

# Acknowledgements

## Annual Gathering Planning Committee

Tod Scheler, Chair

Steve Bills  
Janet Ewing  
Judy Flora

Norman Lawson  
Margie Ogden  
Randy Pearson  
Carren Woods

THANK YOU!

## Host Churches

Word of Life  
Community Church  
Rev. Randy Pearson,  
Pastor

Rivergate  
Community Church  
Rev. Carren Woods,  
Pastor



# Follow the Leader

*Whoever serves me must follow me;  
and where I am, my servant also will be.  
My father will honor the one who serves me.  
-- John 12:26*

**ABCO  
ANNUAL  
GATHERING  
2009**

**October 16-17  
Portland**

**Registration Materials Enclosed**

# Follow the Leader!



The Annual Gathering is one of my favorite events in region life. The opportunity to gather with the family for a time of “catching up” and renewing acquaintances makes it very much like a family reunion.

Our theme this year is drawn from John 12:26 where Jesus reminds us that those who wish to serve him must follow him.

*“Whoever serves me must follow me;  
and where I am, my servant also will be.  
My father will honor the one who serves me.”*

Our diverse backgrounds and contexts make our individual journeys unique, but having a single leader means that all who are serving and following share much in common. As Baptists we know and celebrate the reality that the life of faith is designed to be lived in community. As individual believers desiring to be faithful disciples, and as individual congregations desiring to be healthy communities of faith, we come to the ABCO Annual Gathering anticipating a wonderful time of refreshment and renewal.

The 2009 Annual Gathering planning team, working together with our two host churches, has put together a wonderful schedule designed to enhance our time together. As I get settled here in Oregon, I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you. Please make plans now to participate!

Grace and Peace!

Steve Bilal

Executive Minister



# Where Do We Stay?

## Hotels:

### **Quality Inn and Suites**

9727 NE Sandy Bl.  
Portland, OR 97220  
503-255-1404

I-205 Exit 23B  
Room Block Available

Single King Bed- \$72

Double Queen Beds- \$82

Two Room Suite- \$109

### **Rodeway Inn**

9723 Sandy Bl.  
Portland, OR 97220  
503-255-1400

I-205 Exit 23B  
Room Block Available

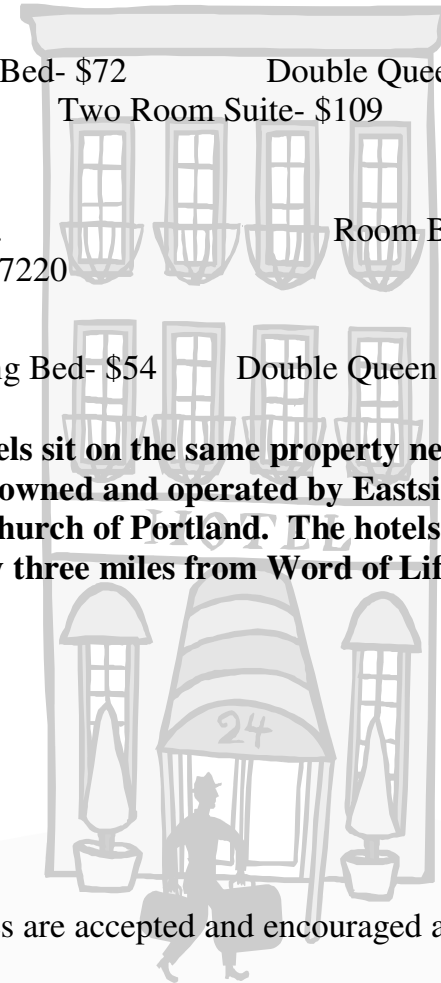
Single King Bed- \$54

Double Queen Beds- \$64

**These two hotels sit on the same property next to each other and are owned and operated by Eastside Foursquare Church of Portland. The hotels are approximately three miles from Word of Life Community Church.**

## **ATTIRE:**

Casual clothes are accepted and encouraged at Gathering events.



