ministry focus! These are days of both grave theological danger and enormous ministry opportunity. We must creatively and circumspectly navigate the road ahead.

Several highlights marked this past year. Jim and Jeannie Vogel joined our staff and quickly made a significant impact by expanding the services we are able to provide churches. We have worked together to achieve several new initiatives. We laid the groundwork to launch a Fellowship-wide church-planting movement. We also hosted a young Baptist leaders' think tank to investigate ways of involving a new generation of Regular Baptists. Our administrative team—Jim Vogel, Chris Hindal, John Murdoch, and Michael Nolan—and I work together to provide help and resources for churches in the Association. I am thankful for these men and their wives, whom the Lord has brought together to minister on behalf of the GARBC.

The *Baptist Bulletin* continues to improve. Under the leadership of Kevin Mungons and his team, we have reformatted the magazine and are enhancing its quality in both the hardcopy and online versions. To provide this vital link to our constituency, the *Bulletin* requires considerable effort and finances. I urge churches to subscribe to the *Bulletin* at substantial savings through the TEAM plan.

Our Conference planning has changed hands. After serving with distinction for many years, our former Conference coordinator, Don Anderson, accepted a new ministry position. Andrea Gower stepped in to give direction to this important responsibility. We work diligently to assess and improve our Conference. We are taking greater advantage of the Internet to communicate specifics of the Conference programming as well as to share the varied services and resources our Association offers.

We retooled Talents For Christ to make it more participant friendly by adding new categories to open (non-scholarship) competition, streamlining the rules, providing helpful leader resources, and including easy-to-use promotional tools. We want all of our churches to use this excellent program to enhance the ministry development of their students.

Daria and I are preparing a new parenting seminar and teaching resource to add to the training lineup we offer churches. We have traveled and represented the Association in many churches and venues. Daily we respond to inquiries and requests for assistance from our churches, and we delight in helping churches carry out their Great Commission ministries effectively. Daria and I find our schedules quite full, as my ministry as national representative is coupled with the executive oversight of Regular Baptist Ministries. However, we are blessed with wonderful staff at the Resource Center who have big hearts for the Lord and work diligently to provide assistance and tools for church ministry.

The cherry on the top of all these blessings this past year was the birth of our grandson, Benjamin Gower. Life is good, and so is the GARBC!

www.GARBC.org
To say that much has been happening at Regular Baptist Press this year is an understatement! In what may be the biggest project in RBP history, we are in the middle of completely revising our children’s curriculum. The teacher-friendly lessons present the Word of God carefully and consistently and engage students in active learning. Our team of writers, editors, and graphic designers are creating exciting new products.

Our new Planting Faith curriculum for twos and threes and pre-primaries has received a positive reception since its premier last fall. Sales are brisk! The new Growing Faith curriculum, for fall 2008 release, expands our product line by adding Middler materials for grades three and four to Primary and Junior teacher and student resources. To learn about our new Growing Faith curriculum, visit www.rbpchildrensministries.org or talk to an RBP regional representative. We offer Planting Faith and Growing Faith in either KJV or NKJV format. Place your order with RBP for your fall curriculum. Your teachers will love it!

More churches than ever are ordering the digital tools RBP makes available to enhance teaching. CDs are now available for most levels of our curriculum. These tools make learning an engaging activity for teachers and students.

Our 2008 VBS Dino Detectives is a hit with teachers and children alike! We anticipate hearing reports of many children, teens, and adults responding in faith to the clear presentation of the gospel. Our 2009 VBS Polar Extremes is currently in development with a release date of December 2008.

RBP’s BuildUP Bible study and discipleship series will be expanding in the near future to include a new level of seven studies designed to help teachers and Bible study leaders lead people toward spiritual maturity. Many small groups in churches are taking advantage of the interactive BuildUP series. RBP Bible studies released this year, Conflict under Control by Jeff Newman and Called to Conquer by Dorothy Davis, provide practical and enriching studies for individuals or groups.

The RBP classic Biblical Separation by Ernest Pickering has been updated by Myron Houghton and is now available to purchase. Originally published in 1979, this book is a valued edition for churches, Bible colleges and seminaries, church and school libraries, and individuals.

