

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



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First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 4 — Moderator's Notes
- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
- ➔ p. 6 — Preaching Schedule
- ➔ p. 7 — T-Shirt Order Form
- ➔ p. 8 — Bible Crossword: Ezra
- ➔ p. 9 & 10 — "My American Baptist Life"
- ➔ p. 11 — Prayer
- ➔ p. 12 — Rev. Sharon Koh

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p> There are several things to note for September as things get back to our regular schedule. Rally Day is when we install the Church officers that were elected in May.</p> <p> September will be the World Mission Offering this year. See the informational flyer and offering envelope in this month's Tower Topics.</p>				1	2 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	3
4 16 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	5 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY 	6	7 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	8	9 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	10
11 17 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST RALLY SUNDAY 9/11 MEMORIAL SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Alan C. Minarcik, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch Grandparents Day	12	13	14 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	15	16 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	17
18 18 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching Third Sunday Food Collection	19	20	21	22  Autumn Begins	23 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	24
25 19 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian Brown, preaching	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	

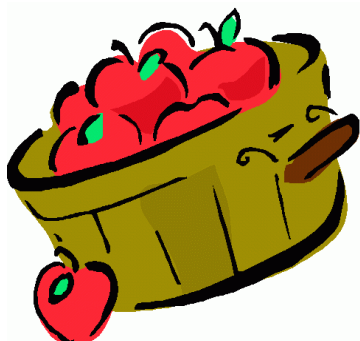


September Birthdays

19 Jesse McGee
 21 Paulette Gromniak
 29 Alisa Boeskin Salas



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for John Swindlehurst, Sara Gromniak, Margaret Payne, Mark Williams, Jr., Patricia Smeal, Janet Keebler, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gladys Lewis, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



Sept. 4 — 16th SUN AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

Sept. 7 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

Sept. 11 — 17th SUN AFTER PENTECOST

RALLY SUNDAY

9/11 MEMORIAL SUNDAY

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. Alan C. Minarcik, preaching
 12:15 PM Second Sunday lunch

Sept. 14 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

Sept. 18 — 18th SUN AFTER PENTECOST

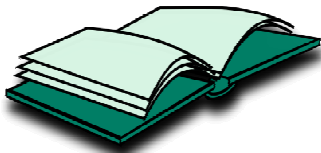
10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
 Third Sunday Food Collection

Sept. 25 — 19th SUN AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching

Do we have Your Birthday?

If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, please call the office (716-282-4666) to let us know your special date so we can include it.



The Book Nook

This Church Library is the recipient of three new books this month. It's interesting that the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible is the one most mainline Protestant churches use (it is our pew Bible version), but in recent years it has been harder to find, as other more "pop" versions have sprung up – many with a particular theological slant. The Cokesbury Publishing House is reversing that unfortunate trend and has begun to offer several editions of the NRSV. We have purchased three: The New Oxford Annotated Bible (with The Apocrypha); the New Interpreter's Study Bible (with The Apocrypha); and a beautiful large print edition of the NRSV. The Interpreter's Study Bible goes along with the two sets (original and latest) that we have and is published by the Abingdon Press. Oxford University Press has published the New Oxford Annotated Bible.

These are all wonderful reference works as well as authoritative ecumenical works. By using accessible language they combine scholarly accuracy and insight with attention to questions that people have in their reading and devotion.

Look for them on the coffee table in the Friendship Room!



Fall Bible Study led by Kath Ordiway will take place on Tuesday evenings, dates and times to be announced. Growing one's faith is a personal quest to further understand the Bible and its role in our society. Stay tuned for more news on this project.

We have the US book launch of Rev. Brian Brown's new book in October. Save the 22nd for a lunch launch and help us and him to promote the new book, "Four Testaments". Many insights into faith around the world are discussed and understanding other points of view can lead us all into greater sympathy and empathy with people in our community and abroad.

The Fall Rummage and Chowder sale will be October 8 & 9. Our gym is getting a major face lift thanks to the wonderful job everyone did on the Basket Auction. Those funds and others from the past two Rummage Sales will go to repair and replace flooring and finishing and re-striping of the gym floor. That work will be completed in time for the gym to be used to celebrate our 175th Anniversary. The one year celebration will be noted at various times through the year. Look for the banner over the door and lots of fun activities to commemorate the year.