# Total Your Choices:

**Registration: Includes speaker, musicians, lunch, program fees and materials.**

	<b>How Many?</b>	<b>How Much?</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Postmarked by 10/1/09</b>			
Regular Attendees	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
First Time Attendees	_____	\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>Postmarked after 10/1/09</b>			
Regular Attendees	_____	\$35.00	\$ _____
First Time Attendees	_____	\$30.00	\$ _____
<b>Volunteer Helpers From Host Churches</b>	_____	FREE	\$ _____
<b>Ministers Council Workshop</b>	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
<b>Friday Gathering Dinner</b>	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
<b>Youth Lock-in</b>	_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
<b>We are bringing _____ chaperones for the lock-in.</b>			
<b>Total Registration Enclosed</b>			\$ _____

Please include registration fee and meals in your payment.  
 Registration with credit card available by phone at 503-228-8394  
 Questions? Please call number above!

Payment:            Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to 'ABCO' and  
 mail to Annual Gathering Registration at

**ABCO • 0245 SW Bancroft Suite G • Portland, OR 97239-4270**

# Installation Speaker

## Dr. Joe Kutter



Joe Kutter is currently Executive Director of the ABCUSA Ministers Council. During his 39 years in American Baptist pastoral ministry Joe has served five congregations. Since 1997 he has served as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas. With his leadership, that congregation constructed a new community life center, costing about \$2.3 million. The center has allowed them to create new ministries to impact the community, including the Topeka Shepherd Center for senior adults, an after school program for middle school students, and Upward Basketball for more than 200 elementary school children from the community. Prior pastorates include: the First Baptist Church of Royal Oak, Michigan, from 1987 to 1997; Cherry Hill Baptist Church, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, from 1980 to 1987; First Baptist Church of Arlington, Kearny, New Jersey, 1972-1980; and Assistant Pastor, First Baptist Church, Haddonfield, New Jersey, from 1970 to 1972. Joe has also served as President of the Ministers Council, as trustee of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, as chaplain to the General Board and General Board Executive Committee, and in a variety of regional and community leadership roles.

He received his education at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, Doctor of Ministry, 1978; Crozer Theological Seminary, Rochester, New York, Master of Divinity, 1971; and Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, Bachelor of Arts, 1967.

# Missionary Speaker

## Ed Noyes



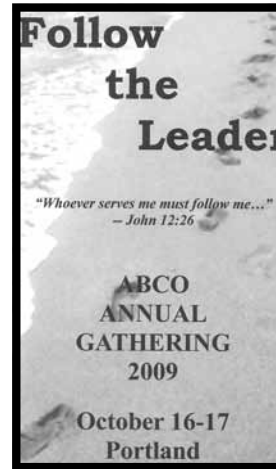
Ed and Miriam Noyes serve in a region of the Democratic Republic of Congo where over two-thirds of the population depends on agriculture for a living, over half of all rural women can't read or write and where chronic malnutrition

limits the lives of children. Working with the Baptist Convention of Congo, they encourage and support church-based programs contributing to basic food security, improved family livelihoods, creation of new opportunities through literacy and strengthening rural churches.

Based at the Lusekele agricultural resource center, Ed focuses on equipping people to promote more productive, profitable, and sustainable farming techniques. He trains agricultural extension specialists, advises a church agricultural development program covering the central Kwilu river area and provides occasional consulting services for church development projects. On the side, he works with the Baptist Convention to improve program management and financial oversight of church-based projects.

Since early in her ministry in Congo, Miriam has had a burden for thousands of illiterate women who provide the foundations of healthy family life, yet are marginalized or impoverished because they cannot read and write.

Collaborating with a Baptist pastor's wife and a core group of dedicated church members, she writes for and supervises church-based literacy classes and trains literacy teachers. Three quarters of the Baptist churches in Kinshasa now have neighborhood literacy classes. The team is now working to establish strong programs in rural areas.



Registration Form  
Annual Gathering 2009  
October 16-17, 2009  
Word of Life Community Church,  
Portland

Please complete all applicable sections of the registration form.

Look for  
'Early Bird'  
(By 10/1/09)  
Discount

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check all that apply:

Church Appointed Delegate     1st Time Attendee(s)

Participant     Estimated Time of Arrival

Mail Registration To:

**ABCO**  
**0245 SW Bancroft Suite G**  
**Portland, Oregon 97239-4270**

# Directions

**Word of Life Community Church**  
**4927 NE 55th Ave.**  
**Portland, OR 97218**  
**503-284-7145**

## **From the South and West:**

- 1) Take I-5 North to Exit 300 (I-84 East to The Dalles).
- 2) Take I-84 East to Exit 1- NE 33rd Ave.
- 3) At the end of the off-ramp make a left. Go north on NE 33rd Ave. for 1.5 miles.
- 4) Make a right turn on NE Prescott St. Go east on Prescott St. for a little over one mile.
- 5) Make a left on to NE 55th Ave. Go north on NE 55th Ave. two blocks. The church will be on the left.

