

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



VOLUME 70

NUMBER 8

2018

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE:

- p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
- p. 6 — Mission in America
- p. 7 — International Ministries Emergency Grant
- p. 8 — Bible Crossword: Zechariah
- p. 9 — 175th Anniversary History Corner
- p. 10 — Our Parking Lot & Thanks to Brighton Community Church
- p. 11 — New Director of Mission Mobilization
- p. 12 — International Ministries Priority Flow Chart

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 PARKING LOT			1 OFFICE	2 CLOSED	3 OFFICE	4 CLOSED
5 PENTECOST 11 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas, preaching 6:00 First Fruits Family Service	6 OFFICE <i>Civic Holiday (Canada)</i>	7 CLOSED	8 OFFICE 12:15 Inasmuch Lunch	9 CLOSED	10 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	11
12 PENTECOST 12 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas, preaching 12:15 Indoor Church Picnic	13	14	15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	16	17 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	18
19 PENTECOST 13 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>	20	21	22	23	24 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  Bartholomew, Apostle	25
26 PENTECOST 14 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Mark Breese, preaching	27	28	29	30	31 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

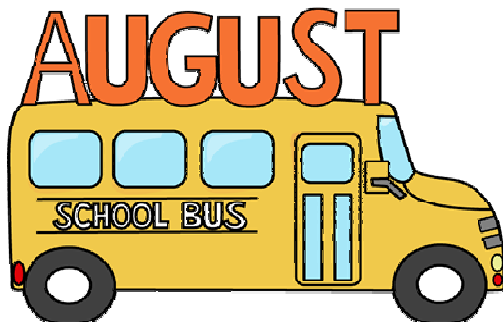


August Birthdays

7	David Ward
11	Michael Baxter
12	Katie Kundl Canterbury
13	Andrew N. Baxter
14	Debbie Boeskin
15	Judy Ward
17	Herb Lewis
26	Neal Jacobs



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for William Cody, Carole and Hank Buchalski, Sara Gromniak, Patricia Smeal, Janet Keebler, Gladys Lewis, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



hello august

August 1 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch Lunch

August 5 — Sunday — Pentecost 11

10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship
Cheryl Wood-Thomas, preaching

6:00 PM First Fruits Family Service

August 12 — Sunday — Pentecost 12

10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
Cheryl Wood-Thomas, preaching

12:15 PM Second Sunday Church Indoor Picnic

August 15 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

August 19 — Sunday — Pentecost 13

10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

August 26 — Sunday — Pentecost 14

10:00 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Mark Breese, preaching



Church Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday — Friday

716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — www.niagarafallsbaptist.org

James D. Flood, FWTC, FCSM - Church Administrator and Editor



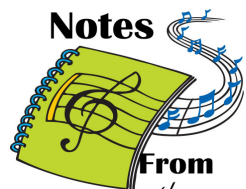
How about a T-shirt for summer? We have a new shipment of T-shirts with First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, imprinted on them below the “I Love My Church” slogan.

Sizes available are Large and Extra Large (they will shrink).

Only \$10.00 each

No shipping or tax.

Call the Church office (282-4666) or see Jim Flood or any trustee after church on Sunday.



Notes

Summer is here and the heat is on! Visits from guests around the world and family members home for a gathering make summer services interesting. Bible Study with Chris Taylor continues throughout the summer as does work on the gym and the porch floor. Those two big projects are in progress. The gym floor will be cleaned, sanded, and re-stripped by the end of August and the porch floor completion will be by the end of July.

The July Rummage Sale is over and we earned \$285 toward the restoration and repairs of the parking lot. We share the lot with dentists Schwartz and Gedeon and work cooperatively on the upkeep. There is a special matching program happening for funding the parking lot repairs. Find details in this issue of Tower Topics.

Back to rummage, rummagers Marge Bozigar, Connie Davis, Hazel Baxter, Cheryl Taylor and Donna Flood are to be thanked for the sale as well as all who donated items. We celebrated the finish with a picnic at the Floods. Left overs from the sale are donated to Community Mission.