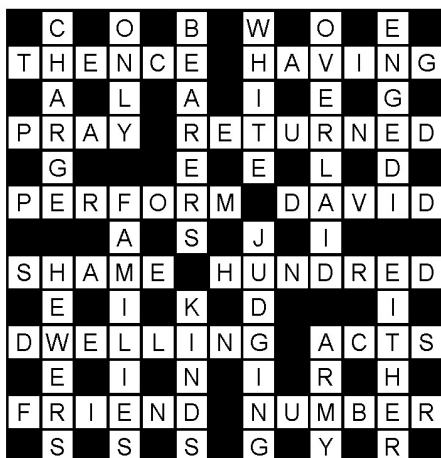
Our calendar this fall will not only include the Rummage Sale, but the Crop Walk, Gift of Music recital/lecture series, and the Nativity Festival. Performers for Gift of Music will be announced in September after Rally Sunday where we dedicate our Diaconate, Trustees and Committee members. Missions for fall will be World Mission, Crop Walk, and One Great Hour of Sharing along with our usual Thanksgiving and Christmas giving. Candy making and Hanging of the Greens are also on the calendar making a busy active fall. Family Night will restart with a slightly different focus as well.

Keep the Faith!

Donna Flood

Last Month's Crossword Answers

Chronicles

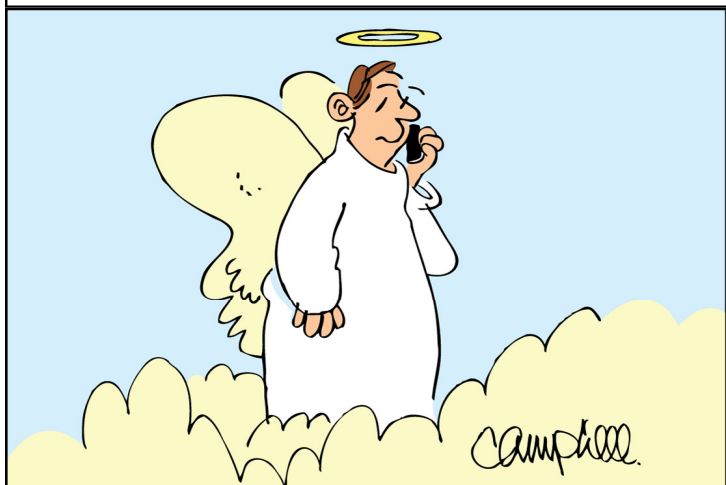




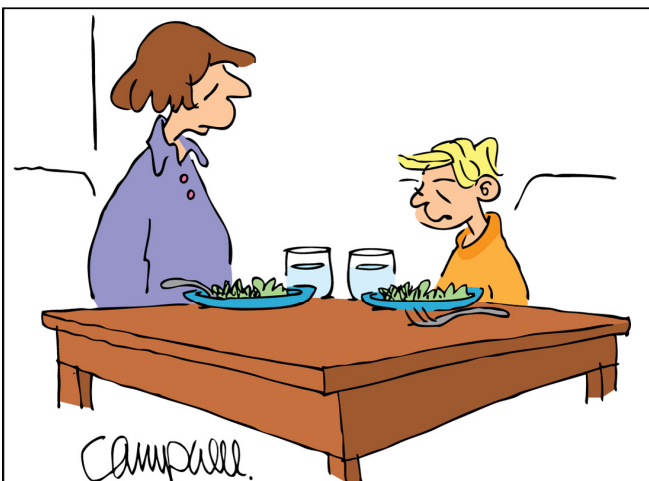
"... in sickness and in health, with or without Social Security or Medicare, till death do you part..."



"Greed, sloth, envy, pride, lust, gluttony, wrath - hey, it sounds just like my old office."



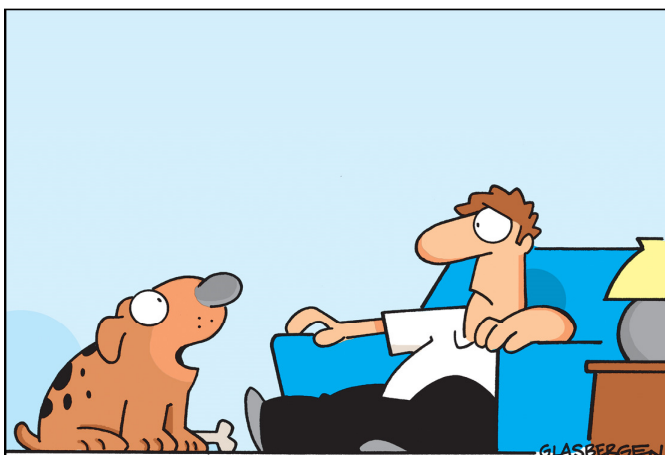
"All our operators are busy with customers who don't have an eternity to wait."