## **From the East:**

- 1) Take I-84 West to Exit 9- I-205 to Seattle.
- 2) Go north on I-205 to Exit 23B- Killingsworth St.
- 3) On the off-ramp get in the left lane and go to Sandy Bl. west.
- 4) Travel west on Sandy Bl. for about one-half mile.
- 5) Turn right on NE Prescott St. Travel almost two miles on Prescott St. to NE 55th Ave.
- 6) Make a right on to NE 55th Ave. Go north on NE 55th Ave. two blocks. The church will be on the left.

# A Special Continuing Education Event Sponsored by ABCO Ministers Council

## **COMMUNITY - A BETTER WAY OF MINISTERING**

Led by Dr. Joe Kutter  
Acting Executive Director  
American Baptist Ministers Council

Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Word of Life Community Church, Portland  
A Pre-Annual Gathering Event  
Cost - \$15.00

## **Goal of the Workshop**

To become more effective ministers through the experience of a Community of Ministerial Leaders

# *Morning Star Groundbreaking*

Since the tragic fire that destroyed the edifice of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in 2007, Senior Pastor A. Wayne Johnson has given very strong leadership to the Holy Spirit-inspired rebuilding effort. At the same time, he has led them to continue to minister to their community as a worshipping congregation at an off-site location.

As a part of our ABCO Annual Gathering weekend celebration, Pastor Johnson and the congregation at Morning Star have invited the ABCO family to join them at 2:30 on Saturday afternoon at 106 NE Ivy Street for the Groundbreaking Ceremony for their new edifice.

Plan to join us as we celebrate with our brothers and sisters at Morning Star!

# Youth Lock-in

Hosted by Matt Toupin of FBC Oregon City. If you are coming up to the Annual Gathering, then please consider encouraging the youth of your church to join in on a great lock-in event. Youth will meet other young people from across the state in a fun-filled all-night event guaranteed to create memories to last a lifetime! This event will feature worship music, time in God's word, food, gym games, foosball, air hockey, movies, opportunities to rock out in a special "music room," and much more! Note: Every five youth from your church should be accompanied by one adult leader from your church. Sign up on the registration form if you are bringing youth or can provide a chaperone. Cost: \$18.00 per youth.

For further information on this awesome event, please feel free to contact Matt Toupin at 503-656-3854. For more information on FBC Oregon City Youth Group, called "youngchurch," look them up on Facebook!

# Children and Youth Workers Meeting

Children's Ministry Leaders and Youth Workers! Immediately following the Annual Gathering Lunch on Saturday you are invited to a special Network meeting hosted by Barbara Galbraith and Tod Scheler. This will be a time (approximately 70 minutes, 1:30pm - 2:40pm) for youth and children's ministry practitioners to look toward the future and network together for the 2009-2010 ministry year. Please bring your calendars so that we could plan some events together as well as rub shoulders with some of your colleagues across the state.

# Schedule of Events

## Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

- 1:00 pm Community- A Better Way to Minister
- 5:00 pm Youth Lock-In at FBC Oregon City Begins
- 5:31 pm All Gathering Dinner
- 7:02 pm Worship with worship music by FBC Gresham Worship Team and Missionary Speaker Ed Noyes

## Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

- 8:17 am Registration Opens
- 8:46 am Coffee and Goodies
- 9:22 am Worship with FBC Gresham Worship Team
- 9:38 am Short Business Meeting and State of the Region Address
- 10:14 am Break
- 10:47 am Worship and Installation Service of Steve Bils, new Executive Minister of ABCO, Dr. Joe Kutter Speaking\*
- 12:31 pm Luncheon and time to catch up with friends
- 1:30 pm Children and Youth Workers Meeting
- 2:30 pm Morning Star Groundbreaking

\*Annual Gathering Offering taken during the service will go toward Oregon For Christ Offering.

## Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

There will be opportunities to hear the various Annual Gathering speakers in morning worship services around the Portland area.