The Personal Hearing System has made the services in the sanctuary more accessible to those with hearing loss and is a big success from all reports from users. The system was purchased with funds provided by the memorial donations in memory of loved ones. Home Touch is another innovation by Jim Flood which is a weekly letter with a short message, scripture reading and puzzles being sent to our members who are having mobility issues and difficulty getting to church. We do not forget our friends who are homebound and we reach out to them weekly.

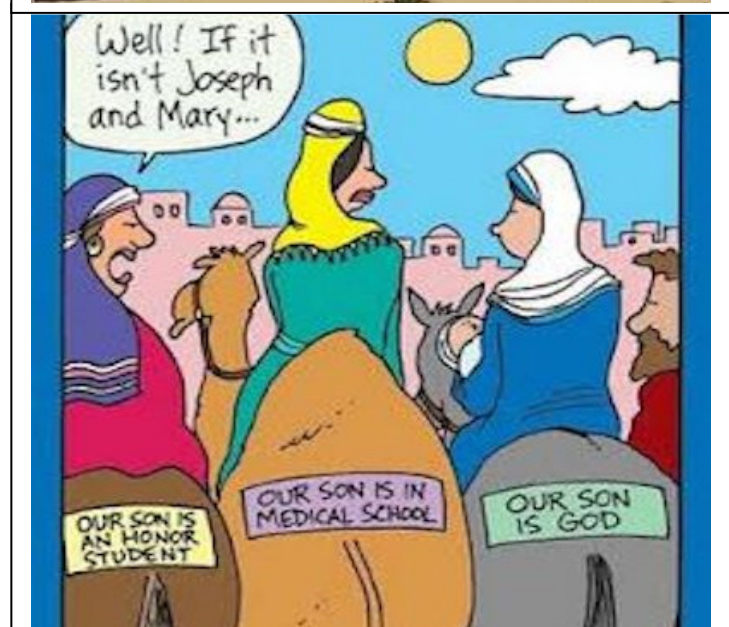
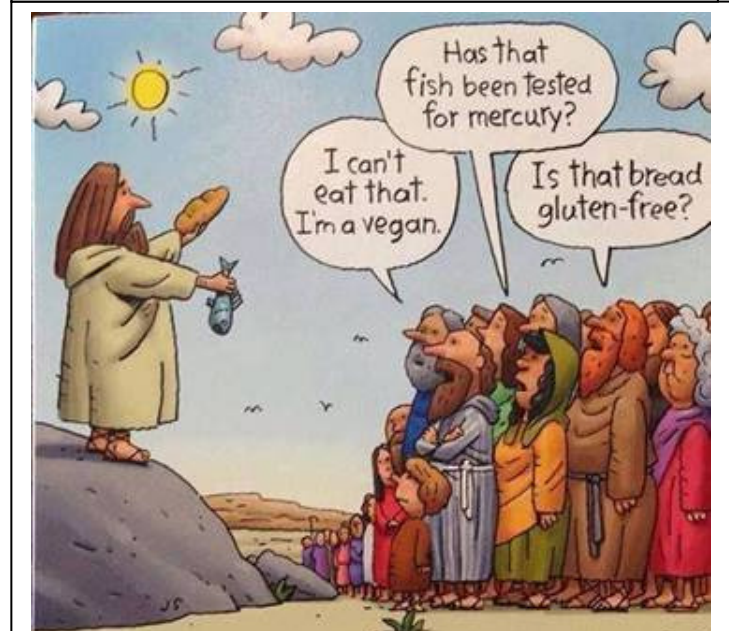
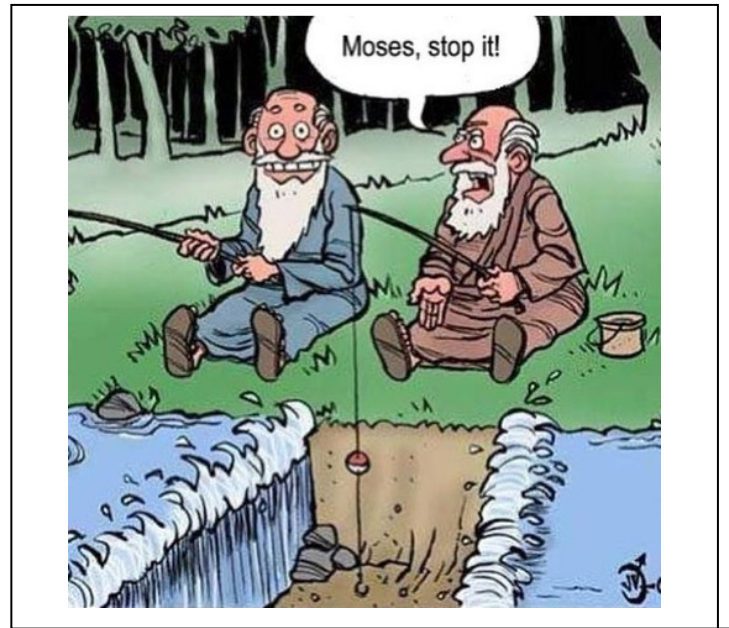
Our next fund raising endeavor is a Basket Auction. Location, date and time will be announced soon. After doing some research, I've determined that energy spent on the basket gathering and auction net a dependably larger amount that can go to updates, repairs and programs. The basket themes are available on the Friendship Room table. If you have time to shop, pick a theme and build a few baskets to add to the fun. Themes range from necessities to toys and repairs. Have some fun with your choices, be creative, and give the baskets to Kath Ordiway or put them in the scout room at church for pickup.