"These aren't the fruits of our labor. They're the vegetables."



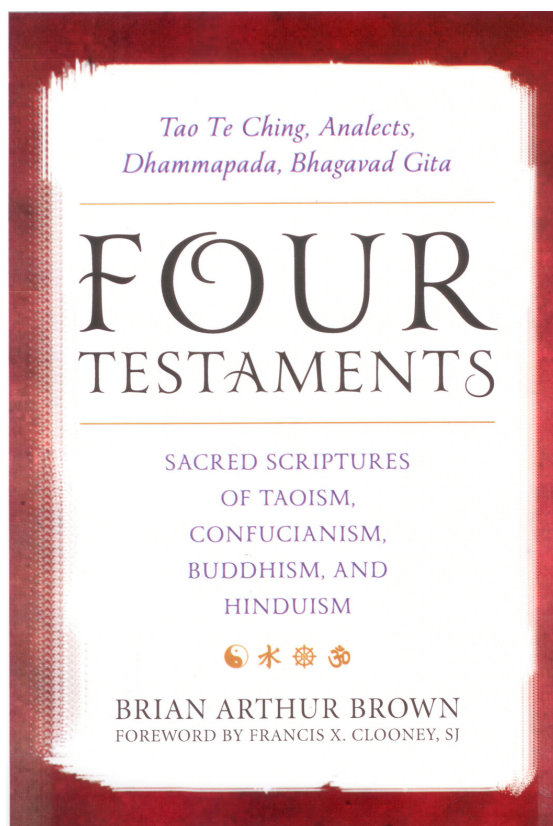
"I'm getting too old for painted Easter eggs. I want them pierced and tattooed!"



"Cheer up. Your life isn't meaningless. God put you on this earth for a purpose... to buy dog food and clean up after me."

October 22

SAVE
THE
DATE!



October 22

EVERYONE AT
FIRST BAPTIST
IS INVITED!

12:15 – BOOK LAUNCH – **FREE** GOURMET LUNCH
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SAVE YOUR SPOT!

Preaching Schedule

September 4	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
September 11	Rev. Alan C. Minarcik	Rally Day — 9/11 Memorial
September 25	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	
October 2	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
October 16	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
October 23	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Book launch weekend (Oct. 22)
October 30	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Reformation Sunday – All Hallows
November 6	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	All Saints (Observed)
November 13	Rev. Alan Minarcik	
November 20	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	Thanksgiving Sunday
November 27	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent I
December 4	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent II
December 11	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent III
December 18	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent IV
December 24	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway & Mr. Joseph Heasley	Christmas Eve
December 25	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	Christmas Day



Dorothy Jackson celebrates her 100th birthday at the special cake and ice cream social on July 10, 2016.

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584 (716) 282-4666

“I Love My Church” T-Shirt Order Form

You may put this form in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Sizes: Adult: ___ Medium ___ Large ___ X-Large \$10.00 each

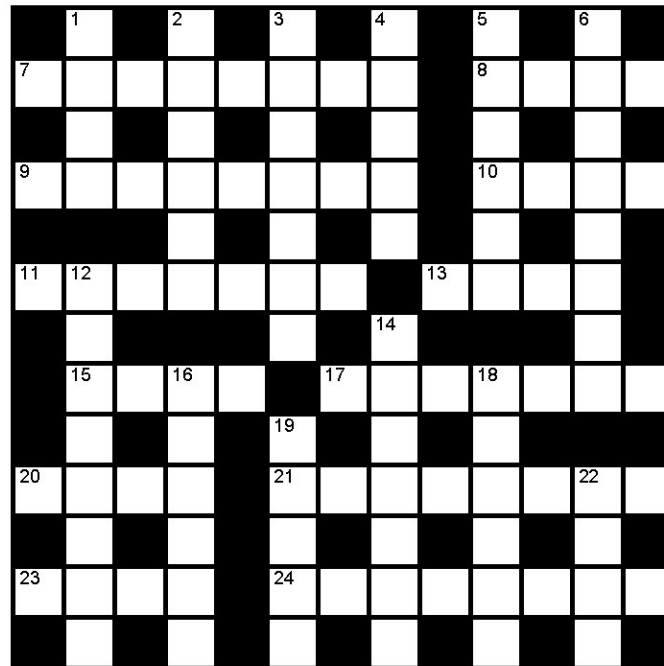
Total of order: \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Ezra