RBP is expanding its excellent lineup of training seminars to help church teachers and leaders teach the Word of God effectively. In addition to the seminars—Success in Bible Teaching (basic instruction for teachers), Impact Teaching (advanced instruction for teachers), Next Generation (student ministries instruction), and Blueprint (educational strategies for church leaders)—we are adding a women’s ministries seminar and a parenting seminar. To attend or host one of these valuable training seminars, contact your RBP regional representative or check www.regularbaptistpress.org/training.

At RBP we commit ourselves to the Lord and to churches to produce trusted resources that are “Building Lives by the Book.”

www.RegularBaptistPress.org
“This is what the LORD says . . . : ‘I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go’” (Isaiah 48:17).

I’ve found comfort in these words, addressed many years ago to the people of Israel about God’s sovereign leading. After 30 years of pastoral ministry, Jeannie and I sensed God’s best for us in my acceptance of the invitation of our national representative and the Council of Eighteen to become the associate national representative of our Fellowship last summer.

These initial months of ministry have been challenging as we have adjusted to the busy Chicago area and the new responsibilities that we have undertaken on behalf of our churches. My primary responsibilities in these initial months have focused on several areas:

- Overseeing our placement ministries that seek to connect both pastors seeking churches and churches seeking pastors.
- Assisting in developing a new church-planting initiative. We desire to coordinate and facilitate more proactive church-planting efforts among Regular Baptists.
- Guiding new efforts to reach out to young pastors. A team of young leaders has already formed to help us better encourage the commitment of such pastors to our Association values and activities.
- Consulting churches in church revitalization, outreach, and strategic planning. This new initiative is just one of the many benefits provided to Regular Baptist churches through our Resource Center.
- Speaking in churches and schools. It’s a privilege to proclaim God’s Word and represent our great Association across the country.

There is much to be done in the future as we seek to even more effectively minister to pastors and churches in our Fellowship. I look forward to learning ways that I can be of assistance to you.

www.GARBC.org
As Baptist Builders Club sends grants and loans to small and struggling churches, it strengthens and stabilizes those churches so they can then develop ministries to reach and teach others. Baptist Builders Club has five applications awaiting approval: one Start Up, and four Build Up. The need: $75,000 to fully fund all of the requests. Please consider how your church can be involved and help in this crucial time of need.

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<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Loan</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Life Baptist Church</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<td>Lake in the Hills, Illinois</td>
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Baptist Builders Club continues to need the faithful support of churches and individuals to make these funds available. If 500 GARBC churches would commit to sending $500 per year, BBC•USA could function at full capacity and help churches across America. Would you consider being part of this ministry?

**Cumulative Number of Churches Helped**
- 1980—438
- 1990—539
- 2007—731

**Cumulative Grants/Loans**
- 2007—$15,000

**Average Grant/Loan**
- 2007—$15,000

Total funds given since the inception of BBC•USA in 1951—$3,031,795

www.BaptistBuildersClub.org
Regular Baptist Chaplaincy Ministries

Chaplain John Murdoch, Director

Our Regular Baptist chaplains continue to represent our Lord and our Fellowship with great integrity and effectiveness. All of our military personnel are dealing with the intense pressures of combat mobilization. Cultural disarray magnifies the challenges of institutional and community service chaplaincy. It is a high privilege to work with these committed, capable chaplains who are impacting lives with truth at points of greatest need. Please uphold our chaplains in your prayers.

New Chaplains
CH (CPT-P) Wayne Keast, Active Duty Army
CH (CPT) Patrick Ireland, from the Reserves to Active Duty Army
CH (1LT) Mark Worrell, Active Duty Army
CH (CPT) Andrew Nielsen, WAARNG
CH (1LT) Christopher Anderson, USAR
CH, CAPT. Dennis Thompson, CAP

Mobilized and Deployed Chaplains
CH (CPT) Dustin Rodriquez, USA (deployed)
CH (CPT) Michael Crawford, IAARNG (deployed)
LT Michael Taylor, CHC, USN (deployed)
CDR Gerald Hamblin, CHC, USNR (deployed)
CH, CAPT. Richard Steen, TNANG (deployed)
CH (LTC) Jim Odell, USAR (mobilized)
CH (MAJ) Kenneth Alford, USAR (mobilized)