Donna Flood,
Moderator

Last Month's Crossword Answers

Haggai

D	A	R	I	U	S			H	O	U	S	E
A	E	N		G		E	S	P				
V	I	P	E	R		O	B	A	D	I	A	H
I	H	U		D		V	N	E				
D	E	A	D	L	Y		H	E	D	G	E	S
		I	Y				N				U	
T	I	M	E					A	P	E	S	
H			F				M	A				
U	P	W	A	R	D		J	A	I	R	U	S
M	I	U		S		N	A	H				
M	E	S	S	I	A	H		G	I	B	E	A
I	E	T		E		E	L	F				
M	A	R	K	S		P	R	I	E	S	T	



AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission America

ABHMS to host Space for Grace 2018 urban retreat



Register now for American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) highly anticipated "Thy Will Be Done"-themed Space for Grace 2018 conference planned for Nov. 14-16 in Philadelphia.

Join faith leaders, community service leaders, social justice advocates and others considering critical issues facing Christians today in the 2½ day-conference at Loews Hotel in the heart of a top-10 largest U.S. city. This urban retreat will allow participants to engage with passionate speakers, workshop leaders and fellow participants in conversation about mission engagement and discipleship development as well as church and community transformation.

The national event will feature these inspirational keynote speakers:

- the Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, senior minister, The Riverside Church, New York City;
- Dr. Molly T. Marshall, president and professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kan.;

- the Rev. Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, vice president, dean and Professor of Religion and Society, Virginia Union University, Richmond; and
- the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, senior pastor, the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta.

More than two dozen workshops offer take-home ideas and skills for enhancing personal ministry. Focusing on the themes of "Leadership," "Discipleship" and "Healing and Transforming Communities," workshops range from "America's Changing Religious Landscape and the Future of Faith" and "Worship with Impact Beyond Sunday" to "Healing from Unnamed Fear of the Other."

Early-bird registration through Aug. 15—which includes three evening receptions, two lunches and two breakfasts—is \$229. Full conference cost after Aug. 15 is \$299.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available.

 For more details or to register to attend, visit abhms.org > Space for Grace.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES (IM) HAS RECEIVED AN EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT of \$8,500 from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to respond to the critical needs in Latin America following the deadly volcanic eruption in Guatemala and the violence in Nicaragua.

IM thanks God that the Rev. Ricardo Mayol Bracero, IM regional consultant for Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, who resides in Guatemala is safe. Drs. David and Laura Parajón, IM missionaries currently serving and residing in Nicaragua, have not been directly impacted. However, a report from the Parajóns said that their staff at AMOS is dealing with inner conflicts related to the political crisis.

Volcanic eruption in Guatemala

On June 2, Guatemala's 3,763-meter-tall Volcán de Fuego erupted, blackening the local landscape and sending clouds of hot gas and ash drifting across the country for miles. Multiple smaller eruptions have followed, much less devastating than the first, but nonetheless hampering relief efforts in the areas closest to the volcano.