Across

- 7 "What then shall I do when God riseth up? And when he _____, what shall I answer him?" Job 31:14 (8)
- 8 "Ye are _____ unto the LORD ..." Ezra 8:28 (4)
- 9 Those of the captivity who kept the passover. Ezra 6:19 (8)
- 10 "And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the _____ ..." Isa 25:6 (4)
- 11 The children of Asaph were _____. Ezra 2:41 (7)
- 13 One of the sons of Ham. Gen 10:6 (4)
- 15 What Joseph gathered in Genesis 41:49. (4)
- 17 King Cyrus brought these forth in Ezra 1:7. (7)
- 20 17 Across were in silver and what other metal? Ezra 1:6 (4)
- 21 What did the LORD God give Cyrus? Ezra 1:2 (8)

- 23 "That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, _____ am I." 1 Sam 3:4 (4)
- 24 "... because thou sore _____ after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?" Gen 31:30 (8)

Down

- 1 The priests did this in Lamentations 1:4. (4)
- 2 The city where David stayed in 2 Samuel 1:1. (6)
- 3 "And Judah said, The strength of the _____ of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish ..." Neh 4:10 (7)
- 4 A type of song. Amos 6:5 (5)
- 5 One of the sons of Reuben. Gen 46:9 (6)
- 6 The place where Jacob built an altar. Gen 35:7 (8)
- 12 "Thus they _____ the Benjamites round about, and

chased them, and trode them down with ease over Gibeah toward the sunrising." Judg 20:43 (8)

- 14 John, whom Jesus loved, was "_____ on Jesus' bosom ..." John 13:23 (7)
- 16 "And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will _____ thee out of the hand of the terrible." Jer 15:21 (6)
- 18 "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then _____ destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thes 5:3 (6)
- 19 This is needed to work with gold and silver. 2 Chron 2:7 (5)
- 22 In Ezra 2:63 they were not to eat of the "_____ holy things." (4)



My Baptist Life

Published on July 11th, 2016 | by ABCUSA

My Baptist Life: Jabulani McCalister



Rev. Jabulani McCalister is the Senior Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Providence, R.I. He oversees the spiritual well-being and growth of a 300-member congregation.

I began my faith journey my junior year in college at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. My early church experience was not positive. Fortunately I met some friends in college who showed me a better experience. It was their Christ-like examples that led me to Christ and coming to church.

I'm an American Baptist because the ABC family has been a big part of my spiritual growth and development by helping me to discern and allowing me to use my spiritual gifts as the Holy Spirit reveals them. I was a member of Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit, Mich., under the leadership of Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins for 16 years. He was the one who introduced me to ABC life.

The greatest challenge facing the church today is I believe we have lost the true sense of our purpose – to bring people to Jesus Christ so He can save their souls. We have become social clubs more interested in “growing” our churches instead of growing disciples of Jesus Christ.

I pray a great deal about people getting to know Jesus and how their hearts and lives can be transformed through living for Him.

I often struggle with looking at all the suffering and meanness caused by spiritual warfare, which I basically define as the fight between followers of Jesus and evil forces (i.e. the devil and demons of



life). Paul describes/introduces this battle and how to combat it in Ephesians 6: 10-20 and 2 Corinthians 10: 1-6. Sometimes it seems that love has been depleted from the world because we have chosen death instead of life. I struggle because I wonder how the Lord can let this happen until I realize we all have a choice to make. It's hard for me to understand why people would choose a life without God.

I am most passionate about training up children, youth and young adults to serve the Lord. These groups, especially young adults, have so much to offer but are often ignored by the church.

In 10 years, I am concerned the church will become irrelevant in the world's eyes, even more so than now, unless we have ministry that is relevant to reach people outside of our church walls. We have an answer for those people, but if no one knows about it and lives are not transformed, what's the point? On the other hand, Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against the church He built. So there will always be "the church" because it is not just an organization or building but a living, breathing organism. In other words: the church is the Body of Christ, which will never die (Matthew 16: 18).

Would you like to nominate someone to be featured in "My Baptist Life"? Simply send a name, the reasons behind your nomination, and contact information to [Mark Staples](#), ABCUSA communications consultant.

Paul Rollet of Chatham, Illinois, Appointed to Missionary Service in the Philippines



The Rev. Dr. Paul Rollet of Chatham, Illinois, has been appointed as an associate missionary by American Baptist International Ministries (IM). In association with Mission Ministries, Inc., Rollet is serving in the Philippines with [Companion with the Poor \(CWTP\)](#), a church planting organization and community working to launch holistic churches that meet the spiritual needs of the poorest of the poor living in metro Manila.