Returned from Mobilization and Deployment
CH (CPT) Mark Brooks, WIARNG (deployed)
CH (CPT) Jeffrey Farr, IAARNG (deployed)
CH (CPT) Patrick Ireland, USAR (mobilized)

Retired
CH (COL) Ted Nichols, USA

Director’s Report

- Reported on the chaplaincy ministry in 33 churches
- Made 10 endorsing visits
- Spoke in two missions classes and dorm devotions at Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
- Participated in the Chaplaincy Emphasis Days at Baptist Bible Seminary
- Participated in the Annual Chaplains Professional Development Conference and the GARBC Annual Conference
- Spoke at the DelMarVa Baptist Fellowship annual meeting and the Northern Ohio Pastors’ Fellowship
- Spoke at three RescueZone Vacation Bible School meetings
- Attended the Army Senior Leadership Conference
- Represented the Association at Dr. Wendell Kempton’s funeral
- Participated in the funeral of an Indiana state police officer killed in the line of duty
- Participated in Evangelical Baptist Missions board meetings
- Gave a ministry report in the Council of Eighteen meetings
- Continued ministering in the endorsing community in the Washington, D.C., Civil Air Patrol and the Military Chaplains Association
- Currently working with 14 seminarians and 8 applicants for the chaplaincy

Statistics
Army—14
Navy—2
Air Force—2
Reserve/Guard—15
Civil Air Patrol—14
Institutional—17
Community Service—20
Retired—43
Seminarians—14
Total—141

www.RegularBaptistChaplaincy.org
Gospel Literature Services

Chris Hindal, Director

Gospel Literature Services supplies Biblical resources worldwide to enable developing Baptist ministries to fulfill the Great Commission. As partners with Regular Baptist Press, we send approximately one million dollars' worth of Sunday School curriculum annually into 40 countries. Praise God that families and churches have responded to the GLS challenge of TEAM 300, enabling us to send these materials. Since the initiation of TEAM 300 at last year's Conference, about 150 individuals and churches have committed to donating $30 a month to pay the shipping charges. We are praying that another 150 believers throughout our Fellowship will join TEAM 300 this coming year.

GLS meets strategic needs among national churches on a project basis. Partnering with ABWE in Bangladesh, we funded the printing of the new discipleship book *The Way to Joy* in Bangla. We are also working with a national ministry to print 10,000 copies of *Unger’s Bible Handbook* in Bengali. And throughout the year we fill numerous requests for tracts in various languages.

Chris Brown trained Asian students in video technology to enable them to produce courses on CD for restricted access countries. We can help more people through electronic resources than through our personal contact. Electronic communication and regional distribution will cut costs and multiply the number of churches we can help.

GLS serves a strategic role in assisting our partners who serve the Lord in countries that lack infrastructure but who labor with vision and commitment. Consider GLS a worthy investment of your missionary dollars.

International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries

Chris Hindal, Director

The International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries facilitates worldwide encouragement and assistance to independent Baptist church associations and ministries. The concept of partnering associations and local churches grows out of the Biblical concept of the unity of the Body of Christ across geographical and ethnic lines. While we must respect the necessity of doctrinal compatibility, we must also see the potential for the expansion of the church as we network together. Neither unity nor doctrine should be compromised, even for the sake of a perceived greater combined good.

Fifty-five associations have partnered together, representing 9,000 local churches in 15 countries. More significant are the ways that God is doing His work. America is no longer the sole sending country for missionaries. Filipino missionaries are planting more churches of our kind than anyone else. The first missionary from Hong Kong, a single lady, desires to be an example for many Chinese to take the gospel to Thailand.

Part of the effectiveness of the IPFBM includes the involvement of local churches in the United States with international local churches. We learn from each other as we strategize together. Hundreds of internationals immigrate to America every day. Our international partners will help us with culturally sensitive approaches to reach them.

I had the opportunity this past year to visit many of our partners around the world. Trips to locations including India, Peru, Thailand, and the Philippines have enhanced my awareness of the potential that exists in partnering. The face of missions continues to change. Not only must we challenge our youth to go, but we must also engage the church in cross-cultural exchanges so we might more effectively fulfill the Great Commission.

www.GARBCInternational.org