According to Mayol, "Volcán de Fuego began to expel ashes (grit or burning fine dust) continuously. Later that day, it furiously thundered and expelled volcanic gases and burning rocks and burning ashes." This powerful eruption "filled Guatemala with mourning . . . with 33 dead, 1,701,956 people affected, 46 injured, people and villages buried."

In the face of this tragedy, the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala and other partners have assessed the situation and have proposed an intervention. "The initial challenge is to give direct assistance to the victims," Mayol said, "However, we envision a next stage of solidarity providing means to guarantee the food security of our suffering brothers."



Protests in Managua, Nicaragua, 2018 photo by Voice of America

Political unrest in Nicaragua

"After two months of chaos and political unrest in Nicaragua, at least 97 protesters have been killed by forces loyal to the government. According to reliable sources, 868 additional people have been wounded and 438 others detained," said the Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, general secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA. In consultation with the Rev. Sharon Koh, CEO / executive director of IM, and IM global servants, [Dr. Spitzer sent a letter](#) to the consulate general of Nicaragua in Washington DC. The letter expresses American Baptists' deep concern over recent events in Nicaragua.

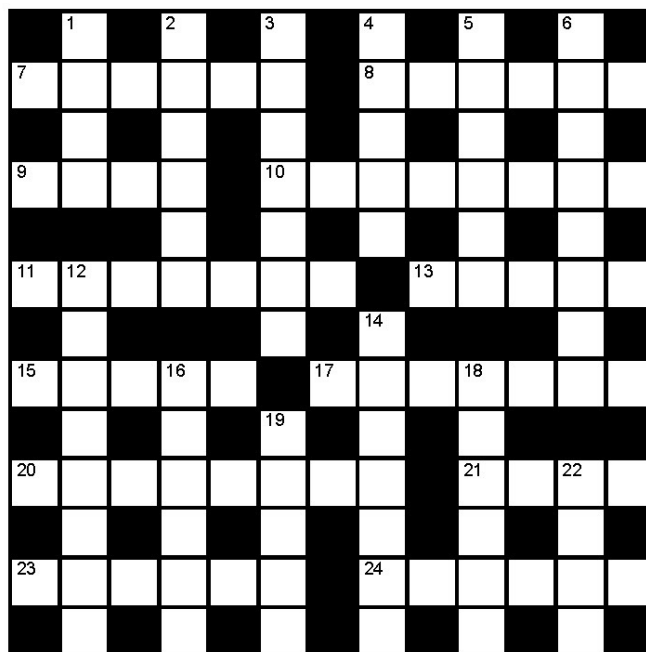
Mayol addressed this letter in a recent email: "Nicaragua is suffering vivid violence. . . . In such a confusing environment, it is urgent to be present as our sisters and brothers' keepers. Therefore, in your voice, there are our voices."

Of the initial \$8,500 OGHS emergency relief grant, \$2,000 has been provided to IM partner UPOLI (Polytechnic University of Nicaragua), \$4,000 to the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and \$2,500 to the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala.

Baptists throughout the world are showing their concern by their prayers and donations. "It is through IM's extensive network of ecumenical and national partners that we as American Baptists are able to provide relief in these areas. Your financial support is requested, as these recent events have brought devastation to thousands," said Lisa Rothenberger, American Baptist world relief officer.

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Zechariah



Across

- 7 A country in the Mediterranean Sea. Zech 9:13 (6)
- 8 "I lifted up mine eyes again, and _____, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand." Zech 2:1 (6)
- 9 A town on the northeast boundary of the territory of Benjamin. Zech 14:10 (4)
- 10 Describes feasts. Zech 8:19 (8)
- 11 To "cut it _____" means to cut it apart. Zech 11:10 (7)
- 13 "But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped _____ ears, that they should not hear." Zech 7:11 (5)
- 15 A type of metal. Zech 6:1 (5)
- 17 "Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his _____." Zech 7:9 (7)
- 20 "For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her _____." Zech 8:12 (8)

- 21 "And he cast it _____ the midst of the ephah." Zech 5:8 (4)
- 23 These are set in a crown. Zech 9:16 (6)
- 24 "For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false _____." Zech 10:2 (6)