Through this ministry, Rollet aims to help strengthen and grow the capacity of CWTP to send missionaries to North and South America and other parts of the world. Rollet's ministry of training Filipino believers to themselves be missionaries expresses IM's commitment to mission from everywhere to everyone. His home church is Cherry Hills Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois.

Rollet's appointment with IM began in June 2016. "However," he notes, "I actually served with Companion with the Poor for two years in 2012 and 2013 while working on my doctorate through Bakke Graduate University. After returning to the United States in 2014, I felt called to return to the Philippines and work again with Companion with the Poor. My desire is to see holistic transformation in urban poor communities around the world and to invite more people to join the work."



Published on July 20th, 2016 | by ABCUSA

American Baptist Churches USA Issues Urgent Call to Prayer

VALLEY FORGE, PA Susan Gillies, interim general secretary, American Baptist Churches USA, invites all American Baptists to join in special prayer for these troubled times

Please pray upon rising and retiring each day, seeking God's grace for healing and wholeness throughout this country and the world. Pray for healthy alternatives to violence. Pray for those who don't know what to do with their anger and frustration. Pray for those who have signed on to protect and serve. Pray for insight into what you can do to help bring hope and healing.

For those who prefer a specific time to be called to special prayer, please join us at 7 a.m. or 7 p.m. in your time zone, knowing others in our American Baptist family are praying with you. Please continue your prayers through summer's end (Sept. 21).

For those who prefer a specific day to be called to special prayer, please pray on the date each month that corresponds to the date of your birth. "Mark it on your calendar," Gillies suggests. "I'll be praying on the 10th of each month for the remainder of this year."

ABCUSA President, Judy Fackenthal, will be praying on the 22nd of each month for the remainder of the year.

Please join the American Baptist family in our chorus of supplication.

You may have noticed recently that there is a "Building Fund" envelope in your packet of offering envelopes. This has been newly added, because even though our major exterior work is completed and paid for, the Building Fund is currently a little over \$6000.00 "in the hole." So we can be in a position to meet exterior building expenses when they arise, we need to bring the Fund back to a positive balance. Please use your Building Fund envelope (or any other envelope!) to help with the Building Fund. And, as always, ***THANK YOU!***



The Rev. Sharon T. Koh, Installed as Executive Director Elect of International Ministries, Launches *I am IM* Gift Match



Sharon Koh announces the *I am IM* Matching Opportunity at the World Mission Conference.

In a historic celebration before a gathering of hundreds of mission supporters, the Rev. Sharon T. Koh of Los Angeles, California, was installed as executive director elect of American Baptist International Ministries (IM). She began her service as executive director elect on July 1, 2016, and will assume the role of executive director on September 1, 2016, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson on August 31.

The ceremony of installation on Friday, July 8, was the culmination of the four-day biennial World Mission Conference at the Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin. With more than 400 mission supporters in attendance, Koh was enthusiastically and warmly welcomed into her new role. The ceremony ended with a moving laying on of hands that included members of the IM board of directors, IM leadership, American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) leadership and the entire assembly.

"It was a sacred moment," stated Koh. "I had a sense of both God's presence and God's promise through the hands and prayers of those surrounding me."

Family and friends were elated. In attendance were Koh's parents, Rev. Dr. Victor and Kah-Kiat Koh, longtime missionaries; her mentor, Cheryl Brown, and her husband, Wes, who have both served as IM missionaries; and Brown's daughter, Julie Brown Ono, who is a friend and previous colleague. Sterling and Emi Miller, missionaries in whose commissioning Koh participated, now serving in Japan with Asian Access/SIM, also joined the celebration.

Pastors and leaders of ABCUSA celebrated this new and exciting chapter in the life of IM. "The entire ABCUSA family rejoices at the appointment of Sharon Koh and welcomes her as executive director of IM and as a national secretary of ABCUSA," said Dr. Susan Gillies, interim general secretary for American Baptist Churches. "We commit ourselves to pray for her as she assumes the responsibilities of office. We look forward to the days and years ahead with great anticipation!"

While IM has a rich history of appointing female missionaries to global service, Koh is the first woman to serve in the position of executive director in the ministry's 202-year history. IM's first single female missionary, Charlotte H. Atlee White Rowe, was appointed in 1815 and served in India from 1816-1826. (See the full story in the [spring 2016 issue of On Location.](#)) Other women missionaries have followed in Rowe's footsteps and have made up 60 percent of the 4,000 missionaries appointed by American Baptists.

Koh is the sixth person to hold the title of executive director for this historic mission agency since 1978. Earlier leaders, starting in 1814 with William Staughton, bore the title of corresponding secretary.