Down

- 1 "In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig _____." Zech 3:10 (4)
- 2 To stay or continue. Zech 5:4 (6)
- 3 The LORD is returned to Jerusalem with these. Zech 1:16 (7)
- 4 Zechariah encountered an angel that wakened him from this. Zech 4:1 (5)
- 5 The year of the king Darius that the word of the LORD came to Zechariah. Zech 7:1 (6)

- 6 "But he that remaineth, even he, shall be for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and Ekron as a _____." Zech 9:7 (8)
- 12 "The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my _____ in the LORD of hosts their God." Zech 12:5 (8)
- 14 "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my _____." Zech 13:6 (7)
- 16 Let your hands be this. Zech 8:9 (6)
- 18 There are 12 of these in Israel. Zech 9:1 (6)
- 19 "For, lo, I will _____ up a shepherd in the land ..." Zech 11:16 (5)
- 22 "But it shall come to pass, that at evening _____ it shall be light." Zech 14:7 (4)



OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY CORNER

During our 175th Anniversary Year (and beyond) we are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. Regarding this picture: HELP AGAIN! This must be Boy Scout leaders. Who are the men? At one time we had a large Boy Scout Troop (and Girl Scouts, too!)

- ❖ When was this picture taken?
- ❖ Where was the picture taken?
- ❖ What group is it?
- ❖ What are the names of the men in the picture?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: No answers. Come on, someone must know what women's group is in the picture. We have had no help whatsoever. How about an educated guess?

Parking Lot And Challenge

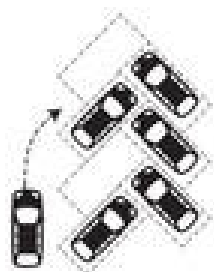
As you have undoubtedly noticed over the past couple of years, our parking lot has been deteriorating. Work was done last fall but more paving as well as sealing and re-striping needs to be done.

We share the parking lot the Drs. Schwartz and Gedeon. Their practice pays two-thirds of any costs associated with the lot, including snowplowing, etc. We pay one-third. This arrangement has worked well for many years.

Our share of the work that needs to be done is \$2500.00. Projects such as refurbishment of the gym (almost done) and the vestibule (porch) (only finishing touches to be done) have been covered by memorial gifts. Unfortunately, the parking lot is not covered by memorial gifts and we need to raise our share through a small campaign, since this expenditure is not in the budget. The Trustees have authorized this effort.

The good news is that certain amounts have already been pledged: personal gifts and income from the Rummage Sale. Of special note is a challenge on the table from more than one donor. Any gift of \$100.00 or more to the parking lot will be matched, thereby doubling the gift! With this challenge and pledges already in place, we'll get the parking lot covered (literally as well as figuratively) quickly.

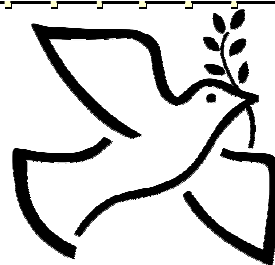
Use the Building Fund envelopes in this Tower Topics as well as the Sunday bulletins for your contributions. AND THANK YOU!



**PARKING
LOT**



As you are undoubtedly aware, Brighton Community (American Baptist) Church has closed and sold its building to the Burmese congregation that they had been hosting. Brighton Community Church had been using the same hymnal as we do (The Chalice Hymnal). Since the Burmese congregation does not use a hymnal (or the English language) in its services, we are the recipients of Brighton's hymnbooks. This is very helpful to us, since it almost doubles our number of hymnals and when we have services, such as the large turnout we had for the Memorial for Tom and Carolyn Culbreth, we do not have enough hymnals to go around. Now we do. **THANK YOU BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CHURCH!**



Also, as you have undoubtedly noticed, are the changes in the Chapel. Brighton Community Church has given us their organ! As the Burmese congregation does not use an organ in their services, Brighton has given us their organ as well. The spinet organ in our Chapel has not worked for years, and so a full-sized contemporary style console organ is a welcome addition and will be available for use in small services, small weddings, etc.

On Friday, July 13th, Jim Flood, Joe Heasley, Chris Taylor, and John Burrows, with the help of Dave, a Brighton Trustee, moved the organ into its new home. In the next week or so it will be installed and adjusted to fit its much smaller room. **ONCE AGAIN, THANKS TO BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CHURCH!**

IM Announces New Director of Mission Mobilization



International Ministries (IM) is excited to announce the selection of the Rev. Dr. Rodney Ragwan as director of Mission Mobilization. Ragwan began his service in this key leadership position on June 1.

In this position, formerly titled director of Vocational Development, Ragwan is cultivating relationships with prospective global servants and counseling them in their discernment of God's call; managing IM's application and assessment process for mission candidates; and training and supervising pre-assignment global servants in network building, fundraising and preparation for long-term mission service. Ragwan will also host IM's annual Hear the Call conference, a weekend retreat for adults who are exploring a personal call to join God in global mission.

Ragwan follows the Rev. Jim Bell, who held this role since 2012. Bell continues with IM as associate executive director for Global Mission.

"I am delighted that Rodney has accepted God's call to lead IM's mission mobilization ministries," says Bell. "Rodney demonstrates a unique combination of theological and missiological expertise with a pastoral heart and relational warmth. I expect he will be greatly appreciated as a spiritual guide and coach for those who are discerning God's call to global mission work."

Ragwan is a native of Durban, South Africa, and earned a Licentiate in Theology from the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa. He has also received a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) from Palmer Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from the University of Pretoria. He is now a member of Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, Pennsylvania.

"I am excited to be part of this amazing mission sending organization," said Ragwan. "I appreciate the mission model that IM uses, in which Christian leaders are encouraged to carry out mission from a theological base that is informed, coherent and biblically grounded. As a person who was a recipient of the good news of the gospel, I am now participating in preparing global servants of different genders, ethnicities and racial backgrounds to participate in God's mission around the world."

Ragwan's own diverse professional background and education and his dedication to serving as a humble servant of God uniquely qualify him for this role. In his home country of South Africa, he served with the Baptist Association of South Africa, first as the Christian education director, then as mission director and finally as president. Ragwan has also served as a pastor in both South Africa and the U.S., and in recent years he has worked in administrative and faculty positions at Eastern University and Palmer Seminary. As the first director of Palmer's Open seminary program,

Ragwan and the ministries of IM crossed paths in surprising ways before he ever considered a call with the mission organization. Ragwan reflects, "While researching my dissertation, I uncovered a wealth of information on IM's relationship with the Baptist Association of South Africa, the organization I led from 2001 to 2003. This relationship started in the 1800s in India, a country of my ancestors that I have yet to visit. Through the ministry of the American Baptist missionaries in India, an indigenous missionary, the Rev. John Rangiah, and his family responded to a call to go to South Africa to work with the Telugu-speaking indentured laborers who had earlier arrived from India." In addition to his discovery of this historical connection, Ragwan also encountered IM in his own ministry. He explains, "While serving the Baptist Association of South Africa as President, I worked with IM's area director for Africa at that time, the Rev. Charles Jones, and led the association into a partnership with IM."

Ragwan and his wife, Eva Anita, live in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, and have three adult children and two grandchildren. Please join IM in welcoming Ragwan to his new role! He can be reached by email at rragwan@internationalministries.org.

International Ministries

OUR MINISTRY PRIORITIES:

INVITING PEOPLE TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

EVANGELISM



DISCIPLESHIP



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION



PROCLAIMING GOD'S REIGN OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND ABUNDANT LIFE

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES



PEACE & JUSTICE



ABOLISHING SLAVERY



EDUCATION



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



HEALTH & WELLNESS



EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST TO ENGAGE IN GOD'S MISSION

EVERYWHERE TO EVERYONE



SHORT-TERM MISSION



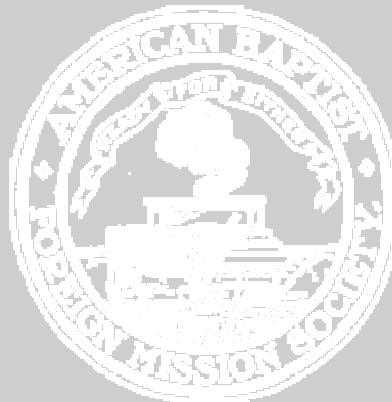
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT



CAPACITY



International Ministries, also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation.



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES 1003 W 9TH AVE, STE A • KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406

COPYRIGHT © 2017 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[Privacy Notice